Dear friends at All Saints,

Thank you so much for your beautiful and generous gifts! The picture arrived earlier this week and I love it! I am still trying to decide where I will hang it. Linzie and I have very fond memories of the hiking group, and particularly our hike to Paget Lookout in Yoho where those pictures were taken! I will always treasure that picture, as I treasure my time at All Saints.

Linzie and I arrived safely in Florida on the 1st of September after spending some time in Ohio visiting her family, and for me trying to rest. While I still had several church related meetings over the month, it was a much needed sabbatical from full time work during which God refreshed me for my work here in Florida.

This past Sunday the 12th was my first Sunday at my new parish. All went well, and I have been very encouraged by the people here. They have been bending over backwards to help get the parish ready for my arrival, and to help support Linzie and I in our move. As of today, our household goods have not arrived from Canada, so we have essentially been living out of our airplane luggage since the 15th of July. Thanks be to God, I received a call yesterday that our things are scheduled to be delivered on Monday or Tuesday. Linzie will be pleased to have access to the rest of her clothes, and especially our hiking gear, and I look forward to getting my books back!! Sermon preparation is a bit more limited when you don’t have your books around you.

One of the other things I look forward to is getting my exercise bike back. For those who didn’t know, I used to ride for an hour every morning. Two months of not being able to do that has taken its toll! That said, we have moved to Lake County, not Bike Path County, and so using some of the funds gifted to me, I’ve purchased a nice rowing machine that I can use to get myself into better shape for being out on the lakes here! It will be arriving towards the end of the month, and I really look forward to it. I do promise to try to use at least some of the gift you gave me for something less utilitarian!

Last week I was in the Diocesan Office where Bishop Brewer received the reaffirmation of my ordination vows. Yesterday, I received the official documents signed by Bishop Brewer (Central Florida) and Archbishop Greg transferring my orders between the Dioceses. While these were all dated for 1 September, which is when my contract with the Diocese here began, the 29th of September, the Feast of St. Michael and All Angels, will be my institution and induction as the rector of St. Thomas Episcopal Church by Bishop Brewer. Covid restrictions affect how we hold the ceremony, but I know many of my parishioners here are excited to be able to celebrate together, and I have a few friends from nearby who will be coming to town for the service. I am very much looking forward to that evening. The service will be livestreamed in case anyone would like to watch and see what my new parish looks like, or hear Bishop Brewer preach!

Please be assured of my continued prayers for all of you at All Saints, and my eternal gratitude for the support and encouragement you gave me as I was formed during my curacy to take on this next post that God has given me.

In Christ,

Fr. Matthew (and Linzie) Perreault