

NOTES FOR VESTRY VISITS

A meeting with the Vestry/Bishop's Committee is required when I come for an official episcopal visitation. I would like to have a minimum of thirty minutes, preferably one hour, in which to engage in this conversation.

Here are some of the things I'd like to talk about:

- I want to meet you and deepen our relationship as bishop and people.
- Think back over the last year or so of life in your congregation. What have been the high points, the experiences of God's wondrous grace, the events and observances which have deeply stirred you all? What stands out?
- Do you have a Mission Statement? Are you working on one? Tell me about it. What are the goals you have identified to pursue that Mission? How are you progressing on those goals and how can I or my staff support and assist you in pursuing them? Where are you finding stumbling blocks or obstacles? What plan(s) do you have for overcoming them?
- Tell me how you and your congregation are involved in the community. What partnerships has the congregation made? What work are you looking forward to? Anything in the way or items of concern?
- Describe your ecumenical and/or community partnerships. Where are you finding God in your neighborhood?
- How can the diocesan staff help and support you in your ministry?
- What do you especially appreciate about your priest? Other clergy and staff members? How do you support your clergy in their ministry? How do you build and nurture open lines of communication as leaders, with one another, with your priest, deacon and with the people you serve?
- Let's talk about whatever else is on your minds. Anything at all.
- I may have items to share "from where I sit" ~ larger church issues, the mission and ministry of our diocese and your support of it, upcoming diocesan events, or random musings on my mind.

I'll wrap up our time together with prayer for all the things we have discussed and for the Spirit's guidance and strength in your ministries of leadership.

Thank you for our meeting. Your time is precious, and I am grateful that you will share some of it with me.