

Dear Friends in Christ,

For more than eight years it has been a joy and a privilege to serve as the 28<sup>th</sup> Rector of Christ Church - to worship, plan, debate, learn, laugh, cry, experiment, and pray with you. This community has been an incredible place for Michael and me to raise our family. When I accepted the call here in 2010, I hoped and prayed that it would be a good fit - not once have I doubted that it is. I write today to share with you that I have accepted a call to serve as Rector of St. Christopher's Episcopal Church in Carmel, Indiana.

For those of you who have asked over the years how long I would stay at Christ Church, my short answer involved the numbers 7 to 10, the word "but", and something to the tune of "you never know what God is going to call you to in life." The opportunity at St. Christopher's came to me at a point that I wasn't looking to go but was open. For professional and personal reasons (Michael can continue his work and it is closer to both of our families), it was an opportunity I needed to take seriously. Through that exploration, it became clear that the same Holy Spirit that opened and drew me to Christ Church nine years ago was at work this time around too.

Unfortunately saying yes means leaving you; I so wish that wasn't the case. Over the next six weeks before my last Sunday on March 31<sup>st</sup>, there will be time for us to celebrate our time together and say goodbye, including with a more formal event on the last weekend of March. Parish life continues as well with Shrove Tuesday Pancake supper on March 5th, Ash Wednesday and Lent beginning on March 6th, and St. Patrick's Dinner on March 16th. While I'm sad to miss Palm Sunday and Easter with you, these liturgical days are ones that Christ Church has always done well and are fitting to begin this new chapter of your life.

Christ Church is an amazing congregation with a bright future. You have wonderful wardens in Anne Curry and Todd Litchfield, a great Vestry, a fabulous staff, and a deep bench of gifted leaders in the congregation. The diocese will be working closely with the Vestry in the coming months to lend their depth of experience to advise the transition process. I anticipate there will be more questions about plans than there will be answers in the coming weeks; when a plan has been decided by the Vestry, Anne Curry, the senior warden, will let the congregation know. Whoever you call as the 29<sup>th</sup> Rector of Christ Church will be one of the most fortunate priests in the Episcopal Church.

Because the way we say goodbye affects the way we say hello in so many ways in all parts of our lives, our work over the coming weeks will be to end well. Tomorrow I depart for a long-planned vacation week in Belize with my family and I will miss next Sunday, February 24<sup>th</sup>, but when I return, we will enter this last chapter of our time together.

One of my favorite compline prayers in our prayer book asks that "we who are wearied by the changes and chances of this life may rest in your eternal changelessness." God has been at work in Christ Church long before any of us came here and will be long after all of us go. That truth will not change.

With love and prayers and gratitude for each of you,  
Cara+