

Dear Fellow Travelers,

As we move into this time of transition, this time of change, I invite you to breathe.

Change can be frightening and exciting; intimidating and encouraging; exhausting and energizing. I am sure that over the next year or so, we will find our ongoing transition to be all of these things at one point or another. At some point, we will want to stay right where we are, with things just the way they have been; at others, we will want to rush ahead to have everything done and resolved. So, each of us need to remember – breathe, relax, and be deliberate as we go.

We are, all of us, at the beginning of a process that will unfold over time. We have guides to help us along the way and we have our own strength and clarity that will sustain and focus us as we travel. Some of you will be on the nominating committee and will invest many, many hours in discernment, review, and more discernment. All of us will have the opportunity providing information and thoughts at the beginning and then continuing in our communal life as we have always done. Thus, we will have normal in the midst of change.

A few things will happen in the near future.

- The vestry will appoint a nominating committee of 15 people. This committee will be responsible for most of the actual work during the next year or so of the search.
- The vestry will hire an interim rector.
- We will establish a place on our website for transition information. This will be one source of updates and information as the process unfolds.

Once appointed and commissioned, the nominating committee will begin its work. At the start of that work, we will have an opportunity to complete a survey and share our thoughts, hopes, and ideas. The nominating committee will use what they learn from this, along with other historical, organizational, and practical information, in preparing the parish profile. When the profile is complete, it will be posted on the website for all to read and share.

In the meantime, St. Bartholomew's will continue to be a welcoming, nurturing, inclusive, and joyful community. We will worship, sing, eat, play, and pray together. We will welcome new people, try out new things, picnic on Pentecost, experience Vacation Bible School, go to Mikell for Parish Retreat, and so forth. Throughout this time, the vestry will share as much information about the search and transition process as we can.

Sometime next year, we will welcome a new Rector and fellow traveler with whom we will discover even more about ourselves and our future!

For now, breathe. And – if you have more questions, let me know. Find me or email: [seniorwarden@stbartsatlanta.org](mailto:seniorwarden@stbartsatlanta.org).

Peace,  
Juliana

Juliana Lancaster  
Senior Warden