

# St. Francis' Church

St. Francis' Episcopal Church is a diverse community, accepting all.

We gather to worship God, grow in faith, and share in fellowship.

We go out to serve Christ by serving others.

EVERYONE IS WELCOME HERE!

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May 18, 2022

My Dear Sisters and Brothers,

At Wednesday night's meeting, I told the Vestry what I've been thinking about and praying over for several years: that the time is coming for me to retire from serving as Rector at St. Francis. Details remain to be worked out, but I intend to complete my ministry with you sometime in January of 2023.

Reaching this decision has not been easy. I love this congregation and it's been an enormous privilege to be a priest in your midst. You have enriched me, stretched me, loved me, and supported me – not least in the period of Judith's illness and death, but also at many times and in many ways before and since. "Grateful" barely begins to say how I feel for our years together.

However, I will turn 69 in February of 2023 and I'm basically healthy. I want to explore other opportunities in life while I'm able – more time with family and friends, more time at my beloved Adirondack camp, more time for singing and bike riding, and other things God has in store of which I know nothing yet.

I believe it is also time for new clergy leadership at St. Francis. I will have been here over 14 years by the time I leave. New vision, new ideas, and new approaches to ministry are now needed -- especially in this period in American life when the Church no longer has the assured cultural place it once did. I'm acutely aware that I was formed by and trained for ministry in a model of being church that is passing away. Others, I'm sure, will be better equipped for the challenges of the future.

Bishop Stokes, the Wardens, Deacon Gerry, and I will be in conversation soon about the transition process going forward. You'll hear more about that as it unfolds in the months ahead. Meanwhile, we'll have time to celebrate the good things we've done together and, I hope, offer forgiveness for the times we've failed each other.

In my [sermon](#) last Sunday, I spoke about change. I said that we human beings often resist change, and yet God continues to invite us "to be partners in co-creative change, imagine new possibilities, and open up new opportunities." God does so, I believe, because God is "the very principle of becoming, of allowing the possible to happen," as [Avivah Zornberg](#) says. The Divine Love is always calling us to new life. I pray that the next chapters for me and for St. Francis will indeed be full energy, hope, and life.

Peace,



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