



A Message from the Senior Pastor

GREETINGS FROM SHALLOWFORD

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It is hard to believe that I have been serving God with this congregation for over three years now. In that time, this church has survived and thrived through a global pandemic together. We have buried beloved saints, baptized precious babies, welcomed new members, and imagined new ministries. Shallowford is a vibrant, engaging congregation, and it is an incredible joy to serve as a pastor here!

Over the summer, church leaders conducted a listening campaign, asking over 100 members what they value and hope for Shallowford. It was a joyful process, and several themes emerged from our conversations.

Above all, our congregation values **community**. In this branch of the body of Christ, we seek to know each other, pray for one another, lean on each other, and walk together on our faith journeys. Any day of the week, you will find Shallowford members practicing faithful community through small groups and Sunday school classes, prayer and visitation ministries, support groups, and more.

Our second highest value is **music and worship**, and we are committed to continuing our strong legacy of music ministry for all ages. In the fall, we said goodbye to our Director of Music Ministries, Emily Floyd, as she headed

to North Carolina to accept a call closer to her husband.

While we miss her greatly, we are also energized about what God might have in store for us next. Without a doubt, this church will continue to glorify God with excellent music.

Shallowford also highly values **mission and service**, which you will read more about in this edition of *Sacred Space*. Through the Shallowford Food Pantry and strong partnerships with nonprofits near and far, we seek to reflect the hope and justice of God in tangible ways. In the reign of God, all hungry bellies will be filled, all people will have a warm place to lay their heads, and every person will know they are loved. Justice will flow like waters, and hope will rise like the sun. When we serve our neighbors in need, we are helping the world to reflect God's vision.

If you are not already a part of this family of faith, we invite you to visit us on a Sunday morning! You will be greeted and welcomed. You will hear scripture, music, and a sermon. Our children will say the most important words you will hear all week: *God loves you, and God loves me.*

Peace,



CONNECT WITH THE CLERGY



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