

July 1, 2021

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,



Next weekend, July 10th and 11th, you and I will embark on a new journey! We will celebrate two major events: the Celebration of New Ministry/Re-Dedication of our church AND our first Sunday Eucharist in our newly renovated worship space!

Our outdoor service a couple of weeks ago was wonderful and it was very evident that we were ready to physically be together after months of worshipping via Zoom. I am so proud of how we continued to be church amongst ourselves and for our community. Though the pandemic challenged us (and the world), much was accomplished. And the blessings keep on coming!

The time we have longed for is upon us. It is time to gather in-person, and we will do that beginning next Saturday at 11am. The Celebration of New Ministry is not only my installation as your first rector but a celebration of who we are and will be as a parish family. We will also re-dedicate our church that is shining almost like a new penny! Registration is required for all those who plan to attend and so are masks! The liturgy will be live-streamed by the diocese for those at home.

On Sunday, we will gather at 9am (our scheduled time in the summer months) for Eucharist. There will be some changes in the way we worship due to Covid. The choir (socially distanced and masked) plans to make a joyful noise while the rest of us hum along and clap our hands (the Pandemic Task Force has not yet given the okay for the rest of us to sing yet). All are asked to wear a mask! Please and Thank You! At this writing we are doing our best to make sure that going forward, our liturgies can either be live-streamed or recorded for playback for those who cannot physically be with us. We want to make sure that everyone stays connected!

And finally, a small but faithful committee took the helm and with your input our building is not the same as before. The sanctuary, sacristy, and narthex (foyer) all have new configurations and furnishings. Our roof has been repaired and new floors have been laid. Everything smells of new paint. There are more things that will still need to be done. But as you know, church is not just about the building-it is about the people, people who strive to follow our Savior Jesus Christ. My prayer is that with the help of the Holy Spirit, there will be a newness ("a new birth" as our Senior Warden, Bill, says) within all of us as individuals and as a faith community. We can only look forward!

May the Spirit have her way with us so that the light of the Episcopal Church of All Saints and Ascension can shine brightly throughout our community, city, and the diocese. May God order our steps as we step out in faith together, building relationships along the way.

God's continued blessings to you and yours.

Your sister in the Redeemer,

Rev. Renee+