

Dear Ascension,

As the scriptures tell us, “To everything there is a season and a time for every purpose under heaven” (Eccl. 3:1). It seems that the time has come for me to turn a page. The next page for me is retirement. I shall be leaving Ascension officially on September 1st, 2025, but I may take some vacation time with my last Sunday being in August (TBA.)

Let me first say that it has been my joy and privilege to serve you all at Ascension for these past 17+ years. I first came as a student and then was brought on as your deacon and Director of Religious Education. In that capacity I have focused on Adult Education, sacramental preparation, youth, and retreat and pilgrimage work. As your deacon, I have focused on interfaith work as well as a homeless ministry and other justice issues around immigration. As a parish you have been most encouraging and supportive of this work and I thank you.

So, next steps for me are being able to spend more time with my far-flung family, as well as to continue with ministry. I shall be returning to my home parish of St. Nicholas in Germantown where I plan to continue with adult education classes as well as establishing my homeless ministry in the up-county, where there are few resources. I will not serve as a deacon, but I am also planning on more ministry work with pilgrimages and retreats.

This will be an exciting time for you. You get to chart a course for Ascension’s future. Ascension has been around for a long time and will continue to do so. I know I am leaving it in good hands. Many people think of a church as the pastor’s but that is not true. Joan and I have been the hired help. The church belongs to you. It is yours to manage, to dream for and to act on. And I know you will do a great job. So enjoy this time of revisioning! I can’t wait to see what the future holds for you!

With Much love and Affection,
Rev. Terri+