

SENIOR WARDEN

Deanna Alford

What a challenging year 2020 has been for all of us. As Senior Warden, it has been challenging. Some times were difficult and others uneventful.

Welcoming Phillip to All Saints' and Christ the King was the highlight of my tenure. Annual Council in February was exciting and exhausting for all involved. Thank you all! Then came the pandemic!!

The Vestry and others have spent many hours discussing ways to do church. To say that I had much to do with all the great ideas that have come from learning a new way to do church would be misleading. We have wonderful, talented people of AS/CtK that took the ball and ran. We thought, at first, that it would be a short journey. We quickly learned that would not be the case. Again, our talented and knowledgeable crew stepped up to make church safe when in person services were held.

Not meeting in person, not having in person worship services, not having Christian Formation in person, not having committee meetings, not joining in person for potluck dinners and all other things missed due to "social distancing" has reduced work and issues for my responsibilities as Senior Warden. I would trade all this peace for presence.

The Vestry attempted to contact all parishioners through this time of separation. I was blessed with many wonderful conversations with some that I knew well and others that I only knew in passing. That small amount of connection meant a great deal to me, I hope it did to others too.

We had Vestry meetings in person, on Zoom, and a combination of both. Although it is good to see my fellow Vestry members on the computer, it is a poor substitute for being in person; yet we accomplished many things.

The Vestry rose to the occasion and did the work we were sent to do. We worked through the Mediation Agreements. We discussed ways to make church work safely. We discussed the concerns of being separated. We discussed ways to survive and thrive in the next year, both spiritually, emotionally, and financially. Although my role was different than I imagined, (was not all of 2020 different than we imagined?) it was not completely without challenges.

We have such a wonderful parish but finding "qualified" persons willing to serve on Vestry was a challenge. We do have a WONDERFUL slate of Vestry and Senior Warden nominees, but it was a job to assemble this list. The Nominating Committee met and selected a diverse and wonderful list for consideration only to learn that half of the list was not eligible according to the By-Laws. (By-Laws state to be eligible for Vestry or Warden, the person must be a confirmed communicant in good standing and a pledger of record). I hope that will change before the nominations for 2022 occur. There are many wonderful persons that would be great leaders in our community that we could not nominate.

There are many events that we did not get to have in 2020 and I hope we can have in 2021; celebration of our 150th anniversary, celebration of Phillip's ministry, and our regular, day to day events. I hope we will be able to gather in person soon.

It has been my honor to serve you, the people of All Saints' as your Senior Warden.