

St. Stephen's Search Committee - 2020

Dear family and friends of St. Stephen's,

The changing of seasons is upon us and with it the beauty that is revealed as each leaf sheds the green of Summer and is transformed into the beauty of a New England Fall palette. How often do we look forward to this time as Summer passes the days onto the leaf covered path that winds through the colours of Autumn? We know the changing of the seasons and while one may be our favorite, we find beauty and peace in each as we wait for the transition to those days we love the most.

In our parish we are also in transition and the seasons have been many and the weather within each ever changing. This day we are waiting as that process of finding which person, which priest, which servant, which child of God will next walk with us into the seasons of our future as a family of faith.

The process of finding that person is steadily moving forward. Our profile has been published and there are many considering whether our parish home might be the next season of their life. Over the next few weeks, the Bishop and Rev. Dr. Rich Simpson will be reviewing the submitted applications and conducting an in-depth review of each application and candidate. Following that their selection will be submitted to your search committee for consideration and discernment as to which of those most closely meets the needs and history and future of our parish and all of those within our walls and beyond. Once the search committee has completed the initial interviews and assessment, they will provide their candidate recommendations to your Vestry who will then enter into the final process of discernment as to who will be our next rector.

As we wait for this to unfold, there will be anxious moments for each of us. The confidentiality that is mandated for this process prohibits the members of the Search Committee and the Vestry from disclosing any specific information with respect to the ongoing search including information about that status of applications, candidates or projected dates. We are all waiting for the process to unfold, in God's time, not our own.

But in the waiting is great opportunity. We are blessed with the presence of David DeSmith as our bridge rector, whom many of you have known for years. This pause also offers us, calls us into our own discernment as to who we are as the children of God tasked with the ministry to bring the Gospel to a broken world. To Be the Heart and Hand of Christ to all those we meet and to those who will never know which hands made a cup of water and a loaf of bread possible for them. We are called to be present once again in the Sanctuary of St. Stephen's for our weekly worship and shared prayers for the world. We are called to look inward, to find that light of Christ that has been with us since birth and see where it can lead us. We are offered time to deepen our faith, to challenge and explore and find all of the seasons that brought that faith to our home and the woodland path that leads to our future. In God's time, all will be revealed. May the Peace of Christ be with you this day and in the days to come.

The Search Committee of St. Stephen's

David Nevin - Alec Gilman - Cathy Carchedi - Josie Ellis

John Garinther - Susan LeBourdais - Chris Perry - Craig Smith

Rev. Francie Hills - Chaplain - Wendy Webster Coakley - Vestry Liaison