

All Parish E-mail for Wednesday, January 13, 2016

January 13, 2016

My dear people,

Last evening, I informed St. Timothy's vestry that I have accepted a call as Rector of Emmanuel Episcopal Church in Houston.

When Liz and I came to Lake Jackson in 2001, we openly said we hoped to be able to serve this parish until our youngest son graduated from high school, then a long twelve years off in the future. We've now overstayed that prediction by three years! But it has taken this long to pray, discern and cross paths with another parish where I feel God is calling me. Furthermore, I believe that after this long pastorate, St. Timothy's is ready to benefit from some fresh clergy leadership.

My last Sunday at your altar will be January 31 and my last day in the office will be Friday, February 5. Liz is willing to continue her service to St. Timothy's until she finds the right work in Houston and this will provide a measure of continuity for the parish.

I cannot begin to express what our life here with you all has meant to me. We've formed many fast friendships, which I expect will last well beyond our tenure. This has been a wonderful, nurturing parish for our three boys, as we've watched them grow into men. I remember that soon after we first came, Liz and I told each other that the deep level of faithfulness among the people here would call us both into a deeper level of faithfulness as well. This has come to pass. I will always treasure our years in this parish, the relationships we've formed and the good work that we've done together to help build God's kingdom.

We definitely had a banner year in 2015. St. Timothy's is a vibrant, healthy congregation with strong lay leaders and this diocese has a superb process for congregations seeking rectors, so I feel as though I am leaving you in the best of hands. Lake Jackson is growing, the future of this parish is bright and God's dream for you is golden.

My hope is that in my remaining weeks here, we'll have opportunities to celebrate, to reminisce, to acknowledge our sadness, and to come to some closure with the change. The good news about this particular move is that we'll not be far away. Thank you for the extraordinary privilege of serving as your Rector.

In this time of transition, and in the years ahead, I pray that God may strengthen you
*in your inner being with power through the Spirit...to know the love of Christ
that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.*

Love and blessings,

Andy Parker
Rector