

June 6, 2017

Dear Grace Church Family and Friends,

The historian David McCullough writes, “Everyone who’s ever lived has been affected, changed, shaped, helped or hindered by others. We all know, in our own lives, who those people are who’ve opened a window, given us an idea, given us encouragement, given us a sense of direction, self-approval, self-worth, or who have straightened us out when we were on the wrong path...”

I think McCullough makes an important point, a point we all need to remember, and I can certainly name many of the people who’ve affected my life.

One of them who opened a window was Terry Elsberry.

Terry became the Rector of St. Matthew’s Church in Bedford, New York, just before Susan and I started to attend. I wasn’t happy with my work at the time and was trying to figure out “what to do with my life.”

And, it was through Terry I first sensed a call to the priesthood.

Terry inspired me, guided me, supported me, and I would not be in ministry without him – I would not be at Grace Church without him.

This Sunday, Terry retires from St. Matthew’s after twenty-three years, and Susan and I will be there to hear his final sermon, celebrate his ministry, and most of all, say thank you.

As we prepare to head to New York, I’ve had a lot of thoughts running through my mind, but the one I want to share with you – really, the question I want to ask – is this:

Who have you affected, changed, shaped and helped? Who have you given an idea, encouragement, a sense of direction, self-approval and self-worth?

Who will come to your final sermon and say thank you?

See you in church,
Andrew