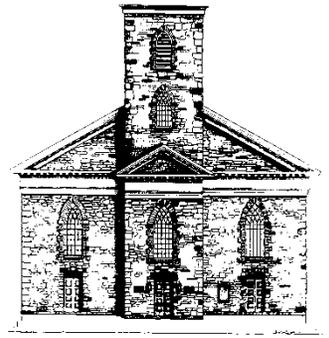




## ST. AUGUSTINE OF HIPPO EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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November 10<sup>th</sup>, 2016,

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Ms. Barbara Peterson-King, Chair

Ms. Minnie Curry, Vice Chair

[www.staugproject.org](http://www.staugproject.org)

### The Vestry

2017

Ms. Susan Brown, Warden

2018

Ms. Irene Alladice, Warden:

2017

2018

Mr. William Curry

Ms. Annette Dudley

Ms. Barbara Peterson-King, Clerk

Mr. Oland Saltes

2019

Mr. Marcelino Garcia

Mr. Valerie Scott

Ms. Dinah Williams

Ms. Bobby Wright

Beloveds,

When such an important election comes to an end, no matter where you stand, there is no winner; the whole country is affected. I feel it important to reach out to you for emotional support because I need yours and I am sure I can offer to those afflicted a shoulder to lean on and words of consolation.

You should know by now that I am an immigrant to the USA and I am seriously concerned by the intolerance I see developing and unfolding. Thank God, I am legal (I mean, not yet afraid of being deported) but the number of those I know who are here illegally and supporting families back home are countless.

I was told by a returning visitor to our church during our noonday healing service that Wednesday his boyfriend was called a faggot by a couple of Trump supporters who see, in the election results, a reason to go after people who differ from their views with hostility. Two of my Haitians friends were invited to get into the truck container they were filling to send relief items back home, to lock themselves in and return to Haiti.

Such actions, I hope, are isolated and the works of only a handful of deranged individuals. But they are also the works of evil trying to push people to the margins, both aggressors and victims. This is not who we are as Americans. This not the way we behave. Why can't we share the graces of God equally among ourselves? Why can't we show tolerance to God's children whose only crime is to be themselves? When are we going to extend the same grace God extends to us to others no matter their god, gender, orientation or origin?

While I'm convinced that we are in God's hands and that we will all go back to basic civility when our spirits calm down, I want to invite you to advise your children to be cautious. Be mindful of your entourage when you commute by train. Do not respond to any provocation even if you think you're within your rights. Avoid situations that can make you appear suspicious or that can compromise your innocence. Carry legal ID with you at all times. Our world is changing; this country is changing and some form of extremism is expanding.

Now please, don't hesitate to reach out to me whenever you feel the need. I will particularly maintain myself available to you for pastoral counseling during the next two weeks hoping that we will move from frustration to calm and from calm to peace.

With love,

Nat+

*St Augustine of Hippo Episcopal Church*  
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