

Stewardship Moment
Mike Green
September 26, 2021



Good morning. I'm Mike Green, a lifelong Episcopalian, the son of an Episcopal Priest, a member of Trinity for over 20 years, and a pretty good guy. This is the second of 3 stewardship talks. The theme we have chosen for the campaign this year is: Trinity – Stronger Together: Remember. Restore. Reimagine.

For me to talk about the restore theme is fitting. You may have heard my summer sermon in which I spoke about my struggle with faith. Not my faith in God or my faith in Trinity or my faith in you. It was my temporary loss of hope and the loss of feeling that things in the big picture will be OK. I'll get back to that in a second.

To get focus on what I would say this morning, I looked up the word restore. One of the definitions is: repair or renovate (a building, work of art, vehicle, etc.) so as to return it to its original condition. They used the word in this sentence:

"the building has been lovingly restored"

Well, my optimism was lovingly restored in the last few months. Lovingly restored by God. Lovingly restored by Devon and Anne. Lovingly restored by this place and the people in it. Now it is up to me to do the work everyday to stay happy and optimistic. I must reimagine myself. I'm not going to expand on that because I know Laura will do a great job next week articulating how wonderful reimagining is.

As we all slogged through the last 18 months, some of us with more difficulty than others, we often wished that things were different, i.e. the way they used to be. The original condition if you will. Then as the pandemic and general craziness marched on, we wondered would things ever be the same. Like in back to the way they used to be, as in restored.

We can easily restore the strength of this community. And I might add that maybe our strength never left, it's just that some of us at times may have forgotten it was there. To bring the awesomeness of Trinity back to the forefront will take some focus and some dollars. It will take a great staff and wonderful programs that are in place and the appropriate funding to make them happen. We are asking everyone to increase their pledge by 20% to fund this wonderful church, which will restore us to our glorious state that we were in 18 months ago.

One could say this isn't the right time to ask. We've all been through a lot and we can't give. One could also say "because we've all been through a lot we MUST give."

We can restore our confidence. We can restore our faith. A generous pledge would be the best demonstration of our confidence and faith. It would be a visceral signal that things will in fact be OK. Because this community is making sure of it!