



ALL SAINTS' EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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772.334.0610

May 30, 2020

My Dear Friends:

I hope all is well with you, your families, and loved ones.

The Day of Pentecost

The Church celebrates its third most important feast day tomorrow, the Day of Pentecost. It was a time when God, through the power of the Holy Spirit, changed the lives of people who were gathered with the disciples on that day. We are told that by the time all had taken place - the sound of a rushing wind, the tongues of fire that rested on them, the ability to speak in their native languages although they were Galileans, and the belief they were drunk - three thousand people were baptized into the new Christian movement.

Please join us for Sunday worship on our YouTube channel: www.youtube.com/c/allsaintsjensenbeach as we celebrate this very significant, yet often forgotten feast day, in the life of our church. We give God thanks for the gifts of His Holy Spirit and the Church.

I would now like to turn our attention to three matters of mutual interest.

Extension of Church Campus closures

In an electronic letter dated May 26, 2020, Bishop Eaton stated that he was extending the closure of all church campuses, schools, and special ministries, until at least June 30. The situation as it has been for the past two months, with live-streaming and recording of worship, and no in-person activities, remains in effect. I should add that when a bishop's directive is given, in this case the closure of our campuses, we cannot re-open them until that directive is lifted. (Please see below, a link to the entire email from Bishop Eaton).

Re-Entry Planning Task Force

The Re-Entry Planning Task Force met on Friday, May 29, and discussed the following:

- The current situation in Martin County as it relates to the spread of the coronavirus with the increase of confirmed cases, and deaths remaining the same in the past few days;
- Ideas of what returning to in-person worship and meetings may or could look like after we are allowed to do so;
- Identifying information that needs to be a part of the plan to be presented for the Bishop's approval;
- Assigning persons to particular tasks in creating the overall re-entry plan;
- A survey for parishioners to voice their preferences about regathering for in-person worship and other activities;

The Reverend Anthony B. Holder, D. Min., *Rector*
The Reverend Alan Gellert, *Deacon*

- The hope of being able to re-open around the same time as the other Episcopal churches in Martin County;

The Task Force is working aggressively in order to prepare the plan, with a target to complete it by the middle of June. The plan needs to be submitted to the Bishop's Office for approval at least two weeks prior to our re-opening. We are hoping that if there are no further closures, we will be ready to re-open then, provided all safety measures are in place.

If you have any questions or concerns, please send them to the Chair, Paul Neff, at pen55@me.com, or to Jenny McDonald, the Office Manager, at jennifer@allsaintsjensenbeach.org.

The next meeting of the Task Force - which is comprised of Stuart's Vice-Mayor Eula Clarke, Pam Hurd, Lelah Marzi, Jenny McDonald, Jack Miller, Paul Neff (Chair), Julie Preast, Joan Whitting, Bill Winsemann and me - will be on Friday, June 5.

Congregation Re-Entry Survey

The Re-Entry Planning Task Force has decided to prepare a survey for the members of the congregation to complete so as to know your hearts as it relates to the re-opening of our church campus. The survey should be ready by next Friday, June 5, to be sent as a supplement to the weekend's electronic mailing. Persons who do not have internet will receive their survey via mail. Individuals who need assistance in filling out their survey form may contact Jenny, our Office Manager, at: 772.334.0610. We want to have the widest possible participation in this survey.

I want to reassure the members of our congregation that the time is coming when we will be able to gather together again for worship and other activities. It may not be as soon as some of us may like, but it will happen. I can ensure you that the Re-Entry Planning Task Force and I are committed to our worshipping in-person again as soon as the Bishop permits. However, we plan to do so in the best, safest, and most comfortable manner for our parishioners. There are a number of possible ways that we will be able to gather in-person, and I will share those with you when the Task Force has decided on them. I have great faith that even though there will be changes, all will be well because God is steering this ship, He is in control of this world, and we all can say, "Thy will be done...", not ours. Please continue to pray, and to trust God...and to keep the faith.

May you and yours have a wonderful weekend and a blessed Pentecost Sunday.

Every blessing!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Anthony" with a stylized flourish at the end.

Father Tony