

Dear Friends,

The time has come to speak of retirement. Although I'm still lively, enthusiastic, and virtually wrinkle free, I have reached my final year of parish ministry. In just a couple of months I will have reached the age the Episcopal Church requires its priests to retire. Being a female person as well as a priest, I don't fancy proclaiming my age, but here it is. In 2018 I will reach my 72nd birthday. Consequently, Sunday, January 28 will be my final Sunday as your rector.

My primary emotion is gratitude--gratitude that, by the grace of God, I finally made it to St. Matthias in time to spend six years with you. There's a Shaker hymn that invites us to join in the Divine Dance that is life with God. I am reminded of its refrain:

*To turn, turn will be our delight,*

*'til by turning, turning we come round right.*

By turning, turning, I definitely came "round right". So, I invite you to join me in celebrating our remaining time together. No goodbyes yet, only alleluias.

I love you all.

Peace, Ann+