SEARCH PROCESS TAKING SHAPE
VESTRY TAPS EXPERIENCED SEARCH CONSULTANT AND LAY LEADERS

When a parish is without a rector, a search committee is appointed by its vestry to discern God’s will about its next rector. It is a big job, often split among two committees. Our vestry has set about to form two committees to do this important work. A Prayer Team will also be established.

Our Profile Committee will design a process for us to reflect on where we have been, where we are now and where the Holy Spirit may be leading us next. The process will include several listening sessions and an online survey, leading to the publication of a Parish Profile. The Parish Profile will support the work of our Search Committee, who will advertise our search nationwide, interview candidates, and recommend a final candidate to the Vestry.

Each committee will be led by experienced and committed lay leaders. The Vestry has appointed Ginger Goodrich as chair of the Profile Committee and has appointed Sarah Elliott and Alan Smith as co-chairs of the Search Committee. Ginger, Alan, Sarah and their fellow committee members will be supported in their work by an experienced search consultant, The Rev. Joanne Izzo. Joanne will assist St. Thomas’ transition committees in preparation of the profile, search and discernment tools.

The Vestry is in the process of inviting additional parishioners to contribute their talents to the work of these committees that will greatly shape the future of our parish. The Vestry expects to announce the names of the committee members by early March. In the meantime, every member of the parish can support these committees and their work in keeping them in our daily prayers.

Almighty and everliving God, ruler of all things in heaven and earth, hear our prayers for this parish family. Strengthen the faithful, arouse the careless, and restore the penitent. Grant us all things necessary for our common life, and bring us all to be of one heart and mind within your holy Church; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

SEE THE FOLLOWING PAGE FOR SEARCH CONSULTANT AND COMMITTEE CHAIR BIOGRAPHIES

LITURGY FEEDBACK WELCOMED

As we get in touch with who we are as a parish, we are rediscovering our liturgical center. During the transition, you may notice slight changes to the liturgy. The Worship & Arts Commission welcomes your feedback via email to Nicole Riter, Chair (gngwk@aol.com).

Pictured (L-R):
Meet our search consultant

“My prayer for you as a faith community is that you will find this time of transition not as a process to be gotten but as an opportunity to deepen relationships and savor the Love of Christ among you.”

- Joanne Izzo+

The Vestry has engaged The Rev. Joanne Izzo to journey with our Profile Committee and our Search & Discernment Committee. A native Brookynite, Joanne was ordained as a priest in the Diocese of New York in 2014. She is certified as an Interim Minister and a coach for clergy. She designs and facilitates vestry, ministry, and leadership retreats, and appreciative inquiry processes for congregations seeking to identify goals, aspirations, and strengths. She also oversees the training of other clergy to lead these retreats. In addition to her work with the church, Joanne is a social worker at the Department of Veteran Affairs.

SPouse and children: Herb Goodrich active parishioner until his death in 2007; Cindy, Matthew and Steven; 3 in-laws; 4 grandchildren.

Ministry participation at St. Thomas': Church School Chair; Prison ministry volunteer; Stewardship Chair; Volunteer Ministry Coordinator; Vestry member; Executive Committee; Gospel study facilitator.

What would you like to accomplish during our transition? The Search Process begins with a parish self-study. Each of us has a unique set of relationships; as well as memories of the past and hopes for the future. I hope to provide as many ways as possible for every parishioner to contribute to the work of understanding who we are now as a faith community and then building a shared vision of what our future can be.

Education: Smith College.

Employment: Have worked in parish, Diocesan, and national areas of the Episcopal Church for over 30 years, including 11 years as a staff member for Congregational Development in the Diocese of Pennsylvania.

Vestry will appoint several parishioners to each committee during the next two months.