

The Rev. Valerie J. Hayes  
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Episcopal Church of the Holy Comforter  
543 Beulah Rd NE Vienna, VA 22180

September 2, 2018

To the Community of  
Calvary Episcopal Church  
c/o Ed Turner, Senior Warden  
132 North Royal Avenue  
Front Royal, VA 22630

Dear Beloved Community of Calvary,  
Grace and peace to you! Please know that you all have been, are now, and will continue in my prayers. Know that I am filled with gratitude and joy at coming to be your next rector. These past weeks of journeying with your search committee and then your vestry have been ones of lively conversation, a deep commitment to listening for the Holy Spirit, and faithfully discerning God's call – both for Calvary and for me.

From the first time I spoke with Connie Ordowner on the phone, and then met the members of the search committee, I felt that I was meeting old friends. I appreciated the seriousness of our conversation about where God is calling Calvary and the hopes and dreams – and concerns – of the parish. I was struck by the authenticity, and friendship, and humor among the members of the committee. I felt a sense of “coming home.” And meeting with the vestry was more of the same.

I have no doubt that this is a mutual calling: God has called us to be in ministry together, sharing our energies, and gifts, and joys to the glory of God and the up-building of His kingdom. I have no doubt that God has better things in store than we can ask for or imagine! I so look forward to joining you in life and ministry in November.

And yes: my husband, Jim, and I have totally fallen in love with Front Royal. We have already found an amazing house. Our adult children are happy for us; now all we need is a new dog! We cannot wait to get moved.

Time will fly until my arrival in November. In the meantime, I ask your prayers for me as I take my leave of the parish and people I have served and loved for the past five years. I ask your prayers as Jim and I make the transition to Front Royal. And finally, I ask your prayers for God to enlighten us and guide us and inspire us all as a community of Christ in what is to come next. May God's grace and peace enfold you and bring you joy!

With gratitude and love in Christ,



The Rev. Valerie J. Hayes