

## **Meg - The Interim Priest**

How many of you have known no other priest than Meg since you've been coming to St. Paul's?

Those of us who were here before Meg remember that we were in a pretty sad place when she first arrived in September 2018.

Martha Hubbard, our beloved priest of 11 years had left and we didn't think anyone could replace her.

And then you joined us as our interim priest...

What you were supposed to do as an interim priest was to maintain the status quo, don't change things, and keep things on an even keel.

So what did you do?

You started welcoming newcomers from the altar and asking them to stand up and introduce themselves!

- See, what you didn't realize is that we're New Englanders, Puritans, stoic, straight laced people who are slow to warm up to people we don't know. We would never stand up in front of a group of strangers and introduce ourselves.
- But we did! Why? Because you bring with you your southern accent, your welcoming, down home, easy going style and your wicked sense of humor.
- And what happened? The number of newcomers to the church tripled in one year.
- That's NOT what an interim is supposed to do!

So, what else did you do? You introduced bible study classes, where you not only taught us about the scripture, but made it real through pictures and personal stories.

- That's NOT what an interim is supposed to do!

You brought a group of young people into the church and gave them the WELL, a place where they could be themselves and feel connected to the church.

- You weren't supposed to do that either!

You brought us sermons that incorporated not only teachings from the scriptures, but punctuated them with stories from your personal life.

You did these things and so much more!

So Meg, if your job as an interim was to keep the status quo, you didn't just keep us at the status quo, you made us so much better!

And you made us love you, not only as a priest, but as a person and as a friend.

You see, us New Englanders, we don't make friends easily, but once we do, you become a friend for life. So on behalf of all of us at St. Paul's church, we love you, we will miss you, and we will always be your friends.