

Dear Sisters and Brothers!

Greetings!

I am beyond words! I am so glad to be called as your new Priest-in-Charge! God is GOOD!!!

There are several things that excite me about coming to the Episcopal Church of All Saints and Ascension. What excites me most is the overflowing excitement of creating something new and dynamic in Northwoods and within the community and the Diocese of Missouri. I pray that God will give us much vision and insight as we go about our work sharing and being the Good News of Jesus Christ.

In a way, I feel as though I am coming home! There are a few familiar names and faces. And I spent many years in the neighborhood. My family and I were among the first African Americans to move into the City of Uplands Park. As a member of the Daughters of Charity I lived in the motherhouse off Natural Bridge on UMSL's campus. Before going off to seminary I lived in the Lucas Hunt Apartments! I am also familiar with the building and campus of All Saints and Ascension as it was formerly St. Andrew's Episcopal Church-my first parish as a newly minted Episcopalian!

Of course, many things have changed. YOU are here and I will be joining you very soon. May God bless us as we travel on the journey together. I am SO EXCITED!

Please pray for me and for the great people of St. Barnabas. Nine years is a long time and saying good-bye will not be easy. But looking forward to what God is doing and will do is something that is making my heart glad!

Until then, may each of you be blessed in abundance during this holy season of Lent.

Your sister in the Redeemer,

The Reverend Renee L. Fenner