I am the Resurrection and the Life, says the Lord, whoever believes in me will live even though they die. Everyone who believes lives and believes in me will never die. (John 11:25-6)

If there was anyone who believed in the resurrection of Jesus Christ, it was Mark Dyer; teacher and theologian, shepherd and pastor, loving husband and father. Mark’s death yesterday in his home, in the shadow of Aspinwall Hall at VTS, was received with sadness and coupled with the joy that his cancer struggle was over. He was surrounded by those with whom he cared for and to whom he was a source of love for Amy his wife and for their children.

Mark’s journey through life has affected untold numbers of individuals who knew him as the Bishop of Bethlehem and as the shepherd to his diocesan family and as an engaged pastor to his clergy. As a Bishop, he mentored many, sharing his wisdom and sensitivity for those chosen for Episcopal ministry.

Mark mentored me and others in how to “feed and tend the flock of Christ presenting before God the acceptable offering of a pure and gentle and holy life.”

The VTS community will miss Mark’s contribution to the nurturing and formation of seminarians. As a theologian and teacher, he taught the mysteries of the faith and lived with all the complexities of the world longing for a glimpse of the holy. Mark was faithful in prayer, he was constant in his study of Holy Scripture, and sought always to have the mind of Christ.

The words of the Prayer Book sustain us who knew him and learn from his witness. “Receive our brother Mark into the courts of his heavenly dwelling place, let Mark’s heart and soul now ring out in joy to you O Lord, the living God and the God of those who live.”

May his soul and all the souls of the faithful, through the mercies of God, rest in peace.

Rt Rev. James J. Shand

Chair of the Board of Trustees

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