



THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

The Diocese of Central Pennsylvania

The Rev. John W. Morris, Rector
The Rev. Dr. Barbara J. Seras, Assistant Priest
Vestry and Wardens of St. John's Episcopal Church
321 West Chestnut Street
Lancaster, PA. 17603

28 March 2017

Dear John, Barbara, Vestry and Wardens of St. John's:

Please accept my congratulations for a successful capital campaign, "Honoring our Past, Welcoming Our Future" and this affirmation of the important work that you are doing in extending the embrace of St. John's Church to the community by creating an ADA compliant and fully accessible worship, study and fellowship space.

The work of outreach and mission is not new to St. John's, having achieved your status as a Jubilee Parish nearly three decades ago. You have worked to serve God's children in your community through the Eagle's Nest Program and by partnering with the Fulton School, through participation in the Community Breakfast, the Food Pantry, Martha's Ministry, and the Angel Tree program. You are responsive, regionally, through the collaborative ALERT program, and your care extends globally, through partnership initiatives in Kenya and with Rafiki Africa.

And now, this new venture, which will open the space at St. John's transforming the entryways and gathering spaces into welcoming, safe and accessible places, is to be commended.

I believe in the power of service. Jesus commands us to "love our neighbor as ourselves" and by example and through his parables, Jesus shows us the way to care for the weak, vulnerable and needy among us.

I also believe in worship and the power of the sacramental life of community as we know it in the Episcopal tradition. By coming together in prayer and song, by reading and meditating on God's Holy Word, and by participating in the Sacraments, we are strengthened for service. Neither part of the Christian life- service or worship- can claim the corner on "The Way." We need both. This initiative at St. John's to increase accessibility, to enhance aesthetics, and to develop the courtyard into a place of peace is an expression of good stewardship. Through the benefits of this project, all will be able to find solace and strength in sacramental nurture, fellowship and formation at the parish of St. John's.

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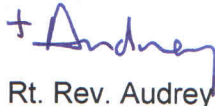
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I hope that this project will not only benefit the Lancaster community, but serve as an example of hope for the future to our surrounding Episcopal parishes. As the religious landscape in our nation continues to shift and change, I find the need for mutual affection, support and unity in our diocese to be ever more important. St. John's participation in our wider diocese is essential for the health of the whole Body.

Thank you for your participation in the approval process through the Standing Committee. I am grateful to our Canon for Finance, Mr. Chad Linder; the Finance Committee, led by Mrs. Bonnie Chambers; and the Standing Committee, under the leadership of the Rev. Barbara Hutchinson for their diligence and work to achieve clarity on the financial aspects of this missional endeavor. I appreciate your partnering with them, providing documents that speak to the parish's support and the financial ability to accomplish this work.

Please extend my greetings to the parish family at St. John's and know that our diocesan staff celebrates this missional endeavor with you.

With love in Christ,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Audrey" with a small cross symbol to the left of the first letter.

The Rt. Rev. Audrey C. Scanlan
XI Bishop

cc: The Rev. Barbara Hutchinson, Standing Committee President
Mrs. Bonnie Chambers, Diocesan Treasurer and Finance Committee Chair
Mr. Chad Linder, Canon for Finance