

Grace and Peace to you from God our Creator and from the Lord Jesus Christ! It brings me the greatest joy to finally be writing you this letter. Getting to this point has taken months of intentional discernment from all parties concerned as well as a great measure of patience and persistence. First, I hope you will join with me in thanking the search group and everyone else at St. Patrick's who have done the hard work of calling a new rector. The Reverend Sally Brower and the church staff also deserve a great deal of thanks for their continued work and leadership.

I look forward to getting to know all of you. By way of introducing myself, I would like to take this opportunity to tell you from my perspective a little about how I have come to St. Patrick's, how I see the Holy Spirit at work through this process, and then a couple of things I find essential for our life together.

I have been at St. Alban's and Davidson College for four and a half years now. Being in such close proximity to St. Patrick's I was informed early on about your rector transition. Also, I had known for some time that the rector of St. Alban's (my former boss) would retire at the end July 2017 and then at that point I would need to begin considering a transition of my own. A year ago I hadn't even considered a move to St. Patrick's because the timing for your initial rector search didn't mesh with when I would be looking for a new position. It wasn't until I went to St. Patrick's for the first time that something inside of me was sparked, but once I visited I was hooked.

Many of you will remember that I filled in as the celebrant for Be the Sermon Sunday in early October. I walked away thinking, "These people are great! I really like this place. And there's so much potential here." To quote John Wesley, "I felt my heart strangely warmed." At dinner that evening with my family, I remember asking them questions I had never thought to ask, "What's your five year plan? If we move, where would you want to go?" I had sort of assumed that they would want to move to the mountains somewhere, so their response surprised me in a way. "We like it here..." At that point, St. Patrick's transition was taking a little longer than expected, and you had begun the early stages of a Rector Time Certain search process. It seemed then the timing was right for both St. Patrick's and me! The very next day I called the Bishop's office and told Catherine Massey, canon for transitions, I would like to apply. Now, after a great deal of careful discernment, I see the hand of God clearly at work in our lives, and nothing excites me more.

I believe that the Holy Spirit works through timing, even timing that feels drawn out or uncomfortable in the moment. The Holy Spirit works through having your heart strangely and unexpectedly warmed. I believe the Holy Spirit works through the needs, desires, and decisions of the collective—a family, a community, a church. In short, when I look in the rear-view mirror I can see the work of the Holy Spirit guiding us all to this moment in St. Patrick's history, bringing us all together.

It is then with this understanding, this faith and confidence, that I look with great anticipation to our common future. I am really looking forward to getting to know and love all of you, being a pastoral presence in your lives, and working together to build up God's Kingdom in Mooresville. I truly love working in the Episcopal Church. I've done so professionally, both in the lay and ordained capacities. Now, I celebrate being able to bring this joy and passion into your community. To my eyes, St. Patrick's is great just as it is, and as I said before, I see incredible potential. We will grow together in love, faith, wisdom, and kindness. We will pray together—often and deeply. We will do good work. And I like to have fun and be joyful, so I am hoping you will join me in this as well! These are my guiding values. Who knows what we will dream, and do, and accomplish together to the glory of God in the years ahead. I can't wait to discern and discover this with you.

God's Peace

Rev. Greg McIntyre