



The MESSENGER

GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

July/August 2015

Summer— A Season of Transition & Refreshment



RECTOR'S MESSAGE

The Rev. Lauren Ackland

As I write this, we are preparing to bid farewell to our curate of the past two years, Paul Adler, as he heads for Philadelphia and his new call as rector of the Church of St. Alban. We are very happy for Paul and his wife Lindsay, who can now practice their respective vocations in the same city. I am pleased to report that we have filled the assisting clergy position, and that our new priest associate, the Reverend Canon Lesley Hay, will be joining us in mid-July.

When Paul resigned, the wardens, vestry and I discussed the qualifications of the person I should seek to replace him. My practice has been to hire newly-ordained clergy, because there is a shortage of curacies in the Church, positions in which new clergy can receive on-the-job training and formation. However, this time the circumstances are different, thanks to Episcopal canon law. In 2016, I will reach the mandatory retirement age dictated by the canons (Title III, Canon 16, Section 5, to be precise!) and will be required to resign as rector of Grace Church. It would not be fair,

under these circumstances, to bring in an inexperienced person at this time, nor would a newly-ordained person be likely to accept the job.

We agreed that I should seek an experienced priest, one who could perhaps provide continuity after my departure. The job description was posted on the website of the Episcopal Church's Office of Transition Ministry, and we received a number of applications. I have always had a younger male assistant, but as it turned out, the candidate whose experience most closely fit our job description this time was a woman.

Mother Lesley was most recently on the staff of Grace Cathedral in San Francisco, and it happened that one of our wardens was going to San Francisco on business the week after we received her application. He arranged to meet with her, and was impressed enough that we brought her to Madison for a few days to see the church and to meet with the staff, most of the vestry, and Bishop Beckwith.

At a special vestry meeting on June 7, we decided to go ahead with a final reference check and with putting together a financial package. Happily, Mother Lesley has accepted the position and is currently arranging for her move from California. She is a very

interesting and talented person. She is British, and was ordained in 2005 in England after a long and varied career which included management consulting, law, and psychotherapy. She has been working in the United States since 2008, and has served parishes in Connecticut and Alabama in various capacities, as well as her recent position as Canon for Operations at Grace Cathedral. We shall let her tell us all about herself at a First Friday and a Sunday adult forum in the fall. I know you will welcome her warmly.

As we move into summer, with its slower pace and greater opportunities for rest and refreshment, Grace Church will remain a busy and active place. The choir will continue to prepare for its week in residence at Winchester Cathedral the last week in August. The children will enjoy Vacation Bible School and a number of special play and craft activities. The craft guild and mindfulness and book and breakfast groups will gather, daily worship services will be offered, outreach to the needy will continue, and the newest member of our parish staff will settle into her new home.

Have a blessed summer, and
I know I'll see you in church!

Lauren Ackland+



The Rev. Lauren Ackland
can be reached by phone
(973) 377-0106 x12;
or e-mail lauren.ackland@gmail.com

