



SAINT BARNABAS EPISCOPAL CHURCH

By The Village Green

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

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May 7, 2007

Dear Members of Saint Barnabas Parish,

I write, my dear friends, to share with you some news that is both exciting and sad. By the time you have received this letter, I will have announced to our Vestry members that Sunday, September 30, 2007 will be my last Sunday with you. I will be resigning as the seventh Rector of Saint Barnabas and retiring with Debby to our house in Maine.

In September of 1992, you called me to come to Saint Barnabas, and, so, I will have completed fifteen years of ministry amongst you. I have loved being here with you - worshipping, baptizing, marrying, burying. We have laughed together and cried together as we faced the many events which have filled the years. I have watched as parishioners have assumed new leadership responsibilities. I have been proud as we have dared to take on new ministries to respond to the needs of the world around us. I have enjoyed watching you welcome new members into our parish family. And I have been pleased to see our Vestry set goals and strategize plans for the next five years.

We have Wardens, Joyce Harrington and Doris Weeks, who, with the help of the Vestry members, are able to bear the leadership roles during an interim period as a new rector is sought. We have an able treasurer, Don Johnson, who (with the Finance Committee) will keep making faithful recommendations for the budget. Our Stewardship Committee is already working hard to raise ample pledges to address the year ahead with your supportive help. We have been blessed with a staff which works hard and well together; they are poised to work with you in facing the future.

As for Debby and me, we will be quite sad to leave all of you, our home for the past fifteen years, the larger Falmouth community, and Cape Cod. This really has been the best setting I could have ever wished for to complete this phase of parish ministry. We are looking forward to a change in pace. We want more time to be together in the home we have made in Southern Maine. We want to be able to visit our son, our daughter-in-law, and our granddaughter, Abigail. We also will enjoy having the opportunity to do some traveling. With good health and at an early age, we are anticipating an active, invigorating and enjoyable retirement.

I truly believe that I have accomplished, with your and God's help, what I was called to Saint Barnabas to do. This will be a wonderful time for you as a parish to look for a gifted rector to help you move forward into what God is calling you to be next.

Debby and I will be away this coming weekend on a long-planned family trip to visit some places filled with memories with Debby's mother in Maryland and Pennsylvania. When we return, we will have five more months to be together, to be thankful for the much we have shared, and to say our goodbyes.

Faithfully,

The Rev. Robert B. Appleyard, Jr