

Dear Saints,

As we head into the middle of summer and the transition phase of our rector search, I'd like to share some information and thoughts about what's been happening and what's on the horizon.

July is often a quiet month for us, but our new rector and his family are extremely busy as they prepare to relocate. In addition to winding up their parochial and diocesan responsibilities and saying goodbye to many friends, Simon and Monica are preparing to move with their three young children across the country on relatively short notice.

A couple of weeks ago, the entire family visited Atlanta to consider options for housing and schools and meet some of our staff and have some fun. Although your vestry offered them support in various ways, this wasn't the time for welcome events, as the Mainwarings were on a mission.

As a result, plans are on track for them to be with us by early August, which dovetails well with the start of a new school year and a new church program year. The timing is especially fortuitous because there will be a multitude of events that will provide opportunities for the Mainwarings and us to get to know each other.

For example, a dynamic picnic committee is planning a fantastic Southern welcome for our newest Saints. Neighborhood stewardship events will allow for more personal interaction with Simon. Next month there will be a Prime Timers lunch (for those 75 and older) with Simon, an opportunity for our most senior Saints to get to know him. Just think how much we'll enjoy introducing the Mainwarings to Kanuga and our rich traditions there. Our Fall Festival, crowned by All Saints' Sunday, will be especially memorable. There will also be a celebration of Simon's new ministry with us during a special installation service and reception on a date to be announced soon.

Many of you have expressed a desire to help with the transition. Thank you. The best way to help with the transition is to join in our common life. Sign up, show up, volunteer and serve – Just like you always do! By doing so, you will welcome and establish a connection with our new rector and his family.

Some wisdom shared by the leadership of our diocese is that "transition in" is a long and gradual process, and that both rector and congregation will learn from and about each other in all sorts of unplanned ways over time.

In their first couple of months with us, the Mainwarings will need to focus on settling into a new home and school situation for their children and into their new place in our parish and diocese. Let's also hope that they can catch their breath! They'll need time to get to know All Saints' large and talented staff. Simon will delve into our ministries, programs and business affairs. Other rectors who have transitioned into large parishes have advised that this may not be the best time to extend to the new rector invitations for private functions. Please also consider giving the Mainwarings the gifts of time and space by limiting communication with them until they arrive, so that they can settle their affairs in San Diego properly and make their family's journey a happy adventure.

Ever since Simon became one of our finalists for the rector position, several of us have prayed for him and his family every day. Will you join us?

We'll provide further updates as details unfold. Thanks for all that you have done to bring us to this exciting and joyful time in All Saints' history.



Gratefully,
Leighton Stradtman, *Senior Warden*

