Looking Out My Window, September 24, 2021

The windows of a house or office look out in several directions. One's point of view is limited by the size and directional focus of each window. Everything I share with you will reflect something of my own limited viewpoints about life at Christ Church, or some aspect of the Christian life and journey.

Interim ministry has been a dimension of my life and ministry since doctoral work in seminary. I served three interims in New Orleans while engaged in seminar and thesis research. Later, during a decade of Baptist seminary teaching as a New Testament professor at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary I served four interims and now am serving my tenth as an Episcopal priest. From 2002-2010, I served as start up priest for All Souls, Mechanicsville, VA and reentered interim ministry in April of that year.

Whew! All that brings on a sense of having lived a long time.

The departure of your rector has thrust you into a time of uncertainty and transition, and you would be out of touch with reality if your anxieties had not risen as a result. Part of my call is to be with you in those anxieties and help you hold them and work through them.

We will not be in a holding pattern during this time. The mission of Christ Church goes on without interruption. We need all hands on deck. Some tend to ease up in their attendance and investment in the parish while "waiting" for the new priest. We don't have time for that. God's mission in this community is not "waiting." Mission is about the parish and its connection to the world, not primarily about the priest.

COVID presents unique challenges as we attempt to regather and push forward as safely as possible. But, COVID also has opened new possibilities for ministry and has given us invaluable learnings that will serve us well beyond COVID as we engage in God's mission here.

I am delighted to be with you and hope to get to know as many of you as possible as quickly as possible.

God's peace,

David

David W. Perkins+
Interim Rector