

Pentecost 2010

Dear Members and Friends of St. Stephen's,

In September I will mark the sixteenth anniversary of my first Sunday at St. Stephen's. It has been a wonderful and rewarding time for Janet and me and for our children.

Now, after a great deal of prayer and wise counsel, I write you to announce my retirement as Rector. I am filled with gratitude for the love and support that you have shown me and my family over nearly two decades of our life and ministry together in this remarkable community.

Earlier this week I advised your vestry, one of the finest I have ever served, of my decision, and they have already begun the task of developing a transition plan for the parish. They will consult with our Bishop for the provision of an interim rector upon my departure so that your vibrant ministry and mission may continue with as little disruption as possible.

My last Sunday will be September 12, and I look forward to personally bidding you farewell and Godspeed at that time if not before. Very quickly a committee will then be formed to search for the sixth rector of St. Stephen's.

Janet and I turn toward the next stage of our life with sincere appreciation for the assistance many of you have given us in facing the way ahead. Our hope is to remain in the larger Marin community that we have come to love so much and to pursue vocational directions that grow naturally out of our life at St. Stephen's.

It has been a privilege to serve as your pastor. I now look forward to continuing as your friend.

Yours faithfully in Christ,

The Rev. James S. Ward