

*A letter to Epiphany from the Rev. Peter Frank*

I am deeply grateful for the hard work of the vestry, the prayers of Epiphany's congregation and God's clear guiding as we have all discerned together over the last four months. I love Epiphany and am convinced God has great things for us in the years ahead.

Friends, it is early going, but this is what I have heard God saying about our church during this time of discernment. First, God loves Epiphany. We have been through a lot, but we have let God use it to make us stronger, more committed disciples. We are a uniquely intergenerational church that is especially good at being a family of Christians. By God's grace, we have landed in a neighborhood with a "church-shaped hole" in it, and it is just so exciting to see the ways that God is sending us out to serve and share the good news of God's love.

Secondly, what is next at Epiphany is a time to grow as Christians in some new ways. We have survived a lot. We have maintained much that is good in the face of some real challenges. That said, God has gone with us on this journey so that we can do more than simply protect what we have.

How are we going to go forward? First, I invite you to pray with me, Epiphany's leaders and our church as a whole as we say goodbye to Fr. Robin at the end of August, and then as I begin serving as rector beginning on August 31. Join me in praying for God's blessing on this transition, and his clear direction for our church. Secondly, I have made the decision that it is again time to work systematically to discern God's direction for our church and to build a plan to guide us in ministry over the next few years. To do that, I am calling on the Rev. Tom Herrick, of the Titus Institute, to help us. The Titus Institute is recommended by our diocese and has a strong track record. I expect Fr. Herrick to begin working with the vestry and clergy very shortly after September 1. This work will involve the congregation as a whole as well.

Also, mark your calendars and be sure to be at church on August 31 as I take some time to share my testimony from the pulpit.

Over the next few weeks, my family and I will be on vacation. I will see you in church again on August 24 when we come together to thank Fr. Robin for his wonderful ministry.

*"Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man the things which God has prepared for those who love Him." - 1 Corinthians 2:9.*

God Bless,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Peter Frank', written in a cursive style.

Peter