



The Episcopal Church of St. John the Baptist
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The Rev. Paula J. Waite, Deacon

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Dear Faith-filled Friends,

Thanksgiving is a time when many of us will gather with family and friends and give thanks for the many blessings of this life and look toward Advent with expectation. Maybe you are like me on the threshold of December and wondering where on earth the time has gone. Perhaps this year was difficult for you, or your family, or a friend. Our family mourns the loss of Tom's dad and maybe you too have lost a loved one, received a challenging diagnosis, changed jobs, or any number of life events that can cause emotional or spiritual upheaval. Good news is here! YOU are part of our wonderful family at St. John the Baptist and YOU are loved!

I am excited that we are joining the Diocese of Delaware by committing to what Presiding Bishop Curry calls the Jesus Movement. We will be doing this by participating in the Invite-Welcome-Connect effort you heard briefly about when Bishop Brown visited. What is this? It is a new and refreshed look at who we are and how we share the Good News of Christ. Details are forthcoming!

Included in Father Tom's stewardship letter is your opportunity to consider becoming more involved in the life of this parish. We are growing and we need your help! Part of the job of a deacon is to empower YOU and I hope you will prayerfully consider this invitation to contribute your time and talent to the glory of God.

*"Do your little bit of good where you are;
it's those little bits of good put together that overwhelm the world."*
Desmond Tutu

Father Tom and I *invite* and *welcome* you to *connect* by attending either Morning or Evening Prayer during the three weeks of Advent to prepare your heart and spirit for the coming of the Christ Child. It will be an opportunity to reflect on the blessings of your life and also learn about St. Nicholas, St. Lucy, and St. John of the Cross. Details will be in the weekly bulletin.

I give thanks for each and every one of you! Go in peace to love and serve the Lord!

Your sister in Christ,
Deacon Paula+