

## **Call Committee Update: When will we have an additional pastor?**



*The process of calling a new associate pastor to St. Matthew's is well underway with the Call Committee working together effectively to undertake the selection process.*

*As of the beginning of March, we have already convened three times, meeting with the Bishop, the Assistant to the Bishop (who handles new pastoral calls), and the Church Council to begin our work. As we start this important process, we are fortunate to be able to glean the benefits from work that has been done in the past year and a half by other groups. For example, the Mission Exploration Team did a very thorough job last year in guiding St. Matthew's to study our past and look toward our future. That good work will guide us we search for a new leader and discern what that leader will do. The interview process for a new Lead pastor also taught us a great deal, and the time spent examining our staff structure and how we might strengthen it for the future will be very helpful as we work to fill out our ministry team. All of these steps that we took last year will serve us well as we begin to converse with pastors about possibly serving God in and through St. Matthew's.*

*Based on all this input, we have developed a job description for the new associate pastor position and will discuss it with the Personnel Committee and the Church Council at their next meetings. We are also gearing up for the interviews that will take place soon by compiling questions that will guide our discussions with candidates for the position. We look forward to experiencing a practice interview in the near future, so that the Call Committee can sharpen its questions and interview style before meeting with the first candidates.*

*So how long will this process take? What's important to remember is that we are searching for the right person, and when God provides that person, we will know. Until then, it won't benefit our future to settle for "good enough."*

*I am grateful to the congregation for your many expressions of concern for Pastor Margaret, the staff and myself during this vacancy. It does make ministry busier and more demanding when we are missing a pastor. However, we all know how important it is to get the right person to fill out our ministry team, and we don't want to hurry the selection process to fill the role with just anyone. With your help, we will get by during this immediate transition time, and we will be fine in the short term, remembering that choosing well will benefit our ministry for years to come.*

*God is truly guiding our process and we thank God for His steady hand leading us throughout this journey. The Call Committee asks that you help by praying for God to guide a new leader to St. Matthew's who is right for our future, helping us to move toward a new vision of strength and goodness in and through this place we all love.*

*In His blessed assurance,  
Pastor Chris*