

Friends,

The other day someone asked me to smell a candle to see what I thought. It smelled like cinnamon bread so of course my response was that it smelled like Day in the Country and the fall. We are gearing up for fall and getting excited for the 47th Day in the Country on October 3rd. Fall kicks off this Sunday at the 10:30 service with the blessing of the backpacks as we pray for our students, teachers, and administrators. We also will welcome The Reverend Elisabeth Malphurs, her husband Buck, and her sons Andrew and Henry to the Chapel of the Cross. Please join us for a reception in their honor at 9:15a in the Parish Hall this Sunday. It will be a great day at the Chapel as we filter back into church from our summer vacations and time away. I look forward to seeing everyone.

As we gear up for the fall, I want to update the parish on a couple of projects. First, we announced in the Spring a \$500,000 donation to stabilize and protect the structural integrity of the Chapel of the Cross. Preliminary work has been completed, which includes soil samples and removing insulation and chicken wire from underneath the flooring of the building. We are moving forward with next steps as we work toward a groundbreaking when the work officially begins. When we are prepared to begin, I will let the parish know and we will schedule a ceremony for all to attend. The work that will be done to stabilize the Chapel should not affect Sunday services.

The other project is one that has been asked for many times in the past five or so years. This is a busy parish not only during the day, but at night as well with many activities taking place and groups gathering in our facilities. It can be quite dark at the Chapel in the evening, especially in the winter. Therefore, lighting will be installed on the sidewalks between the Parish Hall, the Chapel of the Cross, and the Chapel of the Resurrection. Materials are coming in and very soon construction will begin to make our grounds safer and more accessible, so please pardon our progress!

The Holy Spirit is moving in this place. It is an exciting time to be a part of the Chapel of the Cross. We continue to grow. We continue to give. We continue to be thankful for our past and dream about our future. We continue to do the work God is calling us to do. I'm looking forward to the fall as we once again ask questions during Sunday School, gather at the food booth for fellowship the week of Day in the Country, attend Concerts in the Country, purchase a ticket for the Habitat drawdown, bless animals, string up lights for Christmas in the Country, and the many other trappings of fall at the Chapel of the Cross. See you this Sunday!

Christ's peace,

WM Compt