Vestry Update on Transition Process

On Sunday, March 15, 2026 Warden Tom MacArthur shared the following with the community.

Overview

- **Vestry met with the Bishop** and are now leading the transition process (Bishop will support).
- **Decision:** use a series of short-term supply priests through the summer/fall first, reconsider an interim if longer coverage needed.
- **Search goal:** recruit a full-time rector (vestry committed to searching for a full-time rector).
- **Search committee target: 6–8 (prefer 5–7, odd number)** members; aim to form committee before the vestry meeting on **the 24th**.
- **Finances:** Treasurer and vestry will review budget; parish has strong reserves but hiring a full-time rector will be a stretch.

Clergy coverage: supply vs interim

- Vestry decided to use a series of supply priests after **June 14** instead of a single interim priest.
- Bishop is advertising for priests willing to serve **1–2 weeks**, offering rectory housing at the shore in exchange for leading Saturday and Sunday worship and handling emergency needs.
- Rotation will run through the **summer**, possibly into the **fall**; bishop expects some priests with unused sabbaticals to serve for **one month or more** afterward.
- Rotation allows the congregation to meet multiple candidates and creates the opportunity for a priest to decide to stay permanently.
- If month-long supply priests are not available, vestry will reconsider hiring an interim priest for continuous leadership until a permanent priest is found.

Rector vs Priest in Charge

- Priest in charge is appointed for a fixed term, usually **2–3 years** (norm **3 years**).
- Rector is a tenured, long-term appointment with expectation of continued service.
- Part-time roles (e.g., **three-quarter-time**) are harder to recruit; retired priests avoid three-quarter roles and active priests avoid moving for three-quarter/half-time posts.
- Vestry decided to search for a **full-time rector**, accepting higher cost to cast the widest net and advance the parish to the next chapter.
- Treasurer and vestry will manage finances; strong reserves, bolstered by bequests, make a stretch hire feasible.

Search process & committee formation

- Vestry considered conducting the search internally or forming a **search committee**.
- Decision favored broader congregation input; Vestry will include some members but recruit additional participants.
- Vestry will provide a clear definition of candidate criteria and committee responsibilities and will provide regular updates.
- Request for volunteers; Vestry will meet on **24th** to form the committee and begin defining goals.