



St. Luke's Episcopal Church

806 Thirteenth Street, Altoona, PA 16602-2422

May 23, 2010 – Pentecost Sunday

Dear Friends in Christ,

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

It is with great joy indeed that the Vestry and Discernment Committee announce that The Reverend Paul W. Towers (Fr. Paul) has accepted the position of Rector of St. Luke's. He will begin mid-June.

Fr. Paul grew up on Staten Island, New York. He holds a Masters of Divinity from Drew University, Masters Degree in Psychology from Marywood University, and Doctor of Ministry from Virginia Theological Seminary. In 1967 he enlisted in the Navy where he served in Viet Nam. While in seminary he served as a Chaplain in the US Navy where he also served as a reservist with the Marine Corps, Navy and National Guard.

Fr. Paul was an ordained minister in the United Methodist Church for more than 22 years before moving to the Episcopal Church. He was ordained deacon in 2007 and was recently ordained priest in the Diocese of Central New York. As you will see, he brings with him a wealth of experience in outreach ministry, pastoral care, youth work and a love for the liturgy.

The Discernment Committee, using the survey completed by you, the parishioners, defined four priorities for calling a new rector: Build and care for our Parish Family; Nurture spiritual growth and develop leadership to include all ages; Expand outreach to include youth in the area; and Develop our financial health to improve our physical plant. We feel certain the Fr. Paul is called to help us with these goals.

Fr. Paul and his wife, Marian, have been married for almost 33 years. Marian holds a master's degree in Human Services Administration. She is currently the director of a counseling center. They will be moving here from Endwell, NY with their cat, Patience.

Attached is a letter from Fr. Paul that he has asked that we share with you. His enthusiasm about coming to St. Luke's is evident. He is very eager to begin our journey as we continue to serve Christ in our church and community.

Fr. Paul's first Sunday with us will be June 20th. Please plan to be here to welcome Fr. Paul and Marian. We can't wait for you to meet them!

Dudley Karstensen

Chairman of the Discernment Committee

Mary E. Amato

Senior Warden



May 17, 2010

Dear Friends in Christ, at St. Luke Episcopal Church Altoona, Pa

Marian and I are delighted in the call to St. Luke's for we both believe it to be God's discerned will. Mere words will do little to express the joy that fills our hearts as we join St. Luke's parish and unite with you in ministry. Of course, we naturally have a degree of apprehension venturing into the unknown. However, as we look forward to the possibilities of our future together in ministry apprehension gives way to promise. I will be answerable as a priest and pastor to you all. Like a shepherd, I will love and care for you and learn to call you by name. As teacher and friend, I will continue to support your journey in faith as we learn together and communicate the Gospel wherever the possibility makes itself known. I will maintain our traditional heritage as Episcopalians while remaining true to our moral and ethical compass as we progress ahead.

To provide a little background on us, this July 2nd Marian and I will celebrate our 33rd anniversary. God has blessed us with a great love for each other, yet seen it fit not to bless us with children, but we live together with a cat named Patience which, you will learn quickly lives up to her name. Marian will celebrate her birthday on October 17 (year, top secret). Around the farmland of Westfield, MA is where Marian lived until she left for college where we first came upon one another in the campus bookstore. We have been together ever since. Marian holds a master's degree in Human services Administration. She served as a director of a Senior Citizens Center and currently is the director of a Samaritan Counseling Center, a mile away from where we fare, Endwell, NY.

I was born on August 28 and raised on Staten Island, New York, which gave me a diverse and inclusive experience while growing up. In June of 1967, I enlisted in the US Navy during the Viet Nam War and served in various theaters. After honorable discharge from the Navy, I attended Valley Forge Christian College, Phoenixville, PA and later Drew Theological Seminary, Madison, NJ, for my Master of Divinity degree. In my meddler year at seminary, I joined the US Navy's Chaplain Corp. where I had the honor to serve, as a reservist, with the Marine Corp., Navy, and Coast Guard. I was ordained an Elder in the United Methodist Church in 1985 and served various Methodist Churches throughout Pennsylvania and New York. In 2001, I graduated from Virginia Theological Seminary with a Doctor of Ministry degree and a deep emersion into the Episcopal Church. After 22 years of ordained ministry in the UMC, Marian and I converted to the Episcopal Church and on June 9, 2007 Bishop Gladstone B. Adams III conferred Holy Orders upon me in the Diocese of Central New York. Moreover, I am happy to say, I bring to St. Luke, over 20 years of ordained experience serving Christ and his Church faithfully, and an abundance of love for His people.

Grace and Peace,

Fr. Paul & Marian Towers