

June 3, 2018

Dear St. Mary's family:

It is with mixed emotions that I write this letter, for I love serving as the rector of St. Mary's Episcopal church. Even so, the time has come for me to retire from active ministry effective September 30, 2018. I love this parish and all who are a part of it and because of my love for you this was a hard decision to make.

As you may be aware, since May of 2017 I have been dealing with a host of medical issues which have limited my mobility and caused me to be in pain. With much prayer I have concluded it would be best for St. Mary's and myself that I retire and make way for a new rector who can lead this parish into its future as the local body of Christ.

The nine years that I have served as the rector of this wonderful parish have been some of the best and most fruitful years of my life. The St. Mary's family will always be in my heart. I want to take this opportunity to thank the members of St. Mary's, our dedicated staff, vestry members, and lay leaders for all the love and support that you have given me during our shared time in ministry in Dade City.

Our life together does not end with this announcement. Over the next 3 ½ months I will work with the vestry to begin the transition process, a search committee will be formed, as the vital ministries of St. Mary's continue.

I love you and love the ministry that God has given me at St. Mary's. I have received far more than I could have asked or imagined from God through you. Serving God with you has been a great blessing.

Your brother in Christ

Fr. Dewey+

The Rev. Dr. Dewey E. Brown, Jr.