

October Newsletter from our Interim Priest

Beloved in Christ,

Whew! It is already October and we have been inundated with programs, events, voting, and transition in many ways. It is also the season of Fall, and I am reminded of it as I look at the brown leafed trees through the window of my study. As the days grow shorter and the air turns crisp, we find ourselves at the threshold of fall — a season that expresses the essence of transition. Fall is a time when nature prepares for the quietude of winter. Trees shed their leaves, not as a sign of loss, but as a necessary step toward renewal. This process invites us to reflect on our own lives. Just as the leaves must fall to make way for new growth, we too must embrace change, letting go of what no longer serves us to make space for new opportunities. The transition into fall can evoke a sense of nostalgia, as we remember the carefree days of summer. Yet, it also brings with it a sense of anticipation.

In our diocese we have elected and consecrated our new Bishop, the Rt. Rev. Julia Whitworth, we are saying farewell to Bishop Alan Gates, and later Assistant Bishop Carol Gallagher, who retires in December. I will also be taking leave of you on December 31, and my final service at St. Cyprians will be Sunday December 29th. I'll be retiring and will spend the rest of my life in South Africa with my wife, Valda. These are all bitter-sweet experiences invoked through the seasons to dedicated ministries and then having to say farewell.

Please pray for our sick at home or in hospital, especially Robin Williams and Margaret Lowell. I am saddened by the terminal illness of a man who took me under his wing when I came to the USA in 2008. We have been friends ever since. Jack Corish introduced me to the Barbershop Men's Chorus two weeks after I arrived, and we had our weekly dinner and drinks evening for the next two years. I went to give him last rites on Tuesday.

Upcoming events and services for St. Cyprian's are to be brought to your attention:

Sunday October 27 will be a combination of "Pink Sunday" commemoration and Children's service. Bring your children for stories of sickness and healing **and treats**.

I will be conducting a TAIZE service of prayer and reflection before November 5 (election day). It will take place on Monday November 4 at 5.00pm. The service will take place in the sanctuary under candlelight.

Josie Mitchell is working on a calendar of events for the rest of the year. Please watch this space. It will include Baptism, Harvest Festival, St. Cyprian's Centennial, Lessons and Carols, Marriage Blessings, NE University singing event, Special birthdays, etc.

I have the privilege of reading a book called, *Black and Episcopalian* lent to me by one of our parishioners. I was amazed at the parallels made by the writer, Rev. Gayle Fisher-Stewart, between the USA and a lecture I had given at Ridley College, Melbourne, Australia in 1998. My topic, *Africanism, and the Anglican Church*. The words I used were echoed where a commitment to unity in the Anglican church supplants the concern for justice. Africans and people of color were given concessions through policies of exclusion, paternalism. And even hostility. Have we really evolved?

My prayers are for us to experience a peaceful transition in our country, and in the world, peace, and to all people, knowledge of the law of God through Jesus Christ.

Pax et Bonum

Noble+