

Pentecost, 2017

Dear Friends and Parishioners,

What is it about Pentecost? It is that moment of transition, a movement from remembering the earthly Jesus to being transformed by the indwelling of God’s Holy Spirit. On this day the disciples waited for something unprecedented to happen. Suddenly they experienced a presence like “a mighty wind” that engulfed them and gave them languages that united the diverse peoples of the earth.

The church was born out of this experience of God’s Holy Spirit. It breathed new life into women and men who had been living unrealized lives and dying in unfulfilled desolation. Only after this Pentecost experience could people look back and realize they had once been lost but now were found. St. Paul described it as having being dead in our sins versus being made alive in Christ.

The Spirit, which enveloped the disciples on that Pentecost, is the same Spirit of liberation and new life available to us today. It is that Spirit that empowers us to carry on the work of Jesus, e.g., forgiving sins, healing the sick, visiting the outcast, feeding the hungry, preaching hope and good news to those who have been rejected and victimized by this world.

This Sunday, we invite you to come to Church expectantly. This expectancy is a prerequisite of receiving the Spirit. This Holy Spirit gifts us and is represented to us in the sacraments. This Spirit leads us into all we need to start and continue a life alive to God’s presence.

TO ALL THE SAINTS: MANY MANY THANKS!

After sitting at hospital bedsides for the past 38 years, this past April 1st, I became the patient for about five days. Having come down with a painful case of pneumonia, I had to allow others to take care of me. This began in the hospital and continued while I convalesced and regained my strength at home.

The world sure looks different when you are not the strong one. But in fact it allowed me to gain a perspective that was most enlightening. Through visits, phone calls, and people offering to bring whatever I needed, I came to see that we (in the church especially) are surrounded by an invisible network of love, nurture and concern that is so miraculously there when needed.

This experience helped me to open my eyes a little wider to the grace, that I believe is always there, but frequently unrecognized.

Again, Many thanks for those who helped me and supported the mission of the church in my absence!

Faithfully yours,

The Rev. Steven J Yagerman

UPDATE ON THE LEVY CHOIR SCHOOL 2016 – 2017



It has been an amazing year. We have had 18 children participate in the program over the course of this year. With distance, conflicts, and music just not being their interest, some have moved on. We have settled to 14 eager choristers. They have come to Brooklyn and Manhattan from across the world: Haiti, Ukraine, Japan, Germany, Nigeria, and the United States. The choristers' age range is 6 to 15. The parents are extremely supportive and are building a community among themselves and between families. Everyone is looking for a solid music program that also teaches music skills. They want a structured environment that teaches good values, and they are thrilled with our program and the welcoming Sunday Church community.

Please join us this Sunday when the children will be honored for their beautiful music and dedication. As well as singing, they have studied music notation, and some have passed the first level of the RSCM program (Royal School of Church Music) and will be receiving their white ribbons and medallions. I want to also thank all those who helped make this program a

success--the Vestry, the admissions and music committees, the volunteers and parents. I am optimistic that we have started a program that will expand our outreach and enrich our parish!

Note-ably,
Suzanne McDonald

