

Wisdom from the Woods
By Fran Stockwell

To my fellow parishioners, this was my devotional message that I shared with members of the Vestry many months ago before the COVID-19 pandemic had descended upon us.

I am inspired by the people of this congregation and our church's reach and impact on the local community. I relish the memories of our mission church achieving full parish status and the many blessings bestowed upon us by our clergy and the leadership in our diocese.

Very often, I feel my life is rushed and feel a need to find sanctuary from the stress of life for a brief amount of time. I look forward to Sundays because I am able to join in the company of persons---friends---that provide enlightenment, inspiration and education about relationships with God and our fellow man.

I am looking for usefulness and seek the joy of life. I am appreciative of St. Peter's in the Woods for their respect of the individuality and personality of men and women. That they are tolerant of people's experiences and interests, but try to encourage every life to enlarge and grow to its highest ability and be a blessing and a vision in someone's life.

Now, many months later, deep into what feels like a never-ending isolation in our homes, I try to keep moving forward with God's help. In all of this confusion, I am trying to become more patient with others, tolerant in uncomfortable situations, and be appreciative of each day and moment we live. I am spending more time finding moments and memories that make life meaningful.

Keep peace with your soul, look after others, and surround yourself with what you love. I remain hopeful this suffering will end and we'll soon be regathering together.