

Clergy Transition Update (as of 7/16/08)

- Guest Celebrants will be scheduled until we have an Interim Priest.
- Discussions are ongoing with the Diocese to find an Interim Priest.
- A Search Committee has been formed and started meeting. Bob Wurster is the chair.

ST. ALBAN'S SEARCH COMMITTEE NEWS

On July 9 the Search Committee met with Carter Echols, Canon to the Ordinary and Congregation Development Director ("CDO") of the Episcopal Church, Newark Diocese. It was an opportunity for the newly formed Search Committee to better understand the search process, exchange ideas, tap into Carter's considerable experience in this area and confirm that we have a ready resource to use in the Diocese, as we journey through the search process.

A key concept, which she explained, is the process by which the congregation and the Search Committee positions itself to find the right fit or best match with a candidate's gifts, experiences and personality. That match is best achieved, in part, through a process of self-study, a phase which we are now engaging as part of the search process. It is, however, not entirely new territory for St. Alban's, having recently come through a five year development plan undertaken by the Vestry. Nonetheless, the departure of Prince requires a period of self assessment and reflection, where we can affirm what is positive and healthy about our St. Alban's community, identify and reexamine what challenges we face and begin to consider what new chapters we can begin to write together.

Carter emphasized and we are in complete agreement, that it is a process best approached as a pro-active community effort, which involves the participation of the whole congregation, to achieve the best possible outcome. We plan, during the course of the summer, to continue our meetings and to present to the congregation frequent updates and questions for your consideration, in order to generate the ideas and feedback that we need to make the search process a valuable discernment tool in the issuance of a call for a new Rector.

We need your prayers, enthusiasm, ideas and critical input in the months ahead. It will be our collective challenge to find ways for us to continually address this mandate in a meaningful and responsive way.

Let's enjoy the summer months, but let us also use it as a time to step back, take a deep breath and take a fresh look at how we view and intend to shape the St. Alban's we want for the future.

Peace,

St. Alban's Search Committee