



May 31, 2017

## ***FOR EVERYTHING THERE IS A SEASON***

*“For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven:  
a time to be born, and a time to die;  
a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted; ...  
a time to break down, and a time to build up;  
a time to weep, and a time to laugh.”*

I find it comforting to return to this wisdom from the book of Ecclesiastes in the Hebrew Scriptures. It is especially comforting in times of change and endings, because it reminds me that change is natural and blessed by God.

Last week, our beloved Rev. Pash Obeng announced that he will retire from congregational ministry in October. Pash is an exceptional minister, and he has my respect and love. It has been an honor to work with him for the past three of his twenty-eight years at the Hills Church – and more than forty years since his ordination.

I give thanks for the opportunities that Pash will have to expand on his important academic work and on his ministry with the African Indian Alliance, for which the church will recognize him as a missionary of the Hills Church. We may celebrate the ways in which God calls him to bless the lives of his students and colleagues and the Siddi people of India.

This church will not be the same without him; we will miss his laughter, his faithful leadership in worship, and his pastoral care that embodies God’s love. “For everything there is a season,” and I trust in God’s grace as we move from one season to another. Although this church changes with every person who joins or leaves, we may trust that God’s love and grace are steadfast and unwavering. God has been faithful to this congregation since its founding in 1847, and I know that the years ahead will be likewise filled with the strength and joy of God's Spirit.

Peace,

Rev. Dr. Matthew Wooster  
Senior Minister