



A Time to Mourn, A Time to Dance ***Ecclesiastes 3:4***

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“What will we do? Who will lead us? We were counting on her to baptize our firstborn. We were planning to marry next year and wanted her to officiate. I was just beginning to feel comfortable here and now I have to start over. Who will oversee my memorial service? Her leaving makes me very sad.”

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It is fine to honor and appreciate the past but we are always being called to look to the future in faith; confident that God is, and always will be, with us!

We Vestry members shall work to lead wisely and faithfully in this time of transition. Becky has carefully trained each Vestry member to care for our congregation. Each member embraces our role as spiritual comforters during this time of transition. We will reach out by phone and through personal contact to listen to parishioners' concerns and feelings. But most importantly, will offer hope by reminding everyone that God is always with us.

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John Russotto
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When a beloved pastor retires changes occur on many levels. In theory, when one part of a system changes all other parts also change. We are a living body with many personal feelings attached to who we are personally and who we perceive ourselves to be communally. Even a planned change, such as the retirement of our pastor, will bring forth many reactions. It is normal.

Common feelings perhaps will be those of loss and of grief. This is understandable, and we all need to acknowledge these emotions. What a blessing that, as a flock of faithful believers, we already know the path forward to hope is to keep becoming the church who God has called and equipped us to be.

It is fine to honor and appreciate the past but we are always being called to look to the future in faith; confident that God is, and always will be, with us!

We Vestry members shall work to lead wisely and faithfully in this time of transition. Becky has carefully trained each Vestry member to care for our congregation. Each member embraces our role as spiritual comforters during this time of transition. We will reach out by phone and through personal contact to listen to parishioners' concerns and feelings. But most importantly, will offer hope by reminding everyone that God is always with us.

The Vestry is already actively working with our Diocese of Southwest Florida. We are engaged in the Rector Search Process as we prepare the way for a new pastor. Look for more about this in our next issue of Vestry Vibes and on the church website.

In closing, this a reflection we heard about the pain and grief we have experienced with Covid-19 in the aftermath of more than 100,000 lives lost:

“The day will come when the memory of your loved one will bring a smile to your lips before it brings a tear to your eyes.”

The day will come when our new pastor will be actively shepherding us toward the honor and glory of God through our worship and our many ministries.

That day will be a time to celebrate!

Faithfully,

Phil Beauchamp,
Senior Warden

John Russotto
Vestry Liaison,
Exalt Teams



A Time to Mourn, A Time to Dance ***Ecclesiastes 3:4***

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