

Weekly Update from Fr. John Allison 10-26-17

Dear members and friends of our parish family,

As I reflect on the week past and look forward to the coming diocesan convention this Saturday and to our first joint worship in the MDI Episcopal Parish Partnership, I am especially heartened by the hopeful tone of the discussion shared between many of us on Sunday following the 10am Eucharist. As announced, we discussed the hopeful vision we have for Church of Our Father over the coming year—both as it relates to the specifics of our parish and as members of the larger body of the Church. I found the ideas and feelings shared to be affirming of our mission together. I am especially impressed by the level of openness and trust shown by all those who participated and look forward to continuing these discussions as we move forward together. Our discussion seems especially relevant as we approach convention and prepare for our first worship together with the other island Episcopal churches. We have before us a tangible expression of the fact that we are one body in Christ and, yet, a diverse body of parishes and individuals. Paul puts it best in his Letter to the Romans (12:5): “we who are many are one body in Christ, and individually we are members of one another.”

Our Gospel reading this week from Matthew (22:34-36) offers similar insight as Jesus, confronted yet again by the Pharisees, sums up all the law and prophets with the command to “love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind” and “love your neighbor as yourself.” Jesus shows us that the commandments are about relationship—relationship to God and to one another. I hope you can join me this Sunday as I more fully explore this idea of relationship as it is expressed not only in our individual lives as disciples but also in our common mission together.

As this Sunday serves to highlight our unity together in Christ, we will join together for one service at 10am here at Church of Our Father. The 8am Sunday Eucharist will resume as usual on November 5. We welcome the Reverend Canon Michael Ambler who joins us on behalf of Bishop Lane to offer a blessing on the Parish Partnership. A festive coffee hour will follow. Finally, please remember our convention delegates in your prayers and offer thanksgiving as they represent us in doing the work of the diocese: Mike Bullard, Sue Olson, and Dick Salisbury. May God’s wisdom be with them as they take counsel with our brothers and sisters in Christ for the renewal and mission of God’s church.

Faithfully,

John+