

## Vestry Selects a New Rector

Since Father Robin announced in April that he planned to retire effective August 31, the Vestry has been deeply involved in the process of planning for and selecting his replacement. This was a responsibility that was not undertaken lightly, but was undertaken with much prayer, many special meetings, evenings and weekends.

We immediately sought the counsel of Bishop Guernsey – and the Bishop came to Epiphany early in the process to meet with us. Unlike the Episcopal Church, he told us, there is no prohibition in the Anglican Church in North America from selecting an associate rector to become the new rector. Neither is there a requirement to do so. His counsel was to first discern, individually and as the vestry, whether Fr. Peter should be considered to be a candidate. At the same time Fr. Peter had to discern, along with Andrea, whether he wanted to be considered as a candidate.

At the same time, we sought your counsel, by means of email and the drop box in the chapel. We heard from nearly 40 of you through those two means, and there were many other conversations that you may have had with individual vestry members.

Our next step was to determine the qualities we needed in a rector for Epiphany, regardless of who the candidate might be. We dedicated much of our time in prayerful discernment about the future direction for Epiphany, all the while underpinned with prayer support from the Prayer team. If we met, they met! From that starting point, we developed a list of in depth interview questions that were intended to be asked of any candidate for the position of rector.

Each one of us entered into the task with one goal in mind: **Not to do our will, but God's will for Epiphany.**

The discernment processes regarding Fr. Peter's candidacy were both positive. So, we studied Fr. Peter's spiritual biography! We interviewed his references. We scheduled an interview.

On Saturday, July 19<sup>th</sup>, the whole vestry interviewed both Fr. Peter and Andrea. We spent an hour with the two of them, and another 5 hours with Peter alone. At the end of the day, we felt that we

had come to a deep understanding of Peter's views and his potential for assuming the role of rector of Epiphany.

The consensus of the vestry was that Peter was both knowledgeable and humble; honest about his strengths and weaknesses; it was abundantly clear that he deeply loves the Lord, his family and Epiphany; he demonstrated a deep understanding about what makes Epiphany special and the issues that face us now and in the future; he provided the vestry with a well thought out overview of a variety of areas of the operations and ministries of Epiphany – along with possible avenues of approach.

Going into the process, we knew that Peter was an excellent manager and responsible for a number of initiatives which are already in place. Moreover, we discovered that there was a depth of caring and concern for the sheep under his care. Multiple examples of his pastoral care were raised – unknown, perhaps, except to those whom he touched. He is vulnerable, and subject to error, as we all are. He strives for transparency and reconciliation, when necessary. He maintains communication even in conflict.

We had determined early on that we would defer any decision until after we could pray about it, as we had done with every other step in the process. So, on Tuesday, July 22<sup>nd</sup>, we held a special vestry meeting where we discussed the day-long interview and voted, and we are pleased to announce that the Vestry cast a unanimous vote in favor of calling Fr. Peter as the new rector. A call letter was presented, and he has accepted. Effective September 1, 2014, The Rev. Peter G. Frank will assume the role as rector of Church of the Epiphany Anglican. We are working the Bishop Guernsey's office to arrange a suitable time for the formal installation of the new Rector.

For the vestry,

Tom Will, Senior Warden

Merle Stromberg, Junior Warden