



ST. PETER'S NET

ST. PETER'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH ► 654 N. EASTON ROAD ► GLENSIDE, PA 19038 ► (215) 887-1765

First Sunday after Pentecost to the Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

June 2009

A Word from Father Mike

[Father Mike's report to the Annual Meeting on May 3, 2009]

When I arrived last fall (2008) I was given a copy of the St. Peter's Parish Profile that was being circulated for use in the discernment process while the search for a new rector was underway. In the profile's beginning section there was a "vision of the people of St. Peter's," and it contained three basic components.

Rooted in love...

Growing through God's grace...

Reaching out to all...

Something instinctively said to me I needed to follow that vision if I was to be helpful to the parish as it faced the serious and formidable challenges ahead. In retrospect I'm glad I took that vision statement to heart because it has served me well as a guidepost over the course of time I have been with you.

Ordinarily an annual rector's report lists the accomplishments that the parish has achieved during the previous year. As interim rector my presence among you has been a bit different. Like Woody Allen who reportedly said "95% of life is showing-up," I too feel gratified that I consistently showed up, on time, and for the most part, was in good spirits, so that I could provide the transitional leadership needed to prepare and get ready for the anticipated ministry ahead. I am thrilled, like so many others, that the Rev. Emily Richards will bring her leadership gifts, skills and talents to this parish shortly.

Much as I'm tempted as interim rector, charged with the responsibility of ongoing ministry, to declare "Mission Accomplished," I cannot take full credit for

what has occurred during my "watch." In truth, the success of the various programs, ventures, and projects here at St. Peter's depends on the steady, faithful contributions of strong laity, committed parishioners, and dedicated staff. For me, it has been a joy to get to know so many of you. I just wish I could linger a bit longer and say hello to those people I simply haven't had occasion or opportunity to meet. Yet collectively and in the aggregate, I have experienced tremendous support from the parish-at-large, and I am grateful for the overall health and vitality of this church. St. Peter's has energized me. Your wider embrace of Christ's ministry has made my ministry a labor of love.

We still have a few weeks to say our good-byes before St. Peter's enters an exciting new chapter under new leadership, quite likely going into new uncharted waters, in new and unexpected directions. Thank you for the privilege of being able to serve you in the same parish that launched me in my own ministry years ago. I will cherish and hold the memories of this parish near and dear to my heart; and I will keep the vision of St. Peter's as a guide to my future ministry wherever the good Lord leads me

Rooted in love...

Growing through God's grace...

Reaching out to all...

May God bless all of you in your continuing ministry here at Saint Peter's.

— The Rev. E. F. Michael Morgan, Ph.D

