

St. Matthew's Episcopal Church
330 North Hubbards Lane
Louisville, KY 40207

May 27, 2014

*"My Lord God, I have no idea where I am going."
- Thomas Merton*

*"It may be that...when we no longer know which way to go
we have begun our real journey."
- Wendell Berry*

My Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ:

A year ago, I was privileged to begin a journey with you, the wonderful people of St. Matthew's, as your interim rector. Although it originally seemed I would share this season of parish transition with you for a little while longer, the sun is now setting on my time here.

There are several reasons for saying this. I turned 65 in February. My father has recently been admitted to hospice. The distance from him, my wife, my family and my home in Memphis feels increasingly longer than I feel comfortable sustaining.

In the time that remains, I will keep working closely with staff and vestry as they prepare for the arrival of a new rector. My primary work is with the staff, especially in light of the recent illness of Mardi Galvin, who is now in extended recovery at home.

Emily Crouch will become your official "priest in charge" for a short period of time after I leave. Since Emily has served you well for more than four years, she will be just the right person to shepherd you until the arrival of St. Matthew's fourth rector.

My last Sunday with you will be July 27th. After the 10 am service there will be a chance for us to say our goodbyes to one another, as well as some time for conversation. I hope you will be able to join me that day, as we celebrate the ministry we have shared.

One of the great saints of the church, Thomas Merton, is known for his prayer that starts, "I have no idea where I am going." That prayer is literally true for me right now. I do know, however, that the next chapter of my journey will be lived closer to my home in Memphis, and that God, in Merton's words, will "lead me by the right road."

Thank you for all you have done for me. May God continue richly to bless you, the beloved community of St. Matthew's, as you reach out as Christ's hands to the world.

In Christ, Tom
(The Rev. Thomas A. Momberg)