

A LETTER FROM THE VICAR

My Dear Friends,

It is with regret and sadness that we bid farewell to our Bishop's Warden, Dave Wakefield and his wife, Norma. In light of the current situation in the Episcopal Church, Dave and Norma have come to a decision to leave the Episcopal Church and as a result St. Michael's. They believe that the Lord is calling them to take a new direction in their Christian path. It is apparent to them that the theological and ethical paths of the Episcopal Church do not coincide with their beliefs. Their decision has been reached after much thought, prayer, and discernment, struggling with it for quite some time.

Dave and Norma Wakefield have been very committed members of our church for nearly fifteen years, participating in several areas of church life at St. Michael's. Their children, Jason and Todd have also been actively involved in this church before embarking on their various journeys in life.

Among the ministries in which Dave has served included Choir Director, Accompanist to the Choir, Chair of the Search Committee that issued a call to me to be your priest, Communications and Systems Administrative and Network Facilitator, Sunday School teacher, a member of the Men's Group, Worship Committee, and the Bishop's Committee. He was appointed Bishop's Warden, a position he has recently resigned after serving for nearly two years.

Norma has also served faithfully at St. Michael's. She has been our editor of *The Guardian* newsletter at two different times, serving in the 1990's and more recently from February this year. She served as a volunteer secretary when we were located in the Lutheran Church building before our present secretary, Polly, was hired and has continue to act in that position during Polly's absence.

Behind the scenes, the Wakefields have generously exercised their stewardship to this church of time, gifts, and financial support in several areas too numerous to mention.

On a personal note, Judith joins me in expressing our sincerest thanks and appreciation to Dave and Norma for the love and support they have given us and our family, not only during Dave's tenure as my warden but since the commencement of my ministry here.

As a church, we want to thank them for all they have done and we shall surely miss them. We wish them God's richest blessings and our prayers as they join the Antiochian Orthodox Church.

Every Blessing!

Father Anthony