



## St. Matthew's Episcopal Church

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February 16, 2022

Dear my St. Matthew's friends,

I hope I may call you friends. (I'm sure you recognize these words from John 15 that we read together every Maundy Thursday.) I am writing to let you know that it has been a privilege to be your priest these past 13 years. You have been a source of joy even in the midst of this challenging pandemic.

Look back over the years, I am grateful for the baptisms, weddings and, yes, grateful even for the spiritually uplifting funerals. I am grateful for Sunday worship with you, grateful for our festivals and feast days. I am thankful for the spiritual and physical support from all of you – from the Altar Guild, Musicians (what would our worship be without them?) and our amazing organist. I am thankful for our youth group, our Sunday school teachers. I am thankful especially for all our children (even if they are now grown) for the gift they continue to give St. Matthew's.

We have accomplished many things together over the years, not the least have been refurbishing our stained-glass window and now making St. Matthew's accessible and with new bathrooms!

Perhaps our greatest achievements over the years has been our ministries – food pantry and diaper pantry. The countless food ministries of the ECW. But especially the care and support you have shown to the two people we journeyed with towards ordination – Michael Nailor and Becky Zartman. I am thankful for capable vestries over the years and for lay leadership that continues to lead St. Matthew's into the church God is calling us to be.

But, as Ecclesiastes 3 reminds us, "For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven ...." And so the time has come for me to say goodbye. I am looking forward to a new chapter in my life as I move to Pittsburgh to be with my daughter and future son-in-law. My last Sunday with you will be the last Sunday after the Epiphany (February 27).

My prayers will always be with the good people of St. Matthew's – who have supported, cared for, and nurtured my ministry – who have given me so many gifts that I make my leave taking with a full and grateful heart.

As always, I am, faithfully,

*Rev'd Robin Jarrell*

Mother Robin+