



This month
*Canon Michael Durning,
Priest in Charge,
chats with us . . .*

Dear Friends,

It is hard to believe that I am completing my first month here at Good Shepherd. Bonnie Jean and I continue to enjoy our time here and we are blessed by your generosity and kindness.

As a history buff, I look at the “Carpenter Gothic” walls of this church and I imagine old Bishop Weed presiding over a Confirmation Service in the 1890’s; or his successor, Bishop Gray, mentioning the “beautiful church that is in Dunedin” in the early years of the 20th century.

Our home is in Lakewood Ranch, some 60 miles to the south in Manatee County. When we are serving here in Dunedin, currently Saturday through Tuesday, we live in your rectory. One day I decided to read the newspaper on the front porch and I was able to see how impressed people are as they walk by and see these well-kept buildings and grounds. We are grateful to the Vestry for their hard work and I am sure that any prospective candidate for Rector will be equally impressed with this attractive facility.

As it always is with life, our lives are changing. Over the summer, we added two granddaughters to our family tree. Olivia Rose was born in June and Delilah Patricia came to us in September. This brings our brood of sons, daughters in law and grands to an astonishing 14 people!

As we move into a new program year, COVID concerns are never far away. Your Vestry has taken specific steps to safeguard the health of those who choose to attend in person WHILE providing an alternative of online attendance.

I am happy to say that the Vestry has chosen the theme of “Faith-filled Generosity” for our annual stewardship effort, ably handled by Vestry member Judy Warner. On All Saints Day November 1st we will have a Mission Moment to focus on the work of our Endowment Board.

As we move toward the new Church Year in Advent, our theme will be “Comfort and Joy.” This theme is borrowed from our brothers and sisters in the Church of England. It acknowledges that Advent will be very different this year. To quote: “It may be the Church’s role to provide consolation, rather than to assume Vestry everyone will be ready to join in jubilation ... this Christmas the Church will need, in the words of St. Paul in Romans 12:15 to ‘rejoice with those who rejoice; weep with those who weep.’”

Thank you all for your kind and welcoming generosity. May God prosper our work.