



St. Thomas's Episcopal Parish  
276 South College Avenue  
Newark, DE 19711

Phone: 302.368.4644

Website: [www.stthomasparish.org](http://www.stthomasparish.org)

January 22, 2017

Third Sunday after the Epiphany

Dear faithful people of St. Thomas's Parish,

Grace and peace be with you all. As the Preacher writes in Ecclesiastes, "*For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven ...*" and so the time has come for my service with you as Rector to St. Thomas's.

On this date, I submitted my intention of resignation as Rector to St. Thomas's Episcopal Parish to our Vestry for approval which is required by the Canons & Constitution of the Episcopal Church. The Wardens and servant leaders have likewise accepted my intention of resignation, and ultimately retirement from full-time parish ministry. My last Sunday of worship leadership will be **Sunday, October 29, 2017**, my last day of work with you will be **Tuesday, October 31, 2017**.

Now what in the world am I going to be doing for eight more months with you? Well, a great deal of work together with staff, Vestry, and the ministries going forward. I will continue working within the balanced budget as adopted by the Vestry on this day in order to leave the parish with a surplus cash position which we have continuously achieved over my eight years with you. There is the need to update systems, files, and order of ministry materials for you and ministers who follow me. I will be present and actively participate in all the celebratory events of our 175<sup>th</sup> year of ministry for St. Thomas's during which we will come to the three year conclusion of the Forward in Faith capital campaign. It is my hope that I will leave you with The Grove loan paid in full for future use by the parish and community. I will continue to serve our diocese as a member of the Standing Committee to complete the call process of our 11<sup>th</sup> bishop. Finally, and what I have sought to do since that first Thanksgiving Day 2008, is to love and serve God, Christ Jesus, and the people of St. Thomas's until this end time.

I am so deeply grateful to all who have stepped forward in faith and shared in the ministry these past 8+ years. I am confident the work we have begun together will flourish and grow into the next 175 years of ministry through each and every one of you.

With thankful heart, I am your servant in Christ always,

*Paul W. Gennett, Jr.+*

The Reverend Paul W. Gennett, Jr.  
Rector