



SAINT BARNABAS EPISCOPAL CHURCH

By The Village Green

*"spiritual growth, mutual support,
witness and service
in our daily living"*

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From the Wardens:

This note from your wardens is not meant to intrude on the solemnity and significance of Bob's letter. Rather, this note is meant to invite each and every one of us, from this moment on, to view the next five months as an opportunity to celebrate and honor Bob's ministry – both the fifteen years here at St. Barnabas, as well as the grand total of thirty-five years as a parish priest. How shall we do this? We will so do with prayers and songs, with an occasional tear, with hugs and best wishes – and of course, a simply stupendous retirement celebration in September. Who better than a parish whose membership includes a substantial number of retirees to commemorate and celebrate the closing of one adventure and the beginning of another?

The "beginning of another" applies to both the Appleyard clan, and the parish of St. Barnabas. As a parish we will embark on the adventure of transition, which is a very special opportunity to engage together in a journey of faith. The Diocese has a clearly defined process and protocol in place for each step of the transition period – from appointing an interim priest, through a self study period, through a search process and ultimately to a welcome celebration for a new rector (look for a copy of the Road Map in the June Banner). As wardens, we have already met with the Rev. Cynthia Hubbard, who will be our liaison and our guide on this journey, and have begun to outline a timeline.

Our first task will be to assemble a Transition Committee, which will play a major role at the beginning and again at the end of our Faith Journey. This committee will be responsible for everything from the details of the retirement celebrations to the delegation of tasks such as who will provide the coffee and doughnuts on the day the movers arrive. And at the other end, they will be responsible for the welcoming celebrations and - the coffee and doughnuts on Moving Day. The current plan is to assemble a Search Committee in late August or early September and to schedule a retreat for the Search Committee and the Vestry with Rev. Hubbard in late September, thus preparing us for the next steps commencing in October. Rest assured that every step will be as "transparent" as possible – what we know, you will know – to the extent that confidentiality allows.

But first things first; if you haven't already done so, please say a prayer for us as a parish and especially for Bob and Debby – that their adventure into retirement will be joyous and full of laughter and good cheer.

Blessed be,

Rayce G. Harrington
Doris M. Weeks