

August 1, 2018

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

I write this letter to share with you that I am planning to retire as your fourth rector on February 10, 2019. After fourteen years in ministry with you, and forty as an ordained priest in the Episcopal Church, it is time for me to make this change in my life. Having just turned 67, and while I am still in good health, I want to “pivot” into areas that call out to me, such as prison ministry, and to do so without the administrative responsibilities that are an integral part of being your rector. To simply be a minister of God’s love in the world is my hope.

It has been an honor to serve you. The years I’ve spent as your rector have been some of the most stimulating ones of my ministry. We have built on the foundation of the past to continue making St. Alban’s a center of God’s life, opening our building to many organizations and individuals. Our connections with UCLA shape us as a community that values both faith and reason. The work of creating transcendent and joyous worship, and the improvements we’ve made to our sacred space, have been imaginative. We serve people outside our own walls with care and creativity.

St. Alban’s is one of the bright lights in the diocese. To be a center of God’s life, and to embody the compassionate and inclusive love of Jesus, within the context of a great and complex university, is desperately needed. The challenges of parish ministry at St. Alban’s are big and exciting.

The friends I have made among this extraordinary congregation have blessed me. I will always hold you in my heart. I will be moving to Camarillo, and I hope you will visit. But whether we see each other often or seldom, we will be present to one another in the Spirit.

I’ve shared this news with the vestry and staff. I’ve also had a conversation with our bishop, John Taylor. The wardens and I will be meeting with him next week to discuss ideas for the interim, and for the next rector. More news about these transitions will be forthcoming in the fall.

Finally, for all that has been, thank you. I will always be grateful for your trust, wisdom, support, and love during these years of partnership in ministry.

Yours in Christ’s love,

*Susan Klein*