

August 2008

Dear Parishioners,

September is the practical beginning of a new church year, with apologies to Advent, and I am looking forward to being with you until the arrival of Susan Russell in November. It is a privilege to be part of your parish community as preacher, celebrant, pastor, and in other ways as needed.

I was rector of St. Paul's Church, Lynnfield, until my retirement in January of 2006. Since then I've enjoyed assignments covering for clergy on sabbatical. My wife, Barbara, an ordained deacon, and I spent five months in the winter and spring of 2006 serving at St. Andrew's on Martha's Vineyard. A great time! Last Lent and Easter I served at St. John's Beverly Farms. So, I am enjoying "retirement" — and now Marblehead.

I have an interest in the thought and life of Thomas Merton, a monk and spiritual voice in the twentieth century, who continues to appeal today. Another rewarding ministry is my work as a law enforcement chaplain with the Topsfield Police Department and FBI/Boston.

Transition times have their challenges as well as opportunities. Along with Jennie Anderson, I will try to support the parish for the next few months as it continues to live out its call as a sustaining, growing, and serving Christian community.

Rev. Dick Stowe