

September 1, 2014

The Reverend Canon Robert A. Picken to be Our Next Rector



The Reverend Canon Robert A. Picken has been called to be our next rector. Rob will start in the church office Wednesday October 15th and in church Sunday October 19th.

By now you have had an opportunity to read the letter from the Wardens and the Chair of the Search Committee detailing Rob's credentials and some thoughts of the Search travel team after visiting Rob in his current church. If you did not receive the letter it is available on our web site or by calling the church office. In this article I want to share a couple of comments Rob made to the Search Committee and Wardens and some questions he raised that provide some insight into his thinking.

Rob told us "There is no question that St. Paul's possesses the ability to revitalize itself. Your 'motto' is 'People on a Journey.' Your strengths -- beautiful, well-kept buildings; music; devoted parishioners; passion for serving others -- will be what will help you down this new part of the road, which does not disregard but embraces your rich history."

Rob believes that there are good things to be said of a parish that draws people from all over, yet he wondered, as has the Vestry, about our connection to our immediate neighborhood. What can we do to be more visible? Can we use the Rochester Marathon and the Park Ave Festival and can we embrace the arts community in our space in new and different ways?

Rob strongly supports youth formation/ministry. He questioned if we should have had a youth representative on the Search Committee and how we can increase youth activities and inter-generational interaction in the years to come.

Rob is technologically savvy and questions how technology can help us grow. He feels our website is okay, but how can it better serve both newcomers and the congregation? How can we proclaim the Gospel message in new ways while preserving more traditional ones?

Rob sees the need to maintain the strong family-like atmosphere of St. Paul's while trying new things. To do this we need good electronic, paper and personal communications and the opportunity for the congregation to frequently come together in fellowship, prayer and formation.

The Vestry is excited to have Rob join our community and look forward to his leadership in working with the congregation to address these and other questions as we jointly seek what Christ would have us do to strengthen God's kingdom on earth.

Rob shared "There really is no doubt in my mind that with your passions for Christ-centered worship, mission and formation, you will grow both spiritually and numerically in the years to come."

Bob Frank, Senior Warden

Transitory Thoughts

Anticipation grows as we look now toward the arrival of a new rector for our parish community and a new priest in the Diocese of Rochester. At such a time, it is well to reflect on where and who we are as a congregation. As “people on a journey” we have focused our spirituality during the summer season on the stewardship of creation. This has provided a salutary sabbath, especially in our relatively peaceful and lushly beautiful Finger Lakes region of upstate New York.

In our summer worship, however, we have not ceased to hold before God those many places where the creation is ravaged and multitudes are oppressed or dying. By carrying these intercessions into the Holy One’s presence, we receive a return. As members of the Body of Christ we are gracefully empowered for mission opportunities to engage such horrific challenges to the flourishing of God’s creation and the human community as part of it.

Now as the season of “welcome back” begins, our attention increasingly turns toward stewardship of time and talent for such service on many levels and various venues. The rest and recreation of summer serve to restore hope in us for exercising generous ministries and abundantly thankful sharing of resources. With the invigorating crispness of the early autumn days soon to come, may we be energized for such an *ingathering* under new leadership as to renew us for *outgoing* mission that will prove a blessing in and beyond our community!

The Very Rev’d William H. Petersen

Let me close these reflections with a personal thanksgiving for gracious welcomes extended from clergy, staff, and people of St Paul’s since the inception of my transitional ministry with you.

The Very Rev’d William H. Petersen



Welcome Back Sunday: September 14

9am – Breakfast and Youth Program Registration

10am – Dedication of the Reynolds Stained Glass Window

Join us for this festive Sunday to reconnect with your faith community after the busy summer days. We’ll kick off the new program year for our youth and adult formation with breakfast for all at 9am in the Parish Hall.

The fall season is nearly upon us, and that means Sunday school classes will be back in session soon! During this time, families can sign up for Sunday school classes and meet your teachers for the year. We’ll also have plenty of volunteer opportunities for adults and teens available throughout the year to sign up for. For more information or any questions, please contact Amy Welker, Director of Faith Formation for Children, Youth and Families at AWelker@stpaulec.org or 271-2240

During the 10 am service, we will formally dedicate the Reynolds Stained Glass Window installed in July. The window was fully paid for by your generous donations with surplus donations going toward the stained glass window restoration fund to keep all our windows in good repair for generations to come.

Join us for this Sunday of celebrations!

Got Skills?

Do you have an interesting talent or a cool hobby you would like to share? St. Paul's Youth Community Time would love to have you as a guest! After the church service on Sundays during the school year, children gather in the Parish Hall on the Library stage to chat, have a snack and enjoy some fellowship.

To volunteer your time and talent, please contact Amy Welker, Director of Faith Formation for Children, Youth and Families at AWelker@stpaulec.org or 271-2240

Faith Formation

For Heart, Soul and Mind:

You are invited to make these activities a part of your St. Paul's experience. Question and learn as you explore your faith with interested others.

 Sunday Mornings	
9 – 9:45 am September 28 th – October 26 th	Faith in Today's World with Diana Butler Bass Prepare for the "Faith in the World" lecture with a video series from our guest speaker, Diana Butler Bass, followed by our discussion.
9 – 9:45 am November 9 th – December 14 th	Praying with Each week we will pray with well-known writers/theologians. The names include: Parker Palmer, Kathleen Norris, Howard Thurman, Joan Chittister, Madeleine L'Engle and Julian of Norwich. Learn a bit about each person's life, read some selected readings and discuss their meaning in our lives. Perhaps choose one for your Lenten Practice.
9 – 9:50 Every Sunday	Exploring the Bible Through the Sunday Scripture Readings A lay-led group gathers each week for conversation about the Sunday scripture lessons.
 Faith Club: Interfaith Perspectives	
Tuesdays 7:00 pm 9/23, 9/30, 10/7, 10/26, 11/4 East Room	<u>Acts of Faith: The Story of an American Muslim, in the Struggle for the Soul of a Generation</u> by Eboo Patel
 Faith in the World 2014	
Sunday, November 2 nd 4pm – Choral Evensong 5pm – Lecture Sanctuary	Diana Butler Bass – Christianity After Religion. New language to describe our faith in today's world
Monday, November 3 rd 9:00 am – 11:30 am Parish Hall	Workshop with Diane Butler Bass (Registration required)
 Merton Group	
Fridays-beginning in September 2 nd and 4 th Friday each Month 6:30 pm – 8pm East Room	"Bridges to Contemplative Living" – <u>Travelling Your Road to Joy</u> Using contemplative dialogue, we explore our faith journeys through the writings of Thomas Merton.
 Advent Retreat	
November 22, 2014 9am – 3pm Parish Hall	Join us for an Advent Retreat this year before the rush of the Christmas season. Spend a day of quiet and reflection as we prepare for the first celebration of our church year.

For more information on any program contact Nancy Grear at ngrear@stpaulsec.org or (585) 271 – 2240 X17

Reflection from our Rector Search Committee

Now that the Search Committee has completed its work and St. Paul's has called a new Rector, they reflect here on how the experience over the last nine months has impacted their faith. In addition to our prayers, we give them our deep gratitude for the courage and faithfulness with which they undertook this journey of discernment that, in the end, transformed their lives and faith as well. In their own words...

This experience was lay ministry at its best, more rewarding and enjoyable than I expected. We gelled together in community, respectful of one another, and as dedicated advocates for St. Paul's present and future. It reinvigorated my commitment to our beloved parish and its potential. I feel blessed and honored to have served with my fellow committee members.

Pat Moran (echoed by Charlotte Kimberly Haag and Peg Willard)

I am grateful and honored to have served in the search process. This was transformational for me in many aspects: from understanding the mechanics of the Episcopal Church, to team members that are now family, and most of all, connecting in fellowship and prayer with Christ to help select future leadership and direction for St. Paul's. *Duane Swanson*

Months into our search, I began to lose faith and question how we would ever find the right person to lead St. Paul's. There were so many candidates, and it seemed that we just weren't finding the right one. Then someone reminded me that we were supposed to be seeking God's direction for us as a search committee and parish and looking for the person whom God wanted as our rector. I believe that all ten of us on the committee engaged in our own individual discernment process, and that through contemplative prayer, being open to the Holy Spirit, asking for guidance and listening for a response, we reached the point where we could all clearly hear God's call for St. Paul's. The experience was more powerful than I could have ever imagined. *Tim Dewart*

In addition, for me, I found the whole process daunting, rewarding and gratifying to have had such an important charge and to have been able to come to such a positive conclusion. When, in the process, it came to the time to vote, Stan directed us to go into the Church and to visualize both candidates in St. Paul's. It was the perfect pause we needed to collect our individual thoughts. One brief prayer was offered and then we were all left to our own contemplations. We all needed this break from hours of discussion. When we went back to our table to vote, everyone was at peace with how they were going to vote. The fact that the first vote was unanimous is testimony to how well the community of the committee had come together and we all left with a feeling of thanks to God for his guidance. *Ed Rubel*

The Search Committee began by gathering with a group of St. Paul's members whom I knew by name yet didn't really know. As we prayed together, worked together, and laughed together, we began to think together about the future for St. Paul's. With such a huge decision looming, the prayers we shared beginning and ending each meeting, each time with candidates and as a congregation each Sunday, created an environment of openness and peace. As we talked together and listened to the thoughts each person shared, our final decision became clearer. It has been a truly enlightening experience and I am thankful for this opportunity. *Judy Carpenter*

This was one of the most rewarding experiences in which I have ever taken part. Not only did I forge many new friendships, I learned a great deal about the history of St. Paul's, and from that, determined that we have a very strong spiritual core. With guidance from the Holy Spirit, we can expand on that core to make St. Paul's stronger and more vibrant not only within the church walls but outside of them, as well. *Dan Wright*

Imagine being charged with the awesome responsibility of finding a new spiritual leader for St Paul's, and your teammates are nine other individuals whom you know but don't really know. Through trust, honesty, frequent prayer, great leadership, and the guidance of the Holy Spirit, we were able to move mountains of paperwork, delineate the qualities we were looking for in a new rector, and match those attributes to the many applicants. It has been a pleasure and an inspiration to get to know and work with this incredible group of committed and faithful parishioners. May our selection bring St. Paul's the leadership, compassion, and energy to move forward in fulfilling God's work in our community and beyond. *Nancy Reale*

This journey started as a personnel search and concluded as a transformative, spiritual experience. The past few months reinforced my belief in the power of prayer and delivered a deeper understanding of discernment ... in our case trying to understand God's plan for St. Paul's.

Last but not least I am grateful for the privilege of working closely with a committee that developed into a family through our shared experience. A quote from one of our guiding resources says it best: "Search committees are not in the hiring business. They are in the church transformation business." *Stan Refermat, Chair*

REAPers



REAPers – Read, Enjoy And Participate – a book group. Easy to join, since we read a short story for each session, meeting monthly on the second Thursday at 10 a.m. A short story means that each meeting is self-contained with no need to worry about missing a month.

We meet in Wainwright Hall and many go to lunch together afterwards. Please contact Carol Panzer, 586-6351, with any questions and to get started with reading material.

Confirmation, Reaffirmation of Baptism and Reception into the Episcopal Church



The Bishop is visiting St. Paul's on **Sunday, October 5**. This visit provides an annual opportunity for anyone in the parish to receive the laying of hands by the Bishop for....

Confirmation – For anyone baptized as an infant wishing to claim and voice their baptismal vows as an adult

Reaffirmation of Baptism – For a baptized and confirmed adult who has recently renewed a commitment to faith, especially after a period of being away from the church community

Reception into the Episcopal Church – For anyone wishing to formally join the Episcopal Church who was raised in another Christian denomination (i.e.: Roman Catholic, Orthodox, etc.)

Please speak with one of the clergy if you are interested in knowing more.

ELCA Bishop to be Installed at St Paul's.

On Saturday afternoon, September 6, Lutherans from all over Upstate NY will converge on Rochester and St Paul's for the installation of the Rev'd John Macholz as the newly elected bishop of the Upstate Synod. Our own Bishop Singh will participate with ELCA bishops in the laying-on-of-hands and prayer during the Eucharistic liturgy. This is in accord with *Called to Common Mission (CCM)*, the charter document establishing full communion between the Episcopal Church and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America since 2000.

It is particularly serendipitous that St Paul's is host to this event during my transitional ministry with you. Bishop-elect Macholz's desire to hold his installation (we would say, "consecration") in our parish represents an ecumenical gesture toward expressing the reality of full communion. In welcoming our Lutheran guests for this liturgy on your behalf, it will be a joy for me to participate in a concrete expression of our life and mission together. From 1978-1991, I served on the Lutheran-Episcopal Dialogue that resulted in *CCM*. During and after that time, I was very active in interpreting this ecumenical development in the life of our respective churches in many venues.

Meanwhile, for nearly two decades, from 1993 onwards I served as a member of the Anglican-Lutheran International Commission as jointly established by the Anglican Consultative Council and the Lutheran World Federation as agencies of our two world communions. Our mission is to oversee and promote the growth of full communion between Lutherans and Anglicans globally.

The ten ALIC members came from all over the world and our meetings took us to countries on every continent save Antarctica. But, now, as they say, for me and for the congregation of St Paul's, "it all comes home" – right now, right here. Let us rejoice!

(The Very Rev'd) William H. Petersen

Sharing Our Gifts with St. Paul's Adopt-a-Classroom

How prepared for school this year are the children you know? As Monroe County children get ready to return to school this month, thoughts may turn to replacing outgrown school clothes and purchasing school supplies at back-to-school seasonal sales. But what about the other things that prepare a young student for success in school like reading readiness skills?

Children who grow up in poverty (as almost half of the children in the city of Rochester do) typically enter school with far fewer skills that prepare them to be successful readers than their counterparts in more affluent households. For instance, those in poverty hear an average of 30 million fewer words by age five than those from more privileged backgrounds. Half of the kindergarteners entering school who come from households in poverty cannot write their own names. Many don't recognize any letters of the alphabet.

When students don't read at grade level by third grade, they are four times less likely to graduate high school by age 19. If they are also growing up in poverty, that rate soars to 13 times less likely to graduate, a problem that especially plagues the city of Rochester.

For 16 years, St. Paul's Adopt-a-Classroom has helped to fill that preparedness gap by offering volunteer one-on-one literacy skills tutoring and gifts of quality reading materials to the students of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., School #9 in Rochester. School #9 is the largest bilingual elementary school in Rochester, with more than 700 students in pre-kindergarten through sixth grade and a recently expanded Boys Academy serving young men to eighth grade.

The socioeconomics of the area it serves present many challenges for the students of School #9. For example, almost 100 percent of the students receive free or reduced price lunches and many eat breakfast at the school as well. More than one-third of its student body has limited English proficiency. Less than 20 percent of its third-graders have met learning standards in English Language Arts.

Volunteers from Adopt-a-Classroom meet with students in kindergarten, first- and second-grade weekly to share read-aloud time, skills practice, and reading games. Volunteers also support the students of School #9 by helping in the school library. Before February and summer school vacation breaks, every student tutored in the Adopt-a-Classroom program receives five new reading level appropriate books to help support and enhance their new reading skills when school is not in session. For some students, these vacation books may be the only books in their homes.

In past years, every student school-wide has had an opportunity to select one new book for his or her birthday thanks to St. Paul's Adopt-a-Classroom. For the upcoming school year, only students in second grade and below will have access to birthday books because outreach funding has been reduced.

This year Adopt-a-Classroom joyfully celebrates its 16th year of serving the students of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. School #9. Tutors and volunteers come from St. Paul's, seven other Episcopal churches in the diocese, and several churches in the Rochester area. Tutors work one or two hours per week, beginning in October and continuing through May, with many opportunities to help throughout the year.

Here are some ways you can help:

- Volunteer to tutor weekly for an hour or two, substitute occasionally, or help in the library;
- Volunteer to help sort and pack bags of vacation books or wrap gifts;
- Donate funds for birthday books, vacation books, tutoring supplies, or field trips;
- Collect Box Tops for Education to support the School #9 PTSA;
- Pray for this vital ministry, that it may continue to bless the lives of children, families, staff and educators at School #9, and the lives of the program volunteers and the St. Paul's parish.

To learn more about Adopt-a-Classroom or to volunteer, contact Paula Valeri, City School Outreach Coordinator, at 585-748-7048 or pdvaleri@gmail.com.

October Dates to Remember

Sunday 10/5 – Bishop Singh's Visit

Blessing of the Animals

Sunday 10/12 – St. Paul's Ministry Fair

Sunday 10/19 – New Rector's First Sunday

Foodlink Benefit Concert

Sunday 10/26 – Stewardship Ingathering

Welcome New Member

Through Baptism

August 10, 2014

Loden Harry Weeks

Son of Brandon and Kimberly Ross Weeks

Where Your Treasure Is.....

Praise of God and the return of "Thanks to God" is the work of our congregation, collectively and individually. In thought and beauty it must be the best from each of us. Let us use our personal financial resources to support our "Spiritual" home: St. Paul's Episcopal Church. Join me and follow Matthew 6:21 "Where your treasure is, there will be your heart also". We need everyone to pledge for 2015. Thank you.

Jeanne L. Montgomery for the Stewardship Committee

Project Homeless Connect Coat Drive



**Project
Homeless
Connect**
ROCHESTER

Once again, St. Paul's will participate in the annual Project Homeless Connect Rochester Coat Drive. Now, until October 13th, a large cardboard bin with a poster attached that will identify the program will be set up in the Parish Hall. Please drop your gently used winter coats for men, women and children in the designated bin. The coats will be picked up during the week of October 13th. Last year, thanks to your generosity, we collected over 100 coats to help keep Rochester's homeless warm during the winter months. Please consider helping out again this year.

New Acolytes Needed



**Get Involved
in Worship**

We are looking for new people to serve in worship as Acolytes-whether you have a child who is interested in learning to be a new Acolyte or you served when you were younger and are looking to get involved in service as an adult - now is the time to join our team! Come try it.

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New Contact Information for

Fred & Jane Reynolds

579 Sagamore Ave., #84

Portsmouth, NY 03801

Email:

fredericwreynolds@gmail.com

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AA Meetings @ St. Paul's

Tuesday – 6:00 pm – The Women's Home Group

Wednesday – 8:15 pm – The Young & The Reckless

Thursday – 8:15 pm – The Academy Group

Friday – 10:05 pm – Heard It Through the

Grapevine

Saturday – 10:00 pm – Last House on the Block

Mon—9/01	Labor Day – Church Office Closed
Wed—9/03	12:00 PM Holy Eucharist with Healing
Thu—9/04	8:00 AM Morning Prayer 4:30 PM Holy Eucharist at St. John's Meadows
Sat—9/06	2:00 PM Lutheran Synod Bishop Installation & Reception
Sun—9/07	8:00 AM & 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist 9:00 AM Adult Bible Study - Exploring the Bible 5:30 PM St. Paul's Child Care Center Board of Directors
Mon—9/08	7:00 PM Parish Operations Meeting
Tue—9/09	12:00 PM Holy Eucharist with Healing 4:00 PM Investment Policy Committee 5:15 PM Water for South Sudan Executive Meeting
Thu—9/11	8:00 AM Morning Prayer 10:00 AM REAPers
Fri—9/12	6:30 PM The Merton Group
Sat—9/13	10:00 AM Prayer Shawl Ministry
Sun—9/14	8:00 AM & 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist
Dedication	9:00 AM Adult Bible Study - Exploring the Bible
Reynolds' Window	9:00 AM Welcome Back Breakfast / Youth Program Registration 10:00 AM Sunday School 11:15 AM Youth Community Time
Mon—9/15	9:30 AM EfM - Education for Ministry 4:30 PM Newsletter Deadline 5:30 PM Outreach Council Meeting
Tue—9/16	12:00 PM RAIHN Executive Committee Meeting 7:00 PM Vestry Meeting
Wed—9/17	12:00 PM Holy Eucharist with Healing 12:30 PM Retired Clergy Group Meeting
Thu—9/18	8:00 AM Morning Prayer 4:00 PM Holy Eucharist at Valley Manor
Sat—9/20	10:00 AM Baptism Preparation Class
Sun—9/21	8:00 AM & 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist
Blessing of Prayer Shawls	9:00 AM Adult Bible Study - Exploring the Bible 9:00 AM & 11:15 AM Stewardship Forum 10:00 AM Sunday School 11:15 AM Youth Community Time
Mon—9/22	9:30 AM EfM - Education for Ministry 7:00 PM Property Committee
Tue—9/23	5:30 PM RAIHN Board of Director's Meeting 7:00 PM Faith Club: Interfaith Perspectives
Wed—9/24	12:00 PM Holy Eucharist with Healing 6:15 PM Water for South Sudan Board Meeting
Thu—9/25	8:00 AM Morning Prayer
Fri—9/26	6:30 PM The Merton Group
Sat—9/27	9:00 AM Confirmation Retreat
Sun—9/28	8:00 AM & 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist 9:00 AM Adult Formation: 'Faith In The World' Preview 9:00 AM Adult Bible Study - Exploring the Bible 10:00 AM Sunday School 11:15 AM Youth Community Time
Mon—9/29	9:30 AM EfM - Education for Ministry
Tue—9/30	7:00 PM Faith Club: Interfaith Perspectives



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Newsletter Reminder: The *Epistle* is published on the first of each month. Submit your articles by the 15th of the month to: publicity@stpaulsec.org
Newsletter Coordinator: Kathy Kingston

Church Office Hours: M-F – 10 am – 4 pm

Our Vision

We pray that all who enter St. Paul's experience God's presence in this community of faith, a community that through Christ strives to be loving, joyous, inclusive, transforming and filled with God's Grace.

St. Paul's Ministry Staff

Priest-in-Charge
The Very Rev. William H. Petersen

Associate Rector
The Rev. Jennifer Zogg

Director of Music
Dr. Robert Poovey

Clergy Assistant
Judy Loveland

Music Assistant
Karl Robson

Finance & Operations Mgr.
Dick Stryker

Director of Faith Formation for Adults
Nancy Grear

Accounting Assistant
Lisa Hubbard

Director of Faith Formation for Children, Youth & Families
Amy Welker

Maintenance
Bob Potter, Supervisor
Dave McEntee, Assistant
Jeremy Bennett, Assistant

View the full church calendar at:

www.stpaulsec.org

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