

November 2021

Greetings, Beloved Church Family!

We have made it to the eleventh month of the year—the third month of our Church Year! We have made it to the season traditionally set aside for giving thanks. (We know thanksgiving is a lifestyle, not a holiday!). Most importantly, we have made it back to our church! ***To God be the glory!!!***

For 19 months we have been away from one another as a corporate body. For 19 months we have been relegated to virtual worship, unable to fellowship with one another at the House of the Lord! But this month all of us who register for corporate worship will be warmly welcomed back to the place we love so much!

Let me take a moment to acknowledge and admit how proud I am to serve as the second pastor of Wheeler Avenue Baptist Church. The way you responded as a church family to the woes of the pandemic season has served as a testament to your faith, your wisdom and your Christian maturity. None of us expected to be away from the campus as long as we have been, but the way you stayed connected to the church's ministries and mission, have made pastoring in a pandemic much less painful and stressful than it potentially could have been. Your financial stewardship has not only allowed us to maintain our pre-pandemic ministry, we have expanded it to include service all around the world. As I continue to celebrate 17 years of service as your pastor, all I can say is, ***To God be the glory!!!***

So, as we return to our church home, we do so beaming with joy that we have nearly completed the 14-year journey of *Building for the Future*. Your commitment to our building campaign has resulted in a brand new Cathedral in which we will now worship. The pandemic helped us to make strides in the building process, but it also slowed down the acquisition of various materials necessary to complete the Christian Education Complex (most often referred to as the CEC) before our return to the campus. Although that was not what we expected, we have learned to be patient, positive and prayerful through it all! We will soon be able to inhabit that space, but until then, we will be delighted to worship God in the Cathedral, and anticipate our time of Christian Education and fellowship in the CEC in the weeks ahead.

I mentioned to you on the first Sunday of September that we were going back to church! Well, I'm pleased to report that the Lord has made it possible for that vision statement to be manifested among us! I'm so excited! I hope you are too! This month of worship is going to be a tremendous journey as we sing together, pray together, rejoice together and worship the Lord together! (Emphasis on **together!**) Many individuals have worked tirelessly and diligently to make this vision our reality. I thank each one of them for their efforts and excellence. But, you know should know by now that although God used plenty of people to get the work done, He alone is to be praised! So even though I have been a tad repetitive with this statement, permit me to exclaim it just one more time...

TO GOD BE THE GLORY!!!
(The third time's the charm!)

I'm looking forward to seeing you this month! We are going back to church!

With abundant joy and anticipation,

M.D. Cosby