



St. Paul's Cathedral

Built of Hopes, and Dreams, and Visions

Summer Pastoral Letter

July, 15, 2024

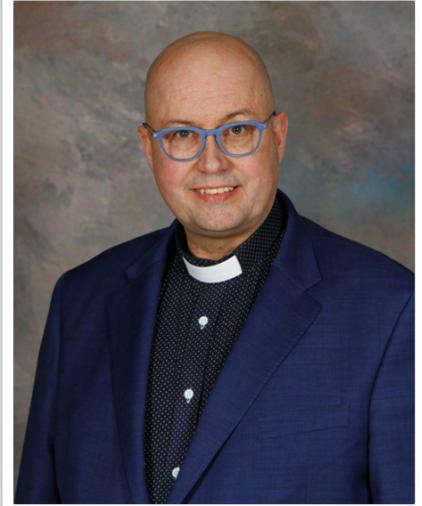
Greetings Fellow Sojourners,

Today marks six months since I became the Dean of Huron and Rector of St. Paul's. I find it hard to fathom to be honest. While I know mine and Catherinanne's time here with you has been short, I very much feel as though we have been journeying together for years.

It has me questioning if perhaps this is because — this community and I — we have been formed in past years for a time such as this? Don't get me wrong. I am not suggesting some sort of sappy sentimentality that suggests that "we were destined to come together." I am more questioning the nature of what, in the name of God, could be at play when we enter into community with a willingness to be formed.

I think it would be fair to say that I am not a typical candidate for you to choose as rector of your cathedral parish. I know that a vacant cathedral parish is not typical of what would provoke me to enter into discerning the time was right for me to leave a growing, vibrant and engaged suburban parish. I could not have guessed a decade ago that I would ever allow my name to stand for Dean. This cathedral community likely looked at my very public, outspoken and outward focused brand of ministry as interesting but not befitting a community with a "cathedral status." So how did we get here? "Mann Tracht, Un Gott Lacht" is an old Yiddish adage, meaning, "Man Plans, and God Laughs."¹

I am convinced that God is at work in our church and in our neighbourhood. It excites me to ponder the new and creative ways that we might join God in that work. In these first six months I have seen first hand the gifts that are present at St. Paul's. I believe that God is calling us to a radical hospitality. This is not easy work, but I have been heartened by the ways I have witnessed many of you go out of your way to welcome Jesus in the stranger. This is not easy work, but this costly discipleship, and your willingness to engage it, is at the heart of our future as a vibrant and growing downtown parish. In her Book **Making Room: Recovering Hospitality as a Christian Tradition**, Christine Pohl reminds us that, *"As a way of life, an act of love, an expression of faith, our hospitality reflects and anticipates God's welcome. Simultaneously costly and wonderfully rewarding, hospitality often involves small deaths and little resurrections. By God's grace we can grow more willing, more eager, to open the door to a needy neighbour, a weary sister or brother, a stranger in distress. Perhaps as we open that door more regularly, we will grow*



¹ <https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/blog/our-emotional-footprint/201602/man-plans-and-god-laughs#:~:text='Mann%20Tracht%2C%20Un%20Gott%20Lacht,unforeseen%20roadblocks%20can%20deter%20us.>

increasingly sensitive to the quiet knock of angels. In the midst of a life-giving practice, we too might catch glimpses of Jesus who asks for our welcome and welcomes us home.”² In these first months I have glimpsed Jesus. Thank you for becoming increasingly sensitive to the quiet knock of angels.

I have intentionally spent these first six months getting to know this community. It was important to me to spend these months discerning what the needs of the community are and how we might meet those needs to be a vibrant and relevant downtown parish community for years to come. Some of this work was done before my arrival and allowed for the Wardens to hire Kevin Miller as our Executive Director. Kevin Miller has been working hard with our Wardens, Parish Council, Finance Committee, the Trinity Centres Foundation, St. Paul’s Social Services, and Woodland Cemetery, to help us organize ourselves in such a way that we are best resourced, and equipped administratively to flourish in years to come. Kevin has also been a valuable sounding board for all of us as we spend these months discerning the way forward. While our time of discernment is not yet done (*when is a community ever done discerning?*), I wanted to share with you some exciting changes that the leadership of St. Paul’s is now set to implement.

The pastoral needs of St. Paul’s cannot be met by the Dean alone. To be clear, I entered into this knowing this to be true. Bishop Townshend appointed me knowing this to be true. We both agreed that I take a sensible time period to discern the needs of the community and build out a pastoral team to fit those needs. Having tended to that work, and gained input and approval from the wardens, the Finance Committee and the Parish Council, I am excited to announce the new Pastoral Team at St. Paul’s Cathedral.

DEACON (Non-Stipendiary)

The Rev’d Pat Henderson

Pat Henderson needs no introduction. She is an incredible gift to our community. Ordained a Deacon in 2007, Pat has been a faithful servant in formal ministry ever since. Among other things, Pat schedules and trains our Servers, is an exceptional pastoral visitor, schedules and organizes our Long Term Care and Retirement Village services, preaches from time to time, and, of course, fulfils the Deacon’s role during liturgy. Pat is also a trusted advisor to the Rector. With her exceptional knowledge of the community, Pat has been integral in the time of transition from our previous Dean to our current Dean, serving as a consistent pastoral presence throughout all the changes in leadership.



DIRECTOR OF FAITH FORMATION (NON-STIPENDIARY)

The Rev’d Dr. Dawn Davis

The Rev’d Dr. Dawn Davis is Assistant Professor of Contextual Theology and Director of Leadership for Ministry Programs at Huron University College. She’s an experienced Anglican priest with professional human resources certification, specializing in training and development, and organizational behaviour. Dawn also holds a doctorate in ministry in spiritual formation. Dawn previously served as Faith Formation Coordinator for the Diocese of Niagara. Dawn has a passion for inspiring



² Christine Pohl, *Making Room: Recovering Hospitality as a Christian Tradition*, (Grand Rapids, William B Eerdmans Publishing Co, 1999). Kindle Location 2115.

and growing faith and confidence among lay leaders. She recently co-edited a book with Matthew Floding called *Experience: Spiritual Formation in Theological Education*. She authored the Revive Program through RenewalWorks, a ministry of Forward Movement, to help parishes facilitate growth in spiritual vitality. Revive is an international Program developed by Dr. Davis whereby lay leaders will join their ordained minister in a safe, small-group setting, where they will gain confidence in praying, understanding scripture and developing their sense of call. Those completing the program will be able to share their spiritual experiences and grow in intimacy with God as followers of Jesus. The Diocese of Huron is working to offer Revive to Congregational Coaches and Lay Leaders across the diocese and we hope to make St. Paul's the epicentre of this effort. Dawn is excited to be joining the team here. We see the Faith Formation Director assisting in forming the community of disciples, helping foster a climate where our parishioners can spiritually flourish. The Faith Formation Director will advise and assist the Rector (when available) in offering Adult Christian Education events. Dawn and the Dean will also explore opportunities for growth between St. Paul's Cathedral and Huron University College.

PRIEST ASSOCIATE & DIRECTOR OF PASTORAL CARE (PART-TIME STIPENDIARY)

The Venerable Sam Thomas

The Venerable Sam Thomas is no stranger to St. Paul's. Sam's seven-week interim ministry immediately prior to our Dean's arrival was formative for Sam as well as for the people of the Parish. Sam has recently retired from his role as Archdeacon of Huron West. Two years ago Sam retired from full-time parish ministry, concluding twenty years as Rector of St. Michael and All Angel's Church. Sam brings his wealth of experience from thirty-eight years of ordained ministry.

As Priest Associate and Director of Pastoral Care at St. Paul's, Sam will provide general support to the rector in all aspects of parish ministry. This will include liturgical leadership, special services, educational opportunities, preaching, formation with cathedral staff, administrative support, providing vacation coverage, and acting as special advisor and counsel to the Rector. Specifically, this position will pay particular attention to the pastoral needs of our parishioners. This will include, but is not limited to:

- *Working with our Deacon, and with our Rector to tend to the pastoral care of our parishioners in times of struggle and in times of strength.*
- *Assisting with the building and training of a Pastoral Care team.*
- *Assisting the baptized to fulfill their covenant to seek and serve Christ in all persons, to love neighbour as self, and to respect the dignity of every human being.*
- *Giving direction and leadership to healing ministries.*
- *Assisting in building a ministry to the bereaved.*
- *Sharing in ministry to three Longterm Care/Retirement facilities.*
- *Sharing in discerning and delivering care to our unhoused downtown neighbours.*
- *Assisting all lay and ordained leadership in developing a plan to confront racism in the church and support initiatives to embrace and enhance diversity in the Cathedral community.*

Sam will be a great addition to the St. Paul's Pastoral Team. This is a two year appointment beginning Thursday, August 1, 2024.



HONORARY ASSISTANT EMERITUS (NON-STIPENDIARY)

The Rev'd Marian Haggerty (Canon Pastor Emeritus)

The Rev'd Marian Haggerty is a lifelong member of St. Paul's Cathedral. She needs no introduction. Marian was ordained over 25 years ago and served in several parishes before retiring and returning to her spiritual home — St. Paul's Cathedral. Marian served as Honorary Assistant for several years before retiring from that role on the arrival of our Dean.

Marian will provide support for ongoing Pastoral Care to our Longterm Care and Retirement homes. She will also assist with Wednesday liturgies, and assist regularly on Sundays with our Healing Ministries. When called upon, Marian will provide support to the Rector, and the Priest Associate.



I am excited about these additions to the Team here at St. Paul's. In the months ahead, we will build on the work that has already begun. I am thankful to Sam for stepping in for the weeks that Catherinanne and I are away in July. We look forward to returning to be with you all for Sunday July 28. The church does not shut down for the summer and we do hope you are able to get out on Sundays and join us. We also need your financial support throughout the summer. Please continue your offering in July and August and if you've not already done so please consider signing up for Pre-Authorized Giving. Contact the church office and Carrie Fieldhouse can assist you in setting up Pre-Authorized Giving.

Meanwhile, look for special events and opportunities for community building this summer. The first of which is a Celebration of Africa. We have seen growth here in these last number of months and much of that growth is coming from newcomers to our country, many of whom are from Africa. I wrote about radical hospitality earlier. In the last six months we have

African Night Planning Team



St. Paul's Cathedral
Invites you to an evening of
**AFRICAN FOOD
MUSIC & PRAYER**
JULY 28, 2024
530 PM
Food Will be Provided.
You are welcomed
to bring a dish to share
Do you play a traditional
African Instrument?
BRING IT ALONG!!
PLEASE RSVP
using the QR code

472 RICHMOND STREET, LONDON, ON. N6A 3E6

welcomed people from Ghana, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Kenya, South Africa, Uganda, and Sudan, to name but a few. These folks come with a plethora of Anglican traditions. If we are to celebrate our collective traditions here in this cathedral parish, it will be important for us to get to know more about traditions that are different than the European traditions we have exclusively celebrated. Please use the QR Code to RSVP that you will attend. If you have trouble using the code, please reach out to the Parish Office for help. ***Please note that while this was originally advertised as a potluck event, the planning team decided to prepare food enough for all. You do not need to bring food to attend** (though if you wish to bring a dish to share, that's ok too).

I pray you all enjoy the rest of the summer season. Join us when you can and pray for your community when you cannot. Please pray for the new Pastoral Team at St. Paul's and offer a prayer for me and for Catherinanne as well.

Peace,

Kevin
Dean and Rector

