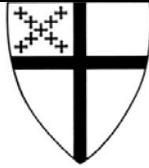


# CHURCH OF THE HOLY APOSTLES

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October 27, 2020

Dear Friends,

This year, Holy Apostles' 176<sup>th</sup>, has been unusual in so many ways. As health and safety considerations have kept us from meeting together in the sanctuary, we've shared the spaces we live and pray in to build a house church in the ether, nurturing each other weekly despite being dispersed so far. Meanwhile, our sanctuary has become a major hub for feeding our hurting city. So much has changed but so much also stays the same: the Church of the Holy Apostles remains an anchor for our faith, a platform for our loving witness to the world, and the site of our hopes for a future together. Even as we ask, with the Psalmist, "how long, Lord?" we live joyfully and faithfully into these challenging times, sustained by God's love, nourished by Christ's compassion and enlivened by the Holy Spirit.



When Covid-19 hit, Holy Apostles was in the midst of a wonderful revival. Under the visionary leadership of Mother Anna, we were deepening our commitments to each other and making new connections to the community. The choir, directed by Tim Pyper, was transporting us to new heights. A new capital plan was underway to make all of our facilities, from the Mission House to the garden, accessible to more people in more different ways. And our bees were making the sweetest honey... Covid-19 has forced us to press pause on these things, but we know we will return to them. We're not sure when this will be, but we know it will be glorious, a fitting continuation of Holy Apostles' long and inspiring history.

In the meantime, the church still depends on our time, talent and treasure. These are trying times for many but, knowing that Holy Apostles remains a beacon of hope and care and justice advocacy means so much to us. We hope you'll join us in recommitting. Know that pledges can be revised at any time.

Because of our changed circumstances, the stewardship process will be simplified this year. As in years past our Sunday gathering will be graced by three Lay Stewardship Homilies. We're confident that these testimonials will remind you of the many moving ways our church community matters to so many, even in the world of Zoom! We won't have stewardship canvassers, but hope you'll turn to your Vestry Liaison if you have questions or suggestions. We'll celebrate a virtual but very real ingathering on **Sunday, November 29**. Please return the enclosed pledge form (or access it online at—<http://www.holyapostlesnyc.org/donate-now/>) as soon as you are able.

  
Mark and Louise  
Wardens