

**Describe a moment in your recent ministry that you recognize as one of success and fulfillment.**

The previous Rector of Christ Church retired in May, 2011. Due to a number of circumstances, including the expected length of the interim period, Rectory construction, and the availability of qualified Interim Rectors, the Wardens had difficulty finding a match for the Interim Rector position. After careful consideration of the potential issues that can arise when the Associate Rector fills in as the Interim Rector, I agreed to fill the position. The 10-month interim period was a success. Our goal was to maintain the elevated energy level of the previous Rector's tenure by offering new programming, keeping parishioners well-connected to one another. We succeeded. ASA remained constant and Outreach programs set new records. In some ways, however, transitioning from Interim Rector can be a greater challenge than transitioning to Interim Rector. I am grateful that the new Rector welcomed me to stay on as the Associate Rector, and for the successful colleague relationship which has ensued. I have flourished under his direction learning the importance of nurturing relationships with parishioners, effective prioritization of responsibilities, and impactful preaching.

**Describe your liturgical style and practice.**

Relaxed, yet well planned and organized. Thinking through the details of worship - responsibilities, movement, supplies - helps to create an environment that draws people into worship, rather than creating distractions. At the same time, I am not uptight about exact positioning at the altar or how the linens are folded. I do not want to get too immersed in the detail and lose sight of the holy. I reverence when I process in and reach the altar and before leaving the altar space when I process out. I prefer to not sing the Sursum Corda, though I am open to coaching in this area! I love the vestments, candles, stained glass and flowers of Episcopal worship - all these adornments draw us into a known place in ourselves where we can be still and worship God. I love worship and hope to create a worship environment that allows people to pause and reflect and know God.

**How do you practice incorporating others in ministry?**

"We are all called for service to witness in God's name. Our ministries are different, our purpose is the same: to touch the lives of others by God's surprising grace" (WLP 778). When parishioners serve as lectors, acolytes, intercessors, chalice bearers, musicians, altar guild members and ushers, we know the church is all about the people. When parishioners take turns opening meetings with prayer, we know that church is all about the people. When the Vestry is a working Vestry with lay leaders taking responsibility for the varied ministries of the parish and drawing other parishioners into the activities, we know the church is all about the people. When the Rector gives his/her expertise to planning and leading worship, to providing pastoral care, to teaching, to developing a structure for the ministries of the parish, to providing oversight to administration, and yet, understands the importance of not showing up at every meeting and allowing the lay leaders to lead, we know the church is all about the people. When parishioners offer new ways to serve one another and work to carry the ideas through to fruition, we know the church is all about the people.

### **How do you care for your spiritual, emotional and physical well-being?**

Currently, my spiritual discipline is a meditative time with God in the morning before I get out of bed. I can best describe the experience as an energy that fills me, every part of me, and I try to simply be with God, without questions, or supplications. In rare, precious moments, we are one. I have a display of crosses, gifts that have been given to me, hanging on the wall which I face as I get out of bed. When I am ready to get up, I sit on the edge of the bed for a moment, offering intercessions and giving thanks for the coming day. From a physical standpoint, I exercise four or five mornings a week splitting the time between an elliptical and a treadmill. From an emotional standpoint, I have a wonderful family and a few close friends who listen and provide support. I meet with a clergy colleague group once a month. And, frankly, after a difficult pastoral care situation, I find a good cry quite cathartic!

### **Describe your involvement in either the wider Church or geographical community.**

I was a member of the Board of Seabury Theological Seminary for four years. I felt honored to be a part of this Board during a momentous time in the life of this seminary. Seabury recognizes that the Episcopal Church can no longer sustain eleven seminaries all offering the traditional 3-year Masters of Divinity. They recognize, also, the opportunity to identify and serve the Church's needs today. We are all invited into ministry through our baptism. Seabury recognizes seminary education to be about educating lay people and clergy alike - much of their new programming focuses on continuing education for lay people. I was Co-Chair of the Alumni Association. I served on the Seabury Bexley Alliance Committee, on the Relocation Committee (from Evanston to the Lutheran Center near O'Hare Airport), and on the Accreditation Committee. This past November, I was elected to the Standing Committee for the Diocese of Chicago. I look forward to being a part of this council of advice to the Bishop.

### **How do you engage in pastoral care for others?**

Empathy is the word which comes closest to describing holy pastoral care. I feel a strong inclination towards pastoral care - it is at the heart of my ministry. I bring my deep faith in God, in God's love and God's presence with us, and I journey with people in their pain. People often ask me how I cope with talking to someone who is dying, or sitting with a family while a loved one dies, or visiting with someone who is bereft. Death is holy. God is so present. And while I feel people's pain, God's peace comforts me, and I hope to pass on that peace. Pastoral care is about listening...carefully. We minister from our own personalities and our own life experiences. To be effective priests, we must understand ourselves. We must offer ourselves and at the same time, not make the situation about ourselves, but always about the needs of the person desiring pastoral care. We must listen carefully and stay on track with their thoughts and needs. Pastoral care is also about celebrating milestones and successes and good news, and letting people know that I am joyful in their joy.

**Tell about a ministry project that exists because of your leadership. What was your role in its creation? Who can be contacted?**

In 2010, in conjunction with our one-year program to read through the whole Bible together as a community, I suggested we hold an Advent program and invite guest speakers to talk to us about their discipline in reading Scripture. I invited Elizabeth Jameson, COO at Seabury, Jay Sidebotham, Rector Holy Spirit Lake Forest, and Bishop Jeffrey Lee to join us. We continued the program in 2011 meeting on three consecutive Wednesday evenings in Advent beginning at 6:00 with Evening Prayer, and continuing with supper at 6:30 and program from 7:15-8:00. The theme in 2011 was "Listening to the Spirit" responding to results from our Rector Search surveys which showed parishioners' desire to reach deeper spiritually. I invited Brian Hastings, Rector of Church of Our Savior, to speak on Spiritual Direction, Patrick Raymond, Rector of St. Michael's Barrington, to speak on Home Altars, and Ann Johnson from the Samaritan Counseling Center to speak on Exploring Our Dreams. This series is well received and now an annual offering. Please let me know if you need a contact for further discussion.

**How are you preparing yourself for the Church of the future?**

Listening to the voices of today and the voices of tomorrow. The Church is in transition. For so many, the Church no longer serves theological and spiritual needs. We must listen to one another and understand how societal changes urge transformation in the Church. Phyllis Tickle first captured my attention with her book *The Great Emergence*. She ably helps us to see patterns in our history and gives us hope in learning from these patterns and creating a relevant future. Bob Johansen anticipates the future so that the Church is proactive in remaining relevant. Diana Butler Bass and Brian McLaren are visionaries who with in-depth understanding of religion and culture are helping us create transformational worship and communities. We must remain open to new models of service. Does every parish need a Rector who is a preacher, a teacher, a pastor and an administrator? Perhaps expertise can be shared across communities. We must never stop asking how do we serve, how do we create community, how do we capture people's imaginations, how do we touch people's hearts, how do we proclaim the Gospel?

**What is your personal practice of stewardship and how do you utilize it to influence your ministry in your worshipping community?**

Stewardship encompasses the many ways we offer our time and talents to the church. At the same time, the church requires financial contributions to sustain the many ministries of the parish. First and foremost, the clergy are called to show people how God is present and working in their lives. Through the transformation that comes with that understanding, parishioners will give money to support the ministries of the parish. My personal practice of stewardship is my ministry to the church. Through preaching, teaching, pastoral care, outreach, and fellowship, I hope to always be showing people how God is working in their lives. In addition, I make a financial contribution based on my income. Throughout the year, we teach that we give what we can give in thanksgiving.

**What is your experience leading/addressing change in the church? When has it gone well? When has it gone poorly? And what did you learn?**

During my time as Warden at a previous parish, the Rector decided to address the time and content of the two Sunday morning services due to declining attendance at the early service. After a year-long process of focus groups and analysis, we placed education for both adults and youth between the two services making both services a viable option for families with children. The attendance increased at the early service. However, a longer morning for youth led to long-term fallout from a segment of the parish that felt the Rector was going to make these changes all along and was only asking for input as a matter of course. At my current parish, the Rector decided he wanted to shift the times of the three Sunday morning services and make changes to the staffing for the third service. We met with representatives from each of the services, explained our thinking, and made the change - no fallout. Though these changes were less significant, I did learn the importance of the Rector being straight about his or her perspective and that over analysis can be harmful. With appropriate goals, parishioner input, thoughtful discussion and careful reasoning, the Rector is called to make timely decisions for the health of the parish.