



St. James' Episcopal Church

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Dear Middle and High School Parents,

While many of you have heard, I wanted to let everyone know officially that I will be resigning my positions as youth director and computer network manager at St. James', effective July 1 of this year (which is when we return from the workcamp trip). I have served as youth director since September 1996 and loved every minute of it, so it is not easy to let go. I often have said that the youth keep me young (at least in my heart, though the mirror tries to say differently) and I have felt blessed and honored to have been the director for so long.

It is hard to imagine anything more faith-building than sharing the Gospel regularly, trying to serve as a role-model for Christ in the world, attending 14 workcamps, and helping the poor in Costa Rica on an amazing trip in the summer of 2006. I feel as if I've learned more than I've taught and been pulled closer to Christ as I've tried to push others His way. I've had the privilege of seeing God at work—up close and personal—as He has transformed youth, put His words in their mouths, and enabled them to make a difference in the world helping the less fortunate. Plus, one of the great benefits of doing this work has been the amazing friendship and partnership that I have developed with Bill Josey. Since my second year, Bill has been serving the youth in many ways, the most visible of which are helping at youth group meetings, attending workcamp and other trips, and maintaining the youth Web site; I will miss our work together.

So why walk away from something so amazing? In order to serve at St. James', I've always been employed on the secular side as an 80% employee. In my current position, I co-lead the Communications and Social Marketing group in the Health Program at the American Institutes for Research (AIR), a nonprofit organization supporting health and education programs for primarily federal clients. My group has had the good fortune of significant growth in the last few years and now requires my full attention. So, my work at St. James' must end, which will enable me to be a fulltime employee at AIR and concentrate on helping improve our nation's health.

To plan for the future, I already have had conversations with Cindy about what the youth director job requires and she is working with the wardens and others to put a process in place to find the right successor. I have always been supported in my efforts by both parents and youth, as well as the congregation as a whole. I ask that you transfer that support to whoever comes behind me and remember that regular prayers will be needed as well.

Thank you for the trust you have given me to help with the spiritual formation of your children. To paraphrase St. Paul's words to the Philippians, I am confident that the church leadership will be able to select just the right person to carry on the good work that has been begun in them.

In Christ's love,

Don L. Mullins Jr.