



July 15, 2022

Dear St. Paul's Community,

By the time you are reading this, we will have announced on Sunday, July 17<sup>th</sup>, the Vestry's choice for Rector. We are very excited that The Reverend Sarah Stewart has answered the Vestry's call to be St. Paul's seventh Rector. While nothing is better than getting to know someone in person, we'd like to share a little about Sarah and why the Vestry voted unanimously to ask her to be our Rector after considering the wonderful finalist candidates that the Search Committee recommended to the Vestry. And, at the end of this letter, we've provided a way to get to know her a little better through a video clip that she sent us which we shared at Sunday's announcement.

In short, Sarah first discovered a home in the Episcopal Church in Colorado when she was in college after spending her teen years in San Jose, CA. Her first career was as an Investment Advisor for a well-known investment firm where she became a Vice-President at an early age. Her career took her from Colorado to Washington, DC where she expanded her participation in Episcopal Church life there including being a lay leader for Christian formation, an altar guild and pastoral care member and serving on the Vestry. During this time, she decided to follow her heart and the call that she was perceiving which resulted in a degree from Yale Divinity School and a successful candidacy for ordination in the Episcopal Church. After that, she served as Associate Rector in medium and large-sized churches in Wichita, Kansas and New York City before being called to be Associate Rector for Young Adults and Innovation at All Saints' Episcopal Church in Atlanta, Georgia, one of the largest Episcopal Churches in the country.

We believe that Sarah's varied experiences as both a lay person and Associate Rector from Children's and Youth Ministry, to Outreach, Pastoral Care, Adult Education, small group formation to gifted preaching as well as her financial, planning and communications background will serve her and us well at St. Paul's. For example, during the pandemic, she put together—virtually of course—an intergenerational group of women for weekly discussions and she most recently returned from leading teens—and some adults—on a second outreach mission to Greece. As her current Rector said about Sarah in a letter to his congregation today, *"Sarah is an adept leader and an attentive and grace-filled pastor, a truth many of you will have experienced first-hand through her pastoral care work and the attentiveness she offers to everyone she*

*meets. Sarah is very thoroughly a parish priest, and while I am very sad to share here that she will soon be leaving us, it also feels right that someone of her gifts for parish leadership now has the opportunity to offer those gifts as a rector. . .”*

In addition to her varied experiences and the support of so many in her current church who see her potential as a Rector, the Vestry was very impressed as we met with her over two days with the personal qualities that she will bring to St. Paul's. These include a deep spirituality which shines, compassion and empathy, optimism, joyfulness, and a yearning for relationships and collaboration, to name but a few. She loves liturgy and preaching and is looking forward to working with all of St. Paul's Ministry Teams and programs. She is optimistic about the future of churches in general but specifically the Episcopal Church with its balance of traditions and the willingness to be open to new possibilities.

Sarah will begin her rectorship of St. Paul's on September 1 and celebrate her first services on Sunday, September 4. Our big welcome will be on our traditional regathering Sunday — September 11 — when, after the 10am service, we will have a barbecue to which all are invited to meet and talk with Sarah. Other welcoming plans are in the works as well as opportunities to meet with Sarah in small groups and individually as the fall unfolds. Look for these opportunities after she joins us.

If you haven't already seen the video clip of Sarah sending greetings to St. Paul's community, you can find it on our website — [stpaulsburlingame.org](http://stpaulsburlingame.org) — and clicking on Meet St. Paul's new Rector. In the meantime, we invite you to join us in welcoming Sarah as St. Paul's seventh Rector. We very much look forward to St. Paul's journey with her in the years ahead.

On behalf of St. Paul's Vestry,

Tish Busselle  
Sr. Warden

Lisa Borgeson  
Co-Jr. Warden

Jay Janton  
Co-Jr. Warden