



# GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

The Rev. Dr. Karl C. Schaffenburg, *Rector*

The Ven. Michele E. Whitford, *Priest Associate*  
The Rev. Michael J. Burg, *Deacon*  
The Rev. Paul D. Aparicio, *Deacon*

15 March 2019

To the Clergy and People of Grace Episcopal Church:

In opening this letter I am tempted to address you as “the saints gathered in Sheboygan”, which would reflect the biblical truth that Our Lord has set you aside as His own in this place. I want to emphasize the reality that you are gathered; that God has made you into His Body here, because there is change in the offing, and the unity of the Body will be both a mark of holiness and a strength.

The change I speak of is that effective 1 May I will retire. My last day at Grace will be 30 April. My preference would have been to provide a longer period of notice, but the short period allowed is in conformance with applicable guidelines for clergy.

Elizabeth and I will move during the month of May to a house we have purchased in Laurel, Mississippi. We will be near family.

I am not so much retiring from my current calling as to a calling which will focus more on longer term projects. It is of the nature of parish ministry that much time and effort must be expended upon week to week and month to month matters—a weekly sermon, blog entry; an adult education course, a newsletter, etc. I feel very much called to work on projects that require longitudinal study and thought, like writing books. I have recently served as the editor of a work in British history, as well as the reviewer of a number of academic publications, and the experience has renewed in me a recognition that part of my identity and calling is to think and write on more than a week to week basis.

Of course, a core of my identity is my priesthood, and in Mississippi I will be able to serve part-time in the local parish. More to the point, however, my priestly identity has been very much formed by the many ways in which you have helped me, challenged me, and taught me the many different paths in which people walk to follow Jesus upon the one Way that He is. For this I am grateful to you as the gathered people and as individuals. And it is as the gathered people and individuals that you are now called to serve, to discern where God is calling Grace next.

We will have a decent amount of time for farewells, but start now in *prayer*. Pray for God’s guidance and blessing. Pray for each other and for your leaders. I beg your prayers, as well, for Elizabeth and me. Thank you,

In Christ’s Name,

The Rev. Dr. Karl C. Schaffenburg