

THE DIOCESE OF INDIANAPOLIS

The Episcopal Church in Central and Southern Indiana

December 9, 2015

Dear Friends,

Attached here you will find my visitation schedule for January 2016 –April 2017. This will be my last round of visits before my retirement on April 29, 2017. They follow the usual pattern, which means I will be present for all liturgies, and will preach and preside.

I will also want to meet with Vestry or Bishop's Committee members to hear from them about the state of the parish; how priorities are discerned, what programs are in place, what is life-giving, what feels difficult, what are the plans and goals for the future, and how the parish is engaging its community – both through outreach and through partnerships of service with other churches, groups or agencies.

This kind of conversation usually takes about an hour and a half, so it should not be included on a regular meeting agenda. These meetings are often scheduled at a time apart for the Sunday visitation....and though breaking bread together is always a good thing, these meeting need not include a meal. ☺

Please check this schedule carefully – we have looked it over several times, but that doesn't guarantee that it has no glitches! Please contact Sally Cassidy right away if you note something amiss.

Also, as always, I enjoy being with you for special occasions and celebrations, and with enough advance notice I can usually manage to join you.

Borrowing an image from our brother Peter Bunder, sending this schedule to you is my 'first last' action as your bishop. I look forward to these visits (and any others which might be arranged) with very mixed emotions.....you each have a place in my heart, along with the people you lead and serve, and taking leave from you will not be easy for me....just naming a true thing, here! I

Bless you all...

+Cate