

Emmanuel Church, Bel Air



An Important Announcement from the Rector

Friends,
It is time for me to go.

After many months of consultation with my wife Jan, Bishop Sutton, Deployment Officer Stuart Wright, and a variety of trusted friends and colleagues, I have decided to resign as Rector of Emmanuel Church, effective 31 August 2023 and begin moving toward retirement.

I have served Emmanuel to the best of my ability since 1 July 2009, a period in the Church's history that has seen many new challenges and opportunities. There is much that I look back on with delight as our mutual ministry efforts came together. There are also some decisions and moments that I would love a chance to do over. With all that in mind, when asked why I have decided to leave now, the answer I have to offer is simply that it is time.

The Staff, Wardens, and Vestry of Emmanuel Church have been informed in the last week about this decision. They are a uniquely strong and talented group and are well equipped to move the congregation as it looks ahead to new clergy leadership.

Like the story of Abram that I cast in [my sermon two Sundays ago](#), I cannot at this moment say what will be next for me. I have ideas, but I am equally ready as he was to be led.

I give thanks to God for your partnership in this ministry and I will leave Emmanuel a better priest and better person for the experience.

Faithfully Yours,

The Rev'd Canon Dr. Mark Gatza



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