

Dear Faithful of All Saints,

The Search Committee of All Saints Church called to ask if they could place my name on a list of rector candidates. I had only been in Washington once in my life and that was about 21 years ago – until being invited to preach for you last September.

The request seemed beyond anything Patty or I ever had envisioned, or at least out of context. At any other time, I would have reflexively replied the same as I have to other churches over the past 8 years: *No thanks!* However, this was different. Only 5 or 6 days before, sensing a change in my ministry at Christ the King in Pawleys Island, I prayed to the Lord, “*Father, tell me if I’m finished where I am.*” The phone call seemed like a lightning bolt of an answer.

What happened thereafter during the 50 days from Easter to Pentecost was powerful and at times astonishing. More than 20 times God pointed to Washington, gave specific messages, introduced people, answered prayers, and cleared all obstacles. A simple but stunning example: We could not leave freely because of two separate family properties languishing on the market for 3 years. *Both sold during those 50 days!* That same timing applied itself to many other dramatic and improbable matters and it became perfectly clear that Patty and I were to say yes. Most importantly of all, the Holy Spirit of God convicted us in our prayerful hearts.

People have asked how Patty and I made the decision to accept the All Saints call. The truth is that we did not. God made the decision, bountifully revealed it, and we simply tried to be obedient and follow.

Heartened and enlivened by the knowledge of God’s will and believing in His promises, we open ourselves in trust that you will embrace us, love us, and strive for the Gospel alongside us. A simple visit to the Great Hall on Tuesday gave Patty and me more excitement and thrill than we bargained for as we watched Martin and Liz lead about 200 young people in a Vacation Bible School pep rally for Jesus! Now it is time for all of us to stand up for Jesus and shout His Good News all the way down Connecticut Avenue.

Thank you for the blessing of your invitation to us.

We have already thanked the Lord.

In thanks and praise,

Ed Kelaher<sup>+</sup>