



Ash Wednesday
February 25, 2009

The People of Christ Church,
Detroit

Mr Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Shelly, our children and I want to thank you for your kind words of welcome the past few weeks. We have been overwhelmed by the generosity of spirit you have shown to us in your emails, letters and calls. Rest assured that we are eagerly anticipating our time in Detroit and at Christ Church.

It seems to be an interminably long time until we arrive at the beginning of July. It is true that four months is a long time to wait between announcement and arrival. I want to thank you for this time as it allows our children to finish school in place and not to transfer systems in the middle of a semester. As you can imagine this is especially important to our High School Senior!

However this time also gives me the opportunity to think, study and pray about the challenges being faced by Christ Church today. Christ Church is not simply an urban church, or even a downtown church, she is a church located in the Central Business District of the eleventh largest city in the United States. I believe that this must present very specific opportunities for ministry and I am glad that I have this time to reflect on these opportunities for a season.

I want to thank so many of you for what I know has been hard work during the search and what will be hard work during this transition. The search committee, vestry and wardens have all done some heavy lifting. I want to especially thank Fr. Bob Hart who has been more than gracious with his time. I thank God that he is in place to not only provide pastoral leadership but also ecclesiastic authority for the next few weeks.

While the details are still being worked out, I do want to let you all know that my family and I will be worshiping with you on April 19th and we hope to meet as many of you as we can. In the meantime please know that we are thinking of you and praying for you every day.

In Christ,

John +

John G. Talk, IV

112 Springfield
Wilbraham, MA 01095

413.233.7000

johngtalk@gmail.com

johngtalk.com