

CHRIST CHURCH E P I S C O P A L

Thursday, September 19, 2013

Dear Christ Church Friends,

The people of God are always at our best when we're on a journey. So I'd like to tell you about a journey that begins for my family and me, and for Christ Church.

The Bishop of the Diocese of Texas has called me to help establish a new church in a community called Bee Cave, located about fifteen miles west of Austin, Texas. In response, Bernadette and I have said our prayers and had our household conversations, and have decided to accept this new call. This means that our time with Christ Church is now coming to a close. Our final Sunday here will be Sunday, November 10.

It has not been an easy decision. I, and we, love Christ Church. It is a joy and inspiration to serve with you. I cannot do justice in only a few words to describe how close Christ Church is to my heart, and what a grace it is to serve with a people who so powerfully give witness to Christ...how you respond to the movement of the Spirit; and give and share so generously; and seek, and live out, the life of servanthood; and make space for those looking for God; and live courageously and joyfully, confident of God's abundance. You are a strong and steadfast people, and it is a blessing and grace and joy to be a priest serving with you.

This letter is too short to say everything I want to say. Twenty years can't be summed up in a one page letter. I will speak more to this call at worship this coming weekend. As well, you will soon hear from the Vestry of Christ Church about next steps.

But it has been a grace beyond description to be part of the Body of Christ with you...to be part of your lives, and our common life. Thank you, and thank you for sending us forth. When it is that there is a vibrant, faithful, daring, trusting, hopeful, worshipful, joyous community of faithful seekers in Bee Cave, Texas, it will be because first, the Holy Spirit has gotten busy again; and second, because of what you have kindly, graciously, and generously taught us over twenty years of service with you.

Blessings to you, and I bid you God's grace and peace.

Faithfully,

Paul

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