



Christ Church

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The Rev. Matthew Hoxsie Mead, Rector

September 17, 2021

Dear Friends and Parishioners of Christ Church,

I write with news that Deacon Katie has decided to retire. Her last official Sunday as Deacon at Christ Church will be September 26. We will have a celebration after the 10am Eucharist that day, and I hope you will all be able to be with us to celebrate Deacon Katie's ministry and wish her a happy retirement.

Deacon Katie has served at Christ Church for her entire, twelve-year ministry as Deacon. In addition to her role in the liturgy, Deacon Katie leads our Seniors group and Pastoral Care, is active in a variety of ministries in Rye and the wider community, teaches our Confirmation Class with me, and provides counsel and wisdom to countless parishioners. She is an excellent deacon and a blessing in our parish family and the wide community. Katie will not be going away, nor will she cease being a Deacon; she will simply be retired, and that will mean we will see her less often. I am happy that Katie will have more time for rest and relaxation once she is unencumbered by the responsibilities and duties of fulltime diaconate ministry at Christ Church, but I will miss her gracious and pastoral presence at the altar and around the parish every week.

At our September Vestry meeting I asked the Vestry to make a special motion honoring Deacon Katie and recognizing her ministry at Christ Church. Upon her retirement, she will be designated *Deacon Emerita* of Christ Church. The honorary title *emerita* indicates that Deacon Katie has served and retired from Christ Church with the utmost distinction and ensures that she will remain a part of Christ Church in retirement. She is a great friend, and on behalf of our parish I am honored to bestow upon her this title.

I enclose a letter to you all from Deacon Katie. I am grateful for Deacon Katie's friendship and ministry at Christ Church, and I pray that Almighty God will bless her and us as she begins the next stage in her life and ministry.

In Christ,

The Reverend Matthew Hoxsie Mead, Rector

Dear Family of Christ Church,

I write to you with news that I am retiring, and my last Sunday at Deacon at Christ Church will be September 26. While that is soon, many of you already know this news, and I've been thinking about for a bit.

Last spring Bishop Dietsche sent a letter to all of the deacons who are over age 72 reminding them that all clergy have a mandatory retirement at age 72, but if they wish, they may request an extension each year. After speaking with Father Matt I decided to ask for an extension and did send a letter to the Bishop. Over the summer and with further reflection, I have come to believe that now is the right time to retire. I'm looking forward to more free time to enjoy retirement, and the thought of the drive to Pelham on stormy and icy mornings has begun to worry me. Thankfully, Christ Church has been blessed with a two Deacons for the past year, and I feel I could retire knowing Father Matt and the parish will still have a Deacon.

I have loved being your Deacon for the last twelve years. The visits to hospitals and homes, the fabulous coffee hours, serving at the altar, vestry meetings, confirmation classes, traveling to the Cathedral with Father Matt, the staff meetings, Senior lunches, blessing of the back packs, and animals have all enriched my ministry. Working with Fr. Matt, Marie, Jeffrey, Walter, Ed, Canon Susan and most recently Deacon Chisara has been a pleasure. I've enjoyed every moment.

I will miss you all so much. Father Matt has graciously said I could come back whenever I want, and I plan to do that on occasion.

I truly love you all and will miss you more than words can say.

May God be with each and everyone of you everyday.

Yours in Christ,

Deacon Katie