

*I beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all. – Ephesians 3*

Dear Immanuel Highlands parish family,

Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Lord have mercy, I know how you and my family have been in stillness and quiet, in unrest and uncertainty, for the last several months. I know it has not been easy for anyone. Rest assured, and God willing, the Kenningtons are moving to Wilmington.

My wife Sellers, and our sons, Grayton (11) and Henry (9), await this new season of our lives, and sharing them with you. While doing my best to lead and love my current parish in Alabama – through COVID, several deaths, national unrest and nearly all of Lent and Easter – you have remained in our prayers. We continue to move forward on logistics...housing, schools, moving and educating ourselves about our new town. Immanuel's leadership has been super helpful and generous with information.



Here are some things I am excited about: serving as a spiritual leader while recognizing your gifts, in order to encourage this parish to grow and thrive. (It will not be easy. We will work hard.) We are called to serve outside the walls of the parish, and I look forward to that opportunity. I am excited about being your spiritual leader, your pastor and shepherd, AND your partner in revitalizing and renewing Immanuel Highlands. I am a hired hand. I am called to be a servant leader. We are all called to profess the mission of Jesus Christ and our Baptismal Covenant.

This includes continuing the mighty outreach already underway. This includes invigorating the current membership. This includes welcoming the newcomer as Jesus would. This includes encouraging the traditions of our beloved church; understanding that moments of change are essential to church growth.

I know everyone looks for an approachable, funny priest who gives good sermons and embraces all traditions. I cannot always promise "funny," or the perfect sermons. I assure you of my love for the Episcopal Church, and my excitement to grow our particular brand of Christianity. I love a progressive approach to uniting our mission with our culture. I am committed to our call to serve all people unconditionally, and I expect that from those I love and lead and walk with.

I cannot wait to meet you. I believe you are receiving this letter in your late-week newsletter, and as of this Sunday, June 14, St. Mark's, Troy will know we are moving on. Please pray for the parish of St. Mark's as they begin a transition you are familiar with.

We arrive in Wilmington the last week of July, and my first Sunday – in some capacity – will be August 9. You all remain in my prayers.

Faithfully,

Curt +