

Rite of Farewell and Blessings for our beloved Pastor Anne

Some of us remember your first day. And we remember all of the
Baptisms.
Weddings.
Pageants.
Celebrations.
Reformations!
Dinners.
Laughs and Fun.
And fantastic accordion serenades!
We thank God for your presence in our lives.

You found us where we were.
You found us happy and sad,
lonely and together.
You found us known and unknown,
wise and silly,
young and old.
You found us open and closed,
calm and busy
and hurt and healed.
You did not judge us.
You found us hungry, and fed us with God's Word:
You brought us joy.

You have blessed us with your laughter.
You have blessed us with your strength.
You have blessed us with your knowledge,
with your courage and with your energy.
You have showered us with your kindness and compassion
as you shepherded us to grow in Christ.
We overflow with your many gifts!
We are happy and grateful!

Thank you for being our pastor for 18 years.
Thank you for being kind.
Thank you for being loving and true.
Thank you for teaching us about God
Thank you for bringing us to God's Word.
Thank you for leading us and pushing us to grow.
And most of all,
**Thank you for listening to us and
loving our beloved community
Just as we are.**

We will pray for you.
We will pray for your family.
We will listen joyfully for news of your new adventures,
We will share in your burdens,
We will delight in your successes,
**And we look forward to seeing you around town
As our neighbor and as our friend.**

We offer a prayer of Thanksgiving for your family,
For their support of your ministry,
For their support of your calling and their support of our beloved community.
We offer a special prayer of Thanksgiving for Willy,
For his kindness and strength,
For his wisdom, good humor and many smiles, and
For his support of your ministry, calling and community here at St Paul.
And most especially all of us offer a prayer of healing for Willy Greenbaum. We ask that You God see again his ailment and see again our love for him, and that Your powerful Love moves through him, restoring him to health, restoring him fully to our community and showering him and his family with healing and blessings. Amen.

We pray that God charts you a good course
And smooths the chop.
We pray for a light quick breeze
and fine sailing.
We pray for a warm sun, a full moon
And favorable currents.
We pray for fun new ports full of new opportunities
And hidden treasures.
**And we pray for you to have good company, good friends, good family, good health,
And good food.**

On this occasion, we would like to offer a prayer together both for you and for ourselves:

Dear God, as Your calling for us changes, as it has continually throughout our lives, help us to remember and reflect on the true nature of Your Love in order to make light our burdens, make joyful our journeys and to illuminate our new paths with Your warmth and Your presence.

Help us to celebrate Your calling us today to this place where we stand together, Your calls to all of the places where we stood in the past, and Your calls to the places where we will stand in the future. Amen.

And now we would like to offer this traditional blessing for you for a change!
[All say it together, all put their hands out to the camera or to PA]:

**May the road rise up to meet you
May the wind be always at your back
Ma the sun shine warm upon your face
The rains fall soft upon your fields
And until we meet again
May God hold you
in the palm of His hand.**

-traditional Irish blessing