

Trinity *Matters*

May 2007

It's a blessing to be here

It has been a blessing to be here. In the hustle and bustle of Lent, Holy Week, and Easter, and the ongoing challenge of meeting the members and friends of the congregation, sometimes I forget to stop and step back. I suppose that is often true for most of us in our lives at various points, and maybe it is natural for me at this point in my ministry here, only seven weeks since beginning. Nevertheless, it is nice, and important, to step back sometimes and to celebrate what a blessing it is to be here.

It is my hope that my installation will be an opportunity for us to do that together. Pastors are often installed within several weeks of beginning a ministry, after being received into the presbytery. However, as I was not at the Grace presbytery meeting in March, a bit over a week before I started, my first meeting will be on May 31st in Plano. My installation is tentatively scheduled for June 3, at 4 p.m. at Trinity. This should be an opportunity to step back, reflect, and celebrate our new journey together. The advantage to having my installation a bit later is that I am already growing to know (and of course to love :)) you a bit better.

You are invited to attend the presbytery meeting in Plano on the 31st. Not only will I be received at that meeting, our very own Dawson Tunnell will be receiving Grace Presbytery's Peacemaker of the Year award at that meeting, so it will be a very special presbytery meeting for our church indeed.

I also hope many of you will be able to attend my installation. I am recruiting other people from the presbytery to serve on the installation commission. I am also excited that my parents and grandmother will be coming to town especially for that. If you didn't have the chance to meet them during their previous visit, perhaps you can meet them on this occasion.

What excites me most is that my friend Sajeeve Thomas is scheduled to attend. Some of you may recall that he was mentioned as my hero at the congregational luncheon my first Sunday here. Sajeeve was a member and former elder of the last church where I served, Tokyo Union Church, and was the cochair of the Associate Pastor Nominating Committee that brought me there. More importantly, he is a good friend, a great supporter, and one of the best people I have ever known. I have not seen him in almost two years. He is the rare kind of person whose mere existence on this planet fills me with strength and hope. I cannot easily express to you how tremendously humbled, blessed, honored I feel that he is coming. During the very brief time that he is here, I hope he will have the opportunity to meet many of you.

In other news, printed copies of my recent sermons will now be available in the narthex. Should we run out of copies or if you would like a copy of an older sermon, please inform either Barbara Vance or myself.

Finally, I anticipate being away from May 21st through the 27th to attend the Festival of Homiletics in Nashville. Many of the greatest mainline preachers will be at this conference. It is a veritable Hall of Fame of preachers – Fred Craddock, Barbara Brown Taylor, Tom Long, James Forbes, Walter Brueggemann. Hopefully attending the conference will improve my preaching, or at least give me some much needed ideas for future sermons. I appreciate your willingness to let me attend. Should you have pastoral care needs during my absence, please contact the church office.

**In Christ,
Craig Hunter**

Get to know the pastor

Would you be willing to volunteer your home for either a morning- after 10 a.m., afternoon or evening get together to get to know the Rev. Craig Hunter better?

These "get to know our new pastor" meetings would be for no more than 15 people at a time and you do not have to prepare a meal, although if you would prefer to that would be great as well. The following dates have been approved: May 15, 16, 29, 30 and June 1. If you would be willing to volunteer your home for one of these fun get togethers please email Gary Wood at reynwood@peoplepc.com or call the church office and let Barbara know the dates and times you would prefer.