



*Saint Thomas' Church, Whitemarsh
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August 23, 2018

Dear Friends:

I am writing to let you know that I have accepted the call to serve as the tenth Rector of Christ Church in Greenwich, Connecticut. I am excited to embrace this new challenge. At the same time, I will greatly miss all of you and the ministry that we have shared. My last Sunday will be October 28th. I have not taken vacation since January and will be taking time off between mid-September and mid-October, but we will have lots of time before and after to say our farewells.

Very few Rectors manage to stay in one place for 23 years. I count myself extremely fortunate to have been your Rector for so long. Mims and I have been blessed to raise our daughters, Emily, Marguerite and Isabelle, in this wonderful community which has given them deep roots.

While we have built many ministries, it is the people of St. Thomas' that I treasure most, and I will cherish memories of you forever. The warmth, hospitality, countless kindnesses, being invited into your lives in poignant and beautiful moments have made an indelible impression upon me. You have fashioned me as a priest, and I have tried to serve you faithfully.

When I arrived in 1995, we faced many challenges, but God provided wonderful resources along the way. The congregation grew spiritually and numerically. People became more engaged. Our community grew stronger. Increased stewardship allowed us to build a first rate staff to equip every member for ministry. We carried out several very successful capital campaigns.

The most gratifying aspects of it all were the relationships that we formed, caring for those in need, baptizing babies, officiating at weddings and burying people who had transformed from parishioners to dear friends. I cherish it all, and my love for you will always endure.

Christ Church is a very strong, gifted congregation poised to go to the next level, and now is a good time for me to leave while St. Thomas' is flourishing. Whoever succeeds me as your next Rector will be one of the most fortunate priests in the Episcopal Church. Please take care of him or her and invite your next Rector and his or her family into your lives and together you will be blessed. St. Thomas' is 320 years old. Its future has never been brighter.

We have outstanding Wardens in Jim Pasquarella, Annamarie Hellebusch, Nat Taylor and Chris Russell, a superb Vestry, staff and Vestry Commission Chairs. The parish is in good hands. I am confident that St. Thomas' will go from strength to strength as it continues to serve Christ.

Thank you for all that you have done to make my ministry so fulfilling and to bless our family. We shall always carry you in our hearts. Please continue to give your best to God, to invest in your spiritual journey and in what God is doing in this remarkable church that we love. I value your prayers and support now and always.

With love and prayers and great gratitude to each of you,

M. Mims +