

Change is a six-letter word that strikes fear in some and avoidance in others. There exists a rare breed of people who embrace change, but they are a true minority. In my 68 years of life, I have learned to count on things, circumstances, and life to change. There is an old saying in the Episcopal Church that “we don't change”. Not because we are frozen, but if it was good enough for our elders, it is good enough for us.” One thing you can expect to happen is change. Change is a constant in our lives; if it weren't, we would still be cave dwellers.

Once again, change has come to the Church of the Redeemer. This time it is for the summer months of July and August. The season of Sacred Story will be celebrated in two months, followed by the season of Creation in September, culminating with the Feast of St Francis on Sunday, October 4th. These changes afford us a dedicated season for Gratitude and Harvest in October and November before Advent. This is a perfect time to share our stories of gratitude and why we are at Redeemer and support this parish church. We will finish the season at Thanksgiving with a harvest filled with the promise for a renewed Church of the Redeemer.

I urge you to take this summer to reflect on the sacred stories shared each week. When I was a child, my grandparents would visit from Florida each summer, and with them came relatives. Each of them would share stories of the “Old Country” where they had immigrated from. I loved to hear about their experiences and customs. When at the beach, I would look at the ocean and imagine how my grandparents came from Europe to live in the United States. I would lie on the warm sand or in the grass at home, look at the sky, and dream of the stories of how my ancestors came to the US, changing their lives forever.

We, too, are here to change and embrace the new and unknown in our lives and this Parish church. It is a great adventure similar to the metamorphosis of the liturgy changes memorialized in the 1978 Book of Common Prayer. The church of the Redeemer is to be proud of its leadership and commitment to inclusive language. Let us celebrate and embrace change, holding to the foundations of our church expressed in faith, hope, and love.