

Remarks at the Dedication and Naming of Firestone Hall

October 8, 2017

The Rev. Randall C.K. Day, D.Min., Priest and Rector

Kate, Brooks, Hayley, Adam, Polly, Andrew – and your wonderful families – I’m confident you have received many expressions of thanks through the years for so much that each of you and all of you together have been and done at St. Mark’s and in this beautiful Santa Ynez Valley.

You are “doers” and here that means everything from leadership, formal and informal, serving as Wardens and taking out the trash, organizing Christian formation and pruning roses, chairing the building committee and setting up chairs, and the list goes on and on... and on... Over decades since the 1970s. Most of all you’ve shown, by example, that nothing happens here unless motivated, enthusiastic, generous individuals commit spiritually and give their time, intelligence, creativity, good humor, physical labor, and material resources in response to God’s call. You’ve shown that when that multi-faceted commitment goes into action, great things happen that benefit many friends and strangers, young and old.

While it has been discussed on and off for years, today, Idabelle’s baptismal day, marking the advent of a new generation, seemed an opportune time to create a lasting tribute in gratitude to God and to all of you by dedicating and naming this building Firestone Hall, after your whole family of families, which the Vestry has unanimously done. This recognizes not only all that all of you have done at St. Mark’s but also your similarly vast contributions to the wider Santa Ynez Valley region.

And while this may not be an expression that *you* need to receive, it is certainly an expression that St. Mark’s, as a parish faith community needs to make.

The Dedication of Firestone Hall

Officiant Except the Lord build the house,

All they labor in vain that build it

Officiant Let us pray.

Let your continual mercy cleanse and defend your Church, O Lord; and, because it cannot continue in safety without your help, protect and govern it always by your goodness; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

All Amen.

Officiant We dedicate and name this building **FIRESTONE HALL** to the glory of God and with deep and abiding gratitude to **BROOKS AND CATHERINE FIRESTONE** and their children **HAYLEY, ADAM, POLLY, ANDREW, AND THEIR FAMILIES.**

All Glory to God whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we ask or imagine: Glory to God from generation to generation in the Church, and in Christ Jesus for ever and ever. Amen.