



The Church of Saint John the Evangelist
THE ROCK ON LOCKE

The Transfiguration of Our Lord
August 6, 2018

To all the faithful at the Church of Saint John the Evangelist,

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

On a personal note. Some of you will remember that a few months ago, just before Holy Week, I had my gallbladder removed on an emergency basis. During the investigation for that issue, it was found that I have a small mass on my left kidney. After consultations with physicians and conversations with family, I have decided on a surgical treatment. My surgeon assures me that the removal of this mass is considered the definitive treatment and cure, even if the mass should prove to be cancerous (which, in 90 per cent of such incidences, it is). I am relieved to have received such a positive prognosis.

I am scheduled for surgery on Tuesday, September 4 and I will be in hospital for a short period and then recuperating at home. I am planning to be on sick leave for three weeks, after which, I expect to be fully prepared to resume my regular duties. While I am on sick leave, The Reverend Canon Dr. Brian Ruttan will be presiding at worship and be available for emergency pastoral care. Jody Balint, our Lay Pastoral Associate, will also be available. I am very grateful to Brian and Jody for their support. I am planning to be with you in worship on Sunday, September 30.

I am blessed to have a wonderful and supportive family and loving community. I am grateful to God for these gifts and God's faithfulness expressed in many wonderful ways. I ask for your prayers for my surgery and speedy recovery.

Looking ahead. As I look forward to returning at the end of September to begin my fourteenth year as the rector of the Church of Saint John the Evangelist, my thoughts are for our future. Our leadership team was impressed on several occasions in the past year with the need for our parish to enter a period of conversation and discernment. It is time for us to talk and pray together about our future and priorities. It is time to renew our engagement in God's mission through discernment and faithful action together.

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Our Parish Council will be establishing a team of approximately seven people who will plan and drive a process of missional discernment with us this fall. I ask your prayers for the Parish Council and all of us, that we will be open to a greater purpose, the call of God, and the movement of the Holy Spirit. There will be opportunities for all of us to participate in this holy conversation and I hope that this will be the beginning of continuing cycles of discernment.

I am very excited about the new ministry year at the Church of Saint John the Evangelist and I am sorry only that I will be sidelined during the first few weeks for September. I am confident, however, that God has great things in store for us all.

Peace,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "David" followed by a small cross symbol (+).

(The Venerable Dr.) David J. Anderson
Rector and Archdeacon of Hamilton-Haldimand