



## St. Andrew's in the Pines Episcopal Church

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Dear Members and Friends:

In this time of stewardship, we are especially mindful that being stewards of our gifts means responding to God's call on how we are to best use them. This includes not only our financial gifts, but also the gifts of time, skill, and ministry that we have cultivated in the life of faith. It is in this spirit that we, Rev. Melinda and the St. Andrew's Vestry, reach out to you with an important announcement. Together, we have been in discernment about where God is calling us as members of the Body of Christ. What we've discovered is that God has been calling us to go in a new direction, but that direction isn't the same one. We, Rev. Melinda and the congregation of St. Andrew's, have blessed and meaningful paths to follow. But these paths are no longer the same one. In consultation with the Diocese, we have decided to amicably conclude our pastoral relationship.

This change will bring challenge and fresh opportunities for ministry to both St. Andrew's and Rev. Melinda. Be not afraid! As the people of God, we trust that the paths God puts before us will take us where we need to be. Even though it is never easy, we will find strength and joy on the journey.

We will be celebrating Rev. Melinda's ministry with St. Andrew's on Nov 24. This will also be Rev. Melinda's final Sunday presiding as Rector. On this day, which is the celebration of our church's patron saint, we will give thanks for all the good that Rev. Melinda and our congregation have done together, and send each other with blessing and joy into the work God has for us both in this new chapter.

On Nov 30, Rev. Melinda will be beginning a three-month sabbatical to rest and discern. During this time, the Vestry and other lay leaders will be working with the Diocese to discern next steps for our congregation. After November 30, Rev. Melinda will not function as St. Andrew's priest. The sabbatical will conclude on February 28, at which time Rev. Melinda will no longer be the rector for St. Andrew's. Please contact the Vestry with any transition needs or pastoral concerns.

In the month ahead, the Vestry invites all members and friends of St. Andrew's to express their gratitude to Rev. Melinda for her time with us, and to contact Vestry members with any questions. We look forward to celebrating together on Nov 24.

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The Rev. Melinda Bobo,  
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