



St. Matthias Episcopal Church

Dear Members of St. Matthias,

It is my pleasure as your senior warden to announce that the Reverend Joanne Tetrault will be the Priest-in-Charge at St. Matthias starting 14 February 2018!

As you recall at our last annual meeting, we discussed that in 2018 our spunky, cross-fit training, energetic Reverend Ann will hit a mandatory retirement age established by the Diocese of Maryland. So between now and her last service, I encourage you all to celebrate her ministry with us and let her know how she has helped our parish thrive!

For those who have been around during the transition of rectors, you may be familiar with calling a Priest-in-Charge. A Priest-in-Charge is a rector that is called to serve in a church for a specified time period (we requested one-year). After that one year, the parish can call the Priest-in-Charge to become the permanent Rector. You may recall that Ann was our Priest-in-Charge in 2011 before becoming our permanent rector in 2012. Once Ann decided when she wanted to retire, I contacted the Diocese of Maryland to see if they would support us calling a Priest-in-Charge. Not only were they supportive, they encouraged us to meet and consider Joanne Tetrault as our potential Priest-in-Charge.

Your officers, Mary Ross, Kathy Stack and I met with Joanne and immediately had a connection. While all knew we were conducting an interview, we had a great time discussing numerous topics from spiritual leadership, diversity and inclusion, aging church facility and membership, to our thriving hospitality mission. After the session, Mary, Kathy and I shared our experience with the vestry and received approval to make the call. Joanne was excited to be called as our Priest-in-Charge and since then we have been taking all the necessary steps to prepare for her arrival on Ash Wednesday 2018 (Feb. 14).

We are attempting to schedule a time when Joanne can join Ann to celebrate a service towards the end of the year or in Epiphany 2018. Currently Joanne is serving at All Saints in Frederick Maryland so her availability is limited.

During our conversations, one of the things that Joanne said that is an indication to me that we will have some great times with her is that she wants to get to know each of us personally and individually. That is, she will be that caring shepherd that knows each of us and leads us.

Peace,

Paul