



## ST PAUL'S CHURCH

*An Historic Church Serving The Living God*

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### ANNOUNCEMENT OF APPOINTMENT OF NEW RECTOR

**The Rev'd Paul H. Friesen, B.A., M.Div., Th.M., Ph.D.**

*Parochial Committee, Sunday, April 17, 2005*

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This morning I am delighted to announce that, after an extensive selection process and following the unanimous recommendation of your Parochial Committee, our Bishop has appointed as rector of St. Paul's Church the **Rev'd Dr. Paul Friesen**. His appointment is effective August 1, 2005.

At the moment, Paul is diocesan chaplain at Dalhousie University and University of King's College, and priest-in-charge at King's College Chapel, posts he has held since 1999. His pastoral and ministry experience stretches back to 1980, when he was for several years an assistant pastor at a Baptist church in Toronto. Paul was curate and associate priest for a number of years at St. Mary Magdalene Church in Toronto. He and his wife, Dr. Janet Friesen, also were parishioners at Little Trinity Church in Toronto, an evangelical congregation many here know well, where he was a small group leader for six years.

Paul is no stranger to St. Paul's. Janet and their daughters, Anya and Talia, worship with us during the 9 am service and actively participate in our children's programs year-round. Paul has also joined his family here when the chapel at King's closes for the summer. You may also recall that Paul was a guest celebrant and preacher several times during John Newton's sabbatical in 2003.

Paul has also had a significant academic career. He has been a professor of history and chair of the department of humanities and social sciences at Tyndale College in Toronto, and later Assistant Dean of Students and scholar associate at Wycliffe College. Paul's wife, Janet, is also a scholar, and she is currently teaching English at the Halifax Grammar School.

Paul's education includes a Bachelor of Arts in history from the Victoria University (University of Toronto), a Master of Divinity from Tyndale Seminary, a Master of Theology from Harvard University and a Ph.D. in church history from the University of St. Michael's College at the University of Toronto. As well, he has training in counseling and social work.

Despite his academic credentials, Paul feels called to parish ministry. Through many hours of interviews and conversations with Paul and his referees, our committee has appreciated his deep and rooted faith in Jesus Christ, his focus on God's Word to his people as revealed through the Scriptures, his sensitivity and pastoral heart, his commitment to our church and the importance of worship, and his keen intellect.

Some of you know that Paul's current ministry is at King's College Chapel, a place whose liturgical and worship traditions are different—and certainly higher—than our traditions at St. Paul's. One of Paul's strengths is his experience with and openness to different expressions of

Anglican liturgy, and he has affirmed with us that both our 9 am and 11 am services are authentic expressions of worship. Paul is supportive of our distinctives and traditions in worship at St. Paul's. At the same time, we look forward to being challenged through his spiritual leadership as we seek to make our worship of God in this place even more creative, participatory and authentic at all of our services.

In the parish profile we developed as we started this process—a document we all had a hand in drafting—we indicated that St. Paul's was seeking a leader who would, by word and deed, proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ to all people. We were looking for someone who would be a spiritual example, a leader and team player, a compelling preacher and teacher and an effective pastor and mentor. We also identified numerous challenges facing our parish. The committee is unanimous in its belief that Paul and his gifts match these requirements. Together, with God's help and direction, we are convinced that he will lead us into an exciting time of renewed ministry in our parish, our diocese and our church.

Paul has asked me to convey the following message to you this morning:

*"I am delighted to take up the offer of the rectorship of St. Paul's and regret only leaving behind the wonderful congregation of King's College Chapel who introduced me to King's College and to this Diocese. I very much look forward to joining my own family at St. Paul's and getting to know you all, and entering into ministry with you."*

In accordance with the canons, the announcement of Paul's departure from King's will be made at the end of its community service this morning.

As a final note, a key aspect of our work on the parochial committee has been a continuing emphasis on prayer—we have prayed from the first day of the process that God would have his hand on our new rector and on our church. We believe that he continues to answer our prayers. Please pray for Paul, Janet and their family and for our parish as we look forward to celebrating his new ministry here!



**Parochial Committee**

*Michael Messenger, chair*

*Rebekah Powell, secretary*

*Derek Hounsell*

*Kathleen Flowerdew*

*Bill Lord*

*Fiona Day*

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**ALMIGHTY GOD**, *giver of every good thing:*

*Look graciously on this congregation of St. Paul's Church, so that as compassionate and grateful Christians we may welcome a faithful leader, Dr. Paul Friesen, as our rector who will, with Your blessing, care for us and help us continue our tradition of ministry and service in Your name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

*Amen.*