

Announcement of the Selection of the next Rector of All Saints
Sunday, Sept. 6, 2014
8 and 10 a.m. Services
Chip Nichols, Senior Warden

Your Vestry met this week and I am very excited to share with you the wonderful news that our new Rector has been called and has accepted. But it is not for the Vestry alone to make this announcement. This is the fulfillment of two years of prayerful work by everyone who answered the Survey and attended the sessions that resulted in our wonderful Profile, by the Committee that worked long months creating the Profile and by the Committee that labored month in and month out to discern our final candidates. I'd like to invite all of you up here to join in this announcement, but then there would be no one to announce to, so as your representatives in this effort, let me ask the Profile Committee, the Discernment Committee and the Vestry to come up here, and let me ask Denny and Andy to say a word about their Committee's part in this.

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Just a word about the Vestry's process. Three excellent candidates were passed to the Vestry for us to meet here at All Saints. Only two firm rules were given to us by the Diocese. The first was that each candidate was to meet with Bishop Bruno at the beginning of the candidate's visit, and the second was that, when the Vestry had made its decision, Bishop Bruno was to receive the news first.

After checking Bishop Bruno's calendar, we scheduled candidate visits for the first, second and fourth weeks of August. All of the visits were Tuesday through Wednesday, with the first stop being an hour-long meeting with Bishop Bruno at the Cathedral Center, followed by the drive up to Montecito, a tour of the Campus and Rectory and local schools and an informal dinner at a Vestry member's home for the candidate and family. Each Wednesday started with the candidate offering a Eucharistic service in the Sanctuary, then a morning of interviewing, an hour lunch with the Staff, an afternoon of more interviewing and a dinner for the candidate with the Vestry and clergy. So, all told, the Vestry had some 16 hours of quality time with each candidate spread over two days, and each visit was followed by a Thursday evening Vestry meeting in which we recorded our individual impressions of their strengths and challenges for helping us achieve our vision of All Saints 10 years from now.

This past Wednesday, the Vestry met for its discernment. All of our members were present—one member back East and one in Barcelona participating by phone. We agreed that an 80% favorable vote would be required to call our new Rector—higher than the Diocesan standard of two-thirds. Our process was to again identify each candidate's strengths and challenges in relation to our vision of All Saints and the qualities of our next Rector listed in the Profile. There was very extended discussion of each candidate separately, followed by prayerful preparation for anonymous balloting, and on the first

ballot we reached agreement by more than the 80% vote required. Our decision was to call the first candidate we saw, who we now understand was also the front-runner in the Discernment Committee's deliberations.

And so I am very pleased to announce that the 8th Rector of All Saints will be The Reverend Aimee Eyer-Delevett. I will tell you that when we announced the call to Bishop Bruno Thursday morning, he was overjoyed. In fact, he has sent all of us a letter, which he has asked to be read aloud. [Fr. Bob or I read letter]

Rev. Aimee has joyfully served as the Rector of the Church of the Holy Nativity in Clarendon Hills, a Chicago suburb, for the past eight years, where she revitalized ministry, doubled average Sunday attendance, and quadrupled the number of children and youths served by its Christian Formation ministry. She has had 10 years of training and experience in congregational development, starting with her participation, while Curate of St. Mary's in Park Ridge, Illinois, in the Making Excellent Disciples program, a Lilly Foundation grant providing five years of training and mentoring in pastoral leadership and congregational development. She has served on the Commission on Ministry of the Episcopal Diocese of Chicago for six years. Rev. Aimee graduated Wellesley College *magna cum laude* in 1995, Candler School of Theology at Emory University with a Master of Divinity in 2001, and General Theological Seminary with a Master of Sacred Theology in 2004. When we looked at Aimee in relation to the qualities that our Profile called for in our next Rector, she was a perfect fit.

The other compelling vocation in Rev. Aimee's life is her family. She is married and has a 17 year relationship with her partner Alyson, and they have a remarkable, adorable daughter Willa, who is four. They will be moving into the Rectory and Willa will be entering the Parish School when they arrive, hopefully by late November.

The Ushers have a hand-out with more information, and there also is more information, including photos, in the Church website, www.allsaintsbythesea.org, and in next week's Bell Tower email.

We are all looking forward to this new chapter in the life of All Saints.

Marni McGee and Tom Mack were the two Discernment Committee members who visited Rev. Aimee and her family, and I thought you would like to hear a word from them before we close.