



## ***Rector's Message***

*What's next?...*

We eagerly anticipated and experienced the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, now that the Great Fifty days are past. If we recall in the Acts of the Apostles, Jesus told the disciples to remain in Jerusalem and await the power coming from on high (Acts 1). It is interesting to note that after Jesus' ascent into heaven (forty days after Easter), the disciples remained looking up to heaven, perhaps paralyzed or fearful of what is next or where do we go from here. For many who may have graduated from college or high school these may be questions you are pondering, but where are you looking for answers? Perhaps, as the body of Christ, these are the questions we are asking – Where do we go from here?

Revisiting Acts 1, the now eleven apostles as they waited did not remain motionless and forlorn for too long, but rather devoted themselves to prayer. Like the disciples, we too are challenged to listen to the voice of the angels and return to Jerusalem for the encounter and outpouring of the Holy Spirit. I believe we cannot stand still and become lost to those questions but rather commit ourselves to prayer, and discern the Holy Spirit to guide and empower us for the work of ministry.

The season of Pentecost is depicted by green. During summer, crops are growing, and there is the hope for a bounty. Similarly, this is the season of growth for the church. I invite us during the days of summer to deeply reflect and pray, asking the Triune God to order our steps, guide us as individuals, and to discern what's next for the community of St. Peter's Rosedale.

Allow me to share a glimpse of the next year, as we celebrate the 110th anniversary of the founding of St. Peter's. Following the legacy of Mrs. George Perzed, the Women's Guild, and the Rock Club among others, whose hope was borne from the need to have a house of worship in Rosedale, we will trust in our faith, pray and discern where God is leading. We were endowed with a building over 110 years ago and now it is our job to pass this vision forward and create an endowment for the next 110 years. As 21st century witnesses, we are challenged to confront our disconnect with the geographical parish in which we reside. How do we bridge the gap? How do we reconnect? What's next? We cannot stand like the disciples looking up or longing for the church of the past, hoping to reclaim the glory days. We need to continue growing in faith, encountering the Triune God through our work in the community and being agents of reconciliation, justice, mercy, kindness, compassion and love. I invite and encourage you, my sisters and brothers, over this season of growth to pray and discern where is God calling and inviting us to participate in God's mission. How would that look? What would it entail? What's next? It is my hope we can have listening sessions and conversations in the coming year to discern our common life together as St. Peter's continues on its mission to light a path in the community of Rosedale. I bid you a Spirit filled Pentecost season and a restful and rejuvenating summer.

Your Brother and friend in Christ.

The Rev. Steve L. Foster  
Rector