

FROM THE REV. BETH KNOWLTON



To the People of St. Mark's San Antonio

As Paul says so beautifully in his letter to the Ephesians, "Glory to God whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine: Glory to him from generation to generation in the Church, and in Christ Jesus for ever and ever (3:20,21)." It is my honor and privilege to greet the people of St. Mark's in the name of our Risen Lord! It is with a full heart that I accepted the call to come and be your rector. It was a Spirit-filled process. The Search Committee is to be commended for their wonderful care as they discerned who was being called to come to St. Mark's. Over and over again in my encounters, I sensed the deep faith and commitment of the parish. I heard in the questions I was asked a deep love of community and a care to make sure I valued the same things. The parish's commitment to outreach, spiritual formation and education, music, and pastoral care of all members of the community, to name just a few, were inspirational and grounded in a deep love of Jesus Christ.

I was deeply touched, and continue to be moved by the care that has also been given to my family. This was a big decision for all of us, and we felt that St. Mark's was truly special and worth making some significant changes in our lives to be a part of this next season of our common ministry. We have been overwhelmed by the welcome we are experiencing from the staff, the Vestry, and others in the parish. My last Sunday at the Cathedral of St. Philip will be July 6th and we will be in San Antonio by early August. We covet your continued prayers for our transition and leave-taking.

May 29th is when we celebrate the Feast of the Ascension. The time following actually marks a special time in the season of Easter. We are waiting, but unlike Holy Saturday when we are faced with a tomb, now we wait in joy for the fullness of the Spirit to descend and guide our steps into the new life we claim as Christians. This seems an appropriate metaphor for the next weeks. We are entering into a new season of our common life, but the reality of that is yet to be manifest. It is all a season of joy and expectation and we look forward to arriving. St. Mark's has already become an important part of my daily prayers. I look forward to meeting each one of you and working with one another to serve God and the people of San Antonio.

Meanwhile I continue to be grateful for the faithful work of the community during this time of transition. God is being richly served each and every day. I know you have been blessed by the ministry of your interim rector, The Rev. Ned Bowersox. I give thanks for his presence and hope you take the time to celebrate with him before his departure. I give special thanks for The Rev. Carol Morehead and her dedication as priest among us as well as our faithful clergy who make a gift of their time and service with us. The faithfulness of the entire staff is already evident to me in my early communications, so I know how very richly I am blessed to be called to St. Mark's!

In Christ,

Beth +