The Year Ahead: Notes on the Rector’s Forum
February 2018

The plans for the year ahead laid out in this forum presentation are built upon the following cumulated reflections of my first six months as rector:
- Numerous listening circles
- Study of the parish profile & parish survey that preceded it
- Meeting with the profile committee
- A vestry retreat
- Many one-on-one conversations

We are in a position to build upon strength. We are healthy and vibrant. We have broken a new All Saints’ record in pledges ($2.9 million) and we have an incredibly talented staff and a remarkable population of parishioners. We look to the future with real hope and confidence.

Given our strength as a parish, the work laid out in this presentation represents our desire to focus our efforts as a vestry and staff and other parish leaders so that our work is clearly aligned with our mission.

This focus and clarity will allow us to pursue growth at All Saints’ of very sort: growing deeper in friendship with one another, growing in the relationships we will have with our neighbors, growing in the numbers of people who call All Saints’ home, and growing in our connectedness to other institutions and organizations in our community.

Having consulted with diocesan colleagues, I have elected to pursue a rotation model for our associate rectors whereby they will rotate portfolios every five years or so.

Tim Black has achieved a great deal for All Saints’ in the area of youth ministry; we are stronger because of his leadership. Following 5 years in that role, Tim will be taking on a new portfolio of Worship and Pastoral Care in August.

Pastoral Care is a core ministry for us; Tim’s experience at All Saints’ best places him to lead our expansion of that work. Denni Moss and Karen Evans will also join the pastoral care clergy team caring for our parishioners who are no longer able to be with us as often on a Sunday.

This year we will call a new associate rector to join our team to oversee our Evangelism and Children and Youth ministries. We are looking for a networker, someone who will be comfortable connecting with Midtown business and residents, be confident leading a team, and know how to build a program.
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WORKING TOGETHER  
THE YEAR AHEAD
- Building on Strength
- Six strategic planning groups
- Engaging the parish
- Discerning our focus
- Deepening vestry & staff collaboration

QUESTIONS?

- Over the next few months, vestry members, staff, and parishioners will work together on a strategic plan for the next three program years, starting in August 2018.
- Six strategic planning groups across the six areas of the church’s life (Evangelism and Communications; Formation; Service; Parish Life; Stewardship; Worship and Music) will discern what our strategic focus should be as a parish in consultation with the parish at large via survey and forum times. We will want to hear your voice!
- It is also intended that through this work, vestry and staff will deepen their collaboration and strengthen their capacity for strategic leadership.

GENTLE HOSPITALITY  
THE YEAR AHEAD
- Welcome
- Full Service Worship Bulletin
- Digital Missioner
- Website

QUESTIONS?

- Welcome has been a focus of mine since I began as rector in August. We live in a time when many people are unaccustomed to the life of organized religion. We have a tremendous gift to share in this extraordinary parish community, and we want as many people to feel at home here as possible.
- Our work in welcome this year:
  - Hosting and then building out the Invite, Welcome, Connect training;
  - Creating a full service worship bulletin: designed to make our worship accessible to non-Episcopalians (parishioners will still be welcome to use the Prayer Book if they wish!)
  - Hiring a Digital Missioner who will upgrade our use of social media (e.g. Facebook, Instagram, YouTube etc.) and build relational networks online and in person, especially seeking to reach young adults
  - Launching a new and more appropriately tooled website to meet our needs for 2018 and beyond

LEADING THE WAY  
THE YEAR AHEAD
- Children and youth ministry
- Campus ministry
- Young Adults

QUESTIONS?

- We seek to become diocesan leaders in the children and youth programs we have at All Saints’. To help us achieve that goal, we will undertake a careful study of the best practices and programs that exist across and beyond the Episcopal Church, adapting them to suit our particular setting and objectives.
- Through Kim’s leadership, we also seek to make progress in:
  - Campus Ministry: Building connections with Georgia Tech, as well as other collegiate communities, offering our resources to those communities, and being an effective presence on and off campus in partnership with others.
  - Young Adult Ministry: Building our network of relationships with young adults, especially with those who live within walking distance of All Saints’.
This year we will say a fond farewell to the Chenaults and celebrate with them four decades of the highest standard of music-making in our parish.

I am currently working on establishing the process that will help us all as a parish to discern together what our hopes are for the next chapter of music leadership at All Saints’. That work will be fully consultative of the parish as we will seek to build on the extraordinary work Ray and Beth have led here and the music community there have built and nurtured.

Now that we own the block, All Saints’ is faced with the exciting challenge to leave our own legacy for future generations as we seek to develop our campus to fit it for the century ahead of us.

In the Fall, the vestry will commission a task force which will study and discern with prayerful care and intention our shared vision for that work.

This work will engage each of us in a deep and wide conversation, consulting with those of us on this block as well as with the city beyond so that what we end up achieving is fully consistent with our mission as a church and offers our very best effort at leaving a church campus that our successors will be proud of and be enriched by.

As I had begun: all of our work this year is built on strength. We are a church that has every reason to be looking up, to strive for what is beyond us, and to offer a model to others for what the 21st century Episcopal Church can look like in a thriving urban setting such as we enjoy.

In achieving the goals we set ourselves, our greatest asset as a parish remains the 3000 souls who call this church home.

The future is incredibly bright because of the outstanding generosity and commitment of each of you. It is an honor and privilege to serve as rector of this parish, and I am brimming with hope for all that lies ahead.

Simon+