



DIOCESE OF WASHINGTON

The Right Reverend John Bryson Chane
Bishop of Washington

December, 2009

The Reverend Cynthia O. Baskin, Rector
St. James' Episcopal Church
11815 Seven Locks Road
Potomac, MD

Dear Cindy:

Congratulations on the tenth anniversary of your installation as Rector of St. James', Potomac. It has been a privilege to observe the growth and progress of your parish for much of that time. The past decade has seen great change for everyone and your extraordinary gifts have helped shepherd the transformation process successfully not only through your leadership but by your encouragement and development of leaders in the parish.

Flexibility, compassion and arms held open in welcome were the hallmarks of your response to the divisions St. James' experienced after the 2003 General Convention. Where another parish might have devolved into recrimination and acrimony, you fostered a safe climate for discussion and reminded the St. James' flock of its true mission – to embrace and embody the teachings of our Lord, Jesus Christ. The result of this steady hand and steadfast heart is that the congregation today is flourishing, healthy and well-positioned to walk together into the future.

I deeply appreciate your keen good stewardship of both money and time. From the launch of the St. James' Capital Campaign to enhance the physical property of the church at the beginning of your tenure, to the successful effort to raise funds for a much-needed Assistant Rector, to the restructuring of parish activities to accommodate the schedules of single-parent and dual-income families, you have done a remarkable job managing parish resources.

I am particularly grateful for your willingness to contribute to Diocesan activities. Your service on the board of the Washington Episcopal Clergy Association, on the Standing Committee, and as an active member of the Region III clergy group is yet another example of the earnest joy with which you approach your priesthood. Thank you for ten tremendous years. I look forward to many more celebrations of your vocation and ministry among us.

In Christ's Peace, Power and Love,

The Rt. Rev. John Bryson Chane D.D.
Bishop of Washington