



January 12, 2012

Dear Brothers and Sisters of St. John's,

I am writing to let you know of my prayers for you during this challenging time. I am aware of both the financial difficulties and the consequences that have subsequently transpired.

As you might imagine a number of our faith communities and the Episcopal Church in Minnesota have been struggling financially during the economic down turn, and many for years before.

As such, I know first hand the painful decisions we all have had to make – decisions that unquestionably deeply affect people's lives. Sadly and unfortunately this is the case at St. John's, too.

The decision by your leadership to let both Rev. Joanie and Rev. Marilyn go has a significant impact on them, their families and the entire faith community of St. John's. After being in conversation with your rector it is clear that this was an agonizing, yet thoroughly thought through decision based on both the present financial realities and the stewardship for the future of St. John's.

Amidst these financial struggles St. John's continues to be one of the strongest and vital faith communities in the Episcopal Church in Minnesota. Your commitment to engage God's mission in White Bear Lake and beyond is truly a model to many in our Church.

Please know that I have, and will continue, to provide both pastoral care and discernment for Rev. Joanie and Rev. Marilyn. As you are clearly aware, they are both strongly gifted clergy, who have not only served you well, but will also find ways of ministering through new opportunities in the Church. Please know, that I and your Missioners, stand ready to assist in anyway possible to help and support St. John's.

Again, please be assured of my prayers for all during this time.

Blessings,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be "B. Prior".

The Rt. Rev. Brian N. Prior  
IX Bishop, Episcopal Church in Minnesota