February 20, 2020

Dear friends,

There’s never a good time to get bad news, though it feels like this time is particularly difficult.

We received word at the end of last week that our partner in developing the Fowler House property, Kensington Senior Living, has found insurmountable issues with the location and width of the alley as it relates to their plans for the building. Because of these issues, they have, as permitted, elected to end their contract with us.

Given that the time we are living though right now is full of uncertainty, and given that this is not the first plan that has not come to fruition for us, the Vestry and Fowler House committees have decided that it is time to take a break from researching our options, take a collective deep breath, get ourselves and our community through this pandemic crisis, and then look again at our options for what we might accomplish for the kingdom of God using that piece of property.

My gratitude for Chris McMurray, Jim Coakley, and John Weaver, their fortitude and patience, abounds and grows. They will continue to work with Ross department store to see how we might extend their lease to give ourselves some more breathing room.

This is not the end of a story, merely the end of a chapter. We have so much more exploration and learning and self-discovery yet ahead of us.

God is, now and always, so good.

Blessings,

The Rev. Dr. Noelle York-Simmons, Rector