

# St. Mary's Cathedral

THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF WEST TENNESSEE

December 5, 2018

**RE: Transition of Dean Andrews**

Dear Good People of St. Mary's,

I have some clumsy news that is exciting and difficult to share. The vestry of The Church of the Holy Trinity in Vicksburg, MS, has called me to be their new Rector. This selection has the blessing of their Bishop. I will serve as your Cathedral Dean through mid-January 2019, and Anne, the children and I will move to Vicksburg in the Spring.

I am excited because The Church of the Holy Trinity is a historic faith community graced with a gorgeous campus. Vicksburg is a port city 262 nautical miles down river from here. The faith community was founded in 1869 during Reconstruction and has a thriving tradition of serving the city. I am enthused to be returning to my roots to fulfill the next chapter of my sacred duty. It will be in a new context where I'll continue doing the things I enjoy the most as a parish priest. I feel graced by God's guidance in my discernment, and I feel electrified by the new challenges this next setting will bring.

This news is so difficult to share. For 11 years, it has been the best privilege to serve at St. Mary's Cathedral. I have loved loving you all. I've enjoyed our spiritual friendship and the laughing together. The Cathedral family has an incredible spiritual gift of rejoicing in good times as well as troubled. It has been my honor to pray with you individually and worship together as a sacred family. Burying and baptizing the people you cherish the most has been incredibly moving. Bishop Johnson's gentle leadership and pastoral kindness has been a major influence on our success together. I'm indebted to all the incredibly gifted staff I was graced to work with. I love the magnificence of the St. Mary's campus, and I've been encouraged by the Cathedral's rich heritage of faithfully relieving the suffering of the most vulnerable. I've experienced Jesus most everyday at St. Mary's - the Risen presence made known over and over again in the most unlikely persons and places. It has been a real joy.

I've learned very much from all of you, and I've been inspired over and over again by your capabilities of radical welcome and love to all God's children. Together, we have deconstructed many social barriers and helped bring together many different people for a higher cause. Together, in my humble opinion, we have risen to the

highest of heights as people of faith. From my time at St. Mary's, I now better understand the intelligence of Psalm 16:11.

My family and I adore so many things about Memphis and journeying with all of you. Thank you for the way you have loved us. Thank you for helping nurture our three children - Ferris, Sam and Will - in the most amorous and brave Christian environment. Our paths have been gloriously intertwined. We will be infused with some radiance of one another indefinitely. The Andrews family will leave Memphis with many more amazing good friends than when we arrived in 2007.

As difficult as it is to leave such an incredible place, I have comfort in knowing you will continue to thrive. St. Mary's is much larger than any one priest or person or era. The Cathedral is filled with wise, wonderful, generous and faithful leaders. Bishop Johnson and Canon Chip Davis of the Diocesan office have a deep affection for the well-being of the Cathedral. I've communicated with Bishop-elect Phoebe Roaf about my transition. She is incredibly gifted and gracious. The Cathedral is in very good hands, and I know the leadership will communicate with you regularly and clearly over the next few weeks and months about a transition plan.

**The 160<sup>th</sup> Annual Parish meeting is this Sunday, December 9<sup>th</sup>.** Breakfast begins at 9:30 AM. I'll field many of your questions then. I'll also be the preacher this Sunday. Please come and celebrate as we begin to say our healthy goodbyes. Also, please bring you and yours to the *Andrews Open House, 1324 Harbert Ave. Saturday, December 15<sup>th</sup>, 5-7 PM.* In this transition, may we all better recognize the presence of the Holy Spirit intimately supporting and guiding our beautiful lives. I believe the best for you all, the Cathedral and Memphis is yet to come. I'll miss you all extremely.

In the meantime, I bid your prayers for the Andrews family as well as Anne's parents Nita Faye and Brooke as we make this transition. May we observe a holy Advent and celebrate a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. I hope you know how grateful to God I am for you.

Yours in hope,



Andy Andrews  
Dean

you are personally, exceptionally and most  
definitely encouraged to be at the  
**160<sup>th</sup> Annual Parish Meeting**  
**this Sunday, December 9**  
*Cathedral Undercroft/Crypt*  
breakfast 9:30 AM  
meeting last 9:45 AM-10:45 AM

[WWW.STMARYSMEMPHIS.ORG](http://WWW.STMARYSMEMPHIS.ORG)

DIOCESAN HOUSE · 692 POPLAR AVENUE · MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE 38105-4512 · V 901.527.3361 F 901.523.8292