

October 2015

My dear friends,

I have been among you for just about three weeks now. I've received a gracious welcome and am slowly learning names, faces and traditions and quickly feeling that St. James is my home. I feel a deep sense of gratitude that I have been called to serve the Lord here with you at St. James. Gratitude is a powerful feeling, a feeling that pushes us past a mere emotion into a way of life, a way of thinking, being and doing. Gratitude is a response. Gratitude calls us to change.

The fall is a time of gratitude. I believe it comes first from our agricultural cycle. Crops are in—we can eat through the winter. Now, while most of us don't actually sow, tend and reap the crops that we all eat, we know that we are connected to this process, and that our grocery stores, our cabinets and our stomachs would be empty if the farmers aren't successful. So, we are all grateful, and full of the blessings of creation.

The fall is a time of change, of new beginnings. The school year starts over, the program year of churches and many other organizations starts up and we all get back into gear, back into our busy schedule of activities. We are grateful, and full of new energy and the promise of good, hard, rewarding work ahead.

Over the next few weeks as we start our UTO drive and Fall Stewardship Campaign, we will be praying and talking about how we are changed by Christ's Light, changed by the love that we receive. How does that change, that gratitude compel us to give of ourselves, of our time, our talent and our treasure? You are a treasure. You have been given a treasure. And I am filled with gratitude that you are sharing that treasure with me.

Your sister in Christ,
Mother Bonnie+