

I begin this newsletter with the following email our Senior Warden, Walt Sicard, from the Vestry sent out yesterday.

It is with sad hearts the Vestry of Holy Trinity Anglican Church South Haven must inform our Church Family of the following:

Today March 24, 2019 at a specially called meeting of the Vestry, Father Richard Turner tendered his resignation as Rector in Charge of Holy Trinity Anglican Church South Haven. Father Rick informed the vestry that he has requested and received consent for his resignation from our Bishop Ronald Jackson. The vestry has accepted Father Rick's resignation effective Sunday, April 7, 2019 which will be his last Sunday with us.

We are all saddened by these circumstances. Please pray for Father Rick and Dana for strength, providence, and peace. Pray for our church also that we may be more loving and grace filled in the days ahead. Pray for unity and that we may know and do the work God has prepared for us and that we will closely walk in His ways to the Glory of His name through Jesus Christ our Lord.

After 31/2 years as your rector Dana and I have been for many months considering what the responsible thing to do is at this time. WE decided a few weeks ago that the responsible and loving thing to do would be to resign from Holy Trinity Anglican. I came to this parish with no training in Anglicanism. My first year here I leaned heavily on Lynne Maxwell to help me through the liturgy and special services of Epiphany and Lent. She was my training. You have all been patient with me as a novice priest, thank you. I'm still not where I would like to be in conducting the liturgy but I'm better than I was in October of 2015. We have worked together to attempt to follow the Lord in being and becoming the parish he would have us be and become. This pursuit has led us to a new worship facility that we desperately needed, Thanks Be To God for his providence in securing our present building. Along the way we celebrated Holy Trinity's 10 year anniversary. That was a highlight of my time with you. Dana and I have not pursued other ministry positions as of yet being unsure if we are ready for that. So, would you *please* pray with us as we try to discern God's next step in our lives? We would greatly appreciate it. The effective date of the resignation is April 7. So we have two more Sundays as your Rector. I look forward to these two services with anticipation of what the Lord may want to do. Thanks Be To God for His unending Blessings!

**Again,** I want to remind you of all the opportunities approaching in Holy Week. The Diocese has committed to taking care of the priestly duties during Holy Week. **And** May 7 the celebration of Cinco De Mayo after the service.

Continue your observance of Lent with gusto to the glory of God and your betterment.

You may want to pray this prayer along with Henri M. Nouwen:

*Listen O Lord, to my prayers, Listen to my desires to be with you, to dwell in your house, and to let my whole being be filled with your presence. But none of this is possible without you. When you are not the one who fills me. I am soon filled with endless thoughts and concerns that divide me and tear me away from you. Even thoughts about you, good spiritual thoughts, can be little more than distractions when you are not their author.*

*O Lord, thinking about you, being fascinated with theological ideas, and discussions, being excited about histories of Christian spirituality and stimulated by thoughts and ideas about prayer and meditation, all of this can be as much an expression of greed as the unruly desire for food, possessions, or power.*

*Every day I see again that only you can teach me to pray, only you can set my heart at rest, only you can let me dwell in your presence. No book, no idea, no concept or theory will ever bring me close to you unless you yourself are the one who lets these instruments become the way to you. But Lord, let me at least remain open to your initiative; let me wait patiently and attentively for that hour when you will come and break through all the walls I have erected. Teach me, O Lord, to pray. Amen*

Often I can become confused in thinking that just because I'm having my quiet time that all I do in that time is blessed of God. And then later realize that wasn't true because most of what I did came from me and not from Him. What wasted time. So, I appreciated Henri Nouwen's prayer for *God* to teach him to pray.

How greatly we need God to be the source of all of life. Only then will our days be lived well.

**O LORD, TEACH US TO PRAY AND LIVE WELL!**