



ST. BEDE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

An Announcement from Senior Warden Molly Graves Concerning the Upcoming Sabbatical for the Rector

Dear People of St Bede's,

Did you know that this summer we will mark the milestone of Chad having been our Rector for ten years? And, as written in his original letter of agreement and affirmed by the vestry last year and this year, Chad, will be taking his every-five-years sabbatical this summer. Chad's sabbatical will begin in mid-May, and he will return in mid-September, exact dates to be announced soon. He and the other clergy, along with the Vestry are planning for worship, pastoral care, and administrative coverage during this time. Our regular parish clergy will continue to shepherd us during this time with additional coverage provided by other priests from the diocese, if needed. The Rev'd Claiborne Jones will resume the role "Sabbatical Priest-in-Charge" as she did in 2017. We will draw on a sabbatical fund that accrues a small amount each month to cover these planned parish expenses during Chad's absence. St. Bede's will remain well cared for during this time.

Regular periods of rest are prescribed and even commanded in Scripture from the very beginning in Genesis 1. In the Gospels, Jesus exemplifies a healthy pattern of working and then retreating by himself for rest, prayer, and communion with God. While much emphasis is placed on weekly Sabbath rest, God also commands (Leviticus 25) longer periods of rest after longer periods of time – not just for people, but for animals and the land too! I wonder how our world might be transformed by living more fully into God's gift of rest and sabbath, both short and long? I hope to explore and wonder more about that with you in the coming months.

You may have questions about Chad's upcoming sabbatical, and we welcome your curiosity. We are in the process of updating an informational "FAQ" document which was written for Chad's last sabbatical in 2017. Look for that document in the E-News soon. Until then, know that sabbatical time – a time of disengaging from regular duties to enter deeply into rest, contemplation, and learning – benefits not only Chad, but the members and ministries of St. Bede's as well. If you have any questions now or after we communicate the "Sabbatical FAQs," please feel free to reach out to me.

Peace and blessings,

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