

An Announcement from Scott Hayes // August 21, 2024

As Jesus once asked, 'Why are you afraid? Have you still no faith?' How many of you have ever taken extended time away from your job. Taking extended time away can be both challenging and necessary. After many years of work, it's natural to need a break, and I'm grateful that Ben and the Vestry granted me this time!

For those familiar with my work at All Saints, it won't come as a surprise that unplugging was a challenge. With weddings and funerals, ongoing projects, and the weekly responsibilities of Sunday worship, stepping away wasn't easy. I made sure to organize everything to ease the transition for those covering for me, but there were still moments of worry—'What if?'

I'm reminded of the Bible story where Jesus is asleep on a boat during a storm. The disciples, frightened, ask Him why He seems unconcerned. Jesus then commands the wind and sea to be still and asks them, 'Why are you afraid? Do you still have no faith?'

Letting go was difficult, despite the many capable people stepping in. During the first week, I worried. By the second, I started to feel reassured that things would be fine. By the third, I was confident that everything would be OK. And it was.

God calls us to be people of action, but even Jesus took time to rest. Taking vacations, leaves, or sabbaticals is essential for many reasons—some we may not realize until we return. In my case, it might have been to teach me to trust more deeply in the capable people around me and to know that things will work out just fine.

So, enjoy your time 'off'! Make the most of it, and when you return refreshed, the work will still be there, ready for you to continue running the race of life.