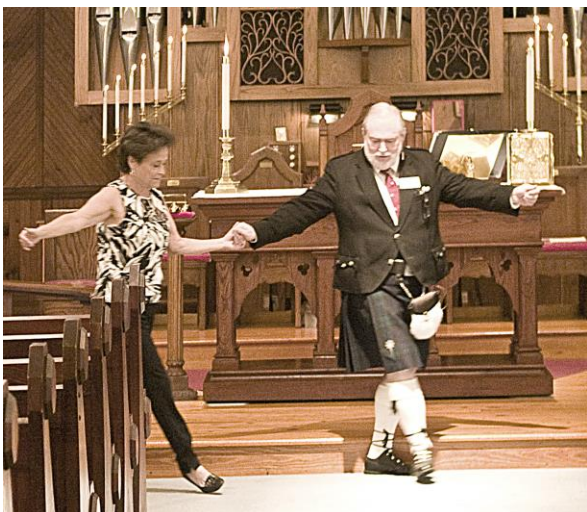


**Please join us in welcoming
Canon Michael Durning,
our new Priest in Charge!**



The Vestry is delighted that the Rev. Canon Michael P. Durning will be our Priest in Charge, effective September 1st. Canon Michael will serve in this part-time position at least through the end of the year; after which he will remain on a monthly basis until a new rector is called.

Canon Michael is a good friend of the Good Shepherd family, and has been with us many times over the past ten years. He and his wife, Bonnie Jean, have especially enjoyed their visits during our “Kirkin’ of the Tartans” celebrations, when he has preached and even led us in Scottish Country Dancing in the transept.



Prior to ordination in Philadelphia, Michael worked in the publishing business. He was ordained a priest in 1989 and he served Florida parishes in Naples and Marco Island. In 1997, Bishop John Lipscomb asked him to join the Diocesan Staff. He was reappointed upon the election of Bishop Dabney Smith in 2007.



Following retirement in 2018, Michael completed an interim in Longboat Key. He then assisted the Diocese of Oklahoma as the Interim Canon to the Ordinary during their transition to a new bishop. He and Bonnie Jean returned to Florida in May.

Michael and Bonnie Jean MacDonald married in 1973. They have three grown sons and five grandchildren.

We are looking forward to availing ourselves of Canon Michael’s wisdom, experience, and humor as he guides us during our transition.

A SHORT COURSE IN THE PROCESS OF SELECTING OUR NEXT RECTOR

Surely, almost everyone in our congregation has been wondering how and when our next rector will be chosen. The five steps in the process of selecting a new rector are simple enough. However, the journey itself requires a myriad of thoughtful discussions, honest assessments, and critical decisions. As with most things we do in our church, careful discernment, steeped in prayer, must precede all our efforts. We are very grateful that all we must do will be expertly guided by our Diocesan Office of Transition Ministry (OTM). Over the next several weeks, you will learn about how integral it is to our search.

Immediately after Pastor Becky announced her retirement, our wardens were in touch with our Bishop and the Canon Norman to begin taking the required steps. First, in consultation with Bishop Dabney Smith and Canon Richard Norman, the Canon to the Ordinary, who oversees transitions, we selected Canon Durning as our priest-in-charge for our parish. He is a truly wonderful person, but please be aware that no matter how much we may love our priest-in-charge, he is not eligible to apply for the rector's full-time position.

Second, over the summer, your Vestry has been preparing the following information which will be used to inform qualified candidates about our parish and entice them to apply.

- the results of the congregational survey
- the draft of our Parish Profile, and
- an updated parish website specifically geared toward the search process.

During the first week of September, our Vestry will participate in a retreat with Canon Norman to review these and other reports necessary for the search process. After they are reviewed and approved by the Diocese for distribution, they

will be publicly available to anyone who is interested

Third, also at the Vestry Retreat in September, Canon Norman will facilitate us in making several decisions about the formation of the Search Committee, including how large the Committee will be, which applicants will be asked to serve, and which Committee member will be named as the Chair to lead the group in prayer and action. Needless to say, the importance of this Committee's work to the future of this congregation cannot be overstated.

Fourth, after the Vestry invites those selected to serve on the Search Committee and they accept, the Vestry will charge them with their mission, and then leave them to do their work. They won't be doing it alone! Canon Norman will work with them closely as they undertake the duties set forth in the Diocese's manual, *The Search Process: A Guide for Vestries, Search Committees, and Interims/Priests-in-Charge*. This guidebook spells out in detail the many tasks and choices our Search Committee must attend to before submitting the names of three candidates to the Vestry for consideration.

The final step, which is to identify which priest will be called to become our next rector, is a collaborative one between the Vestry, our Bishop, and the OTM.

So how long will this process take? It depends on a number of factors. But the Vestry is hopeful that the next rector will receive the call before Easter Sunday 2021.

What can you do? Pray! A parish that prays that the Holy Spirit's guidance is heard and followed is giving essential strength, support and encouragement to all who participate in this momentous decision.