

In the Interim...

August 1, 2018

In August and September, our congregation will be celebrating some baptisms, both adult and children. If you have not been baptized or you have a child who has not received the sacrament of baptism, please contact me. We would like for you to be included.

For both adults and children, baptism is a sacred moment. Some people criticize infant baptism because they say the individual will not remember his or her baptism. But remembering your baptism takes a lifetime.

It starts as just a glimpse. Then each year in community as we watch individuals baptized, as we make vows to help them grow, as we grow in our faith, as we struggle, as we step away from and then back to belief, our baptism becomes more and more real to us. We baptize individuals to say that we the church journey with them. They do not make the journey alone.

Years ago, I worked with a young woman as she professed her faith and claimed her baptism. She had been baptized as an infant. Her family could name the church, the town and the year, but they could not remember the exact day. I wanted to help her know the day, so she could mark the anniversary of her baptism each year.

I picked up the phone and called an Episcopal church in Skokie, Illinois, wondering if someone there would help a Southern-talking woman looking for information from over twenty years earlier.

I could not get the pastor to quit talking. He looked up the date. He told me the parents, whom I already knew. He told me the pastor's name. He told me all about her sponsors. He said, "You know, we baptize children, they grow up, they move away, and we usually do not know what happens in their lives. We always wonder." I said, "Well, you just got a glimpse. Keep baptizing and making those baptismal vows and promises. The Holy Spirit will bring them to fruition."

When we baptize these individuals in the coming weeks, we will recognize the presence, the working, and the power of the Holy Spirit in their lives and the presence, the working, and the power of the Holy Spirit in our lives together.

There is a powerful force at the font that unites us as the body of Christ. It is a calling to journey together and be priests unto each other. If you have not yet received baptism, "come on in, the water's fine."

Wanda Neely
Interim Pastor