

**SPECIAL EDITION**

**St. Paul's**  
EPISCOPAL CHURCH



**Pathway**  
SEPTEMBER 2018

# We have a new pastor!

The Rev. Dr. Thomas Andrew Thoeni will become the fifth rector of St. Paul's this winter when he is installed by the Rt. Rev. Dabney Smith, our bishop. He joins us as rector-elect on Nov. 1, the day after the resignation of the Rev. Dr. D. William Faupel, priest-in-charge, takes effect.

For the last 16 years Fr. Tom (his last name is pronounced TAY-nee) has been the rector of St. Peter's Episcopal Church in Plant City, a farming community between Tampa and Orlando. He is seen as a team builder, consensus seeker, good preacher and excellent choice to lead St. Paul's, the search committee and vestry agreed.

His doctorate is in congregational development, with an emphasis on creating in the laity a spirit of ministry and involvement.

In his tenure St. Peter's retired a sizable debt and remained debt-free while improving and growing the physical plant. He also successfully engineered the transitions between generations of lay leaders.

He recently spoke of his emotions in this period of transition. "Sorrow and joy are not opposites," he said, "but two sides of the same coin." While he will be sad to leave the many relationships built at St. Peter's, "I will be coming to St. Paul's in joy."

Fr. Tom and his wife, Quincey, have two sons in college, Harbor Cole and Mitchell. Quincey is a health-care educator (and sings in the choir!)



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# Fr. Tom's 'Litany of Last Things'

Years ago, as my wife and I prepared to move from Florida to Illinois, a priest pointed out to me that we were going through the “Litany of Last Things,” that growing awareness that this will be the last time we eat at this restaurant, or visit with this friend in his or her home, or take a leisurely walk around the lake, etc. Such a dynamic is inevitable when closing down one chapter of life and beginning another and it brings a peculiar mix of gratitude, longing, and anticipation for the future. It can be a time of deep and meaningful prayer and reflection as well.

Through these moments we are keeping busy wrapping up our work in and around Plant City. I am working closely with my vestry to make sure things go well through and after my departure. Quincey, a dedicated health educator, also has begun engaging with her various superiors to make sure her several positions and responsibilities are covered in the future.

All of this comes at a peculiar time in our lives as both of our sons are off to college. For the first time in many, many years we are empty nesters and now we, too, are preparing to leave the nest ourselves!

There are plenty of plans being made, chores to do, tasks to accomplish and even problems to solve in this season of our lives. But we are aware that this time of transition is one to celebrate the great blessings of our past while

## Fr. Tom's life, so far...

The Rev. Dr. Tom Thoeni is a native Floridian and has proudly lived all but six years of his life in Florida. He grew up in Jacksonville the youngest of two children. He left Jacksonville to pursue his studies at the University of Florida, earning a Bachelor of Design from the College of Fine Arts. During his years at UF he was deeply involved at

the Chapel of the Incarnation, the Episcopal outreach to the University of Florida. Within that community he discerned his call to the priesthood and met and married his beloved wife, Quincey. Fr. Tom can still lead you to the exact spot where he was standing when he first saw his future wife.

He attended Seabury-Western Theological Seminary,

then located in Evanston, IL, just north of Chicago. While earning his Master of Divinity he also served as the seminary equivalent of class president, earning a reputation as a mediator and trusted bridge builder between people of disparate viewpoints.

After seminary, Fr. Tom was called to St Paul's in Albany,



*Fr. Tom Thoeni, at St. Peter's Episcopal Church, Plant City, on Sept. 2, 2018.*

eagerly looking forward to the many joys that await us as we settle into St Paul's and Naples.

Let us keep each other in prayer during this time of change, leave-taking and welcoming.

## ...a life so far...

GA, serving for three years. While in Albany, Fr. Tom and Quincey's first son, Harbor Cole, was born. With a new child just weeks old they moved to Pensacola to serve Christ Church for nearly six years. Their second son, Mitchell Bay Ruach was born in Pensacola. They added his second middle name, Ruach ("Breath of God"), after he was born 2 1/2 months early and miraculously survived and thrived.

Over fifteen years ago, Fr. Tom was called to be rector of St Peter's, Plant City, in the Diocese of Southwest Florida. Fr. Tom's tenure as rector of St Peter's has brought a sense of stability and health, with the areas of buildings & grounds, lay ministry, outreach and administration being strengthened.

In 2012, Fr. Thoeni earned his Doctor of Ministry in a joint program between Seabury-Western Theological Seminary and Church Divinity School of the Pacific in Berkeley, CA. His doctoral thesis focused on the vow of the Baptismal Covenant as the basis of forming teams of mission and ministry. This has led to a proactive and empowered vestry working collegially and creatively.

Fr. Tom and Quincey are so excited about this new chapter in their lives. It is a pivotal moment for the Thoenis. Both of their sons are just beginning college. Harbor Cole is pursuing his studies in English

and Film Studies at Florida State College at Jacksonville and the University of North Florida. He is in a great program at UNF for kids on the autism spectrum to be able to attend college. Mitchell is studying Aerospace Engineering at the University of Florida. Quincey is a health educator

and health coach, currently working for BayCare Health System. She provides screenings, wellness events, coaching, and classes for corporations, hospital employees, weight loss surgery patients, and the public throughout the Tampa Bay area. She hopes to find a similarly great job in Naples.

## Goodbye, Fr. Bill

No matter how you say it the time has come to bid our pastor for the past several years goodbye.

Everyone, please mark your calendar for Fr. Bill's sendoff gala on Sunday, Oct. 28 at 11:30 a.m. in Trinity Hall.

Please note that this will not be a pot luck! Instead we will, in deference to the guest of honor, be serving wieners, a salad and desert. Due to the popularity of last season's "dogs on the grill," Chefs Peter and Donna Lund, and Ken Eastlack will be doing the honors at the BBQ pit. A couple more volunteers would be greatly appreciated. Party Planner *par excellence* Van Geoghegan, with the assistance of her *aides de gourmet* (I made that up), will take care fixin' the other griddles and settin' the spread (we are talking hot dogs and salad here). Again please say yes to any requests from Van.

There will be a program, formally provided by the vestry and more informally by a small group of well meaning



parishioners. Details of the latter group's deliberations must remain unrevealed so as to be a surprise to the honored guest (and to protect the innocent).

We have been fortunate to have Fr. Bill serve as a bridge to our future and enough cannot be said, nor tribute given to express God's blessing upon Saint Paul's with His gift of the Rev. Dr. D. William Faupel. Please be a part of this humble attempt to thank God and Fr. Bill and be present the last Saturday of October to personally wish our favorite hot dog gourmet ... God's speed.

# A year of successes

Success is the word I use when talking about 2018. In January we celebrated our 50th anniversary and in November we will welcome our new rector-elect to our pulpit following a diligent search by our search committee and then the vestry faithfully selecting our rector-elect. We hope to make 2018 a trifecta of success by finishing the year with an exciting stewardship campaign.

On Aug. 25 I attended a stewardship conference at DaySpring. At the conference, the number of priests that came up to me and congratulated St. Paul's for obtaining such a great rector-elect thrilled me. You will hear a lot more in the months to come about stewardship; a few emerging details: For many years Bev Whiteman has been our stewardship team by herself. This year we formed a committee to help Bev. We are looking forward to an exciting stewardship campaign this year. The formation of the committee came about for many

reasons: first, our contributions are down this year; second, I learned that most churches in the diocese have stewardship committees; and third, we need to give Bev Whiteman some well deserved assistance.



We are sorry to see Fr. Bill depart from St. Paul's Church. He has been a wonderful leader for the past three years during the transition from Fr. Tara to Fr. Tom. Fr. Bill's last day at St. Paul's will be Oct. 31. We are planning a farewell party for Fr. Bill after the single (9 a.m.) service on Sunday, Oct. 28 (mark the date on your calendar now). We will be giving Fr. Bill a purse on the 28th and you will have an opportunity to contribute.

Let us all welcome Fr. Tom Thoeni to the start of many, many successful years at St. Paul's Church.

Richard ("Dick") Breithaupt  
Senior Warden

## *We remain connected always through Christ our Lord*

**Gene** and I attended a Harry Connick Jr. concert at Tanglewood with **Pete and Brenda Kanarian** and we will see them again in Providence in September. Gene has played a lot of jazz gigs and I played in the harp tent at the Glasgow Highland Games in Northampton MA in July. We've been sailing on the Connecticut River and Gene has won some ribbons racing. He threw a big party for my "significant" birthday and we spent a week on the beach. Blessed with many friends and family; much fun and also the honor of hand-holding in difficult times.

We look forward to seeing you all in January and are grateful for news from St. Paul's.

**Susie Shaffer-Bartley**

Both well, but declining as age advances! Managing to have fun on a daily basis. Connie has a sign on her walker: NAPLES HARLEY-DAVIDSON.

We are having Naples summer weather, hot and humid for the whole month of July with frequent thunder storms. We want to get back to our norm, which is complaining about the cold.

**Ann Cruickshank & Connie Middleton-Hope**

**Jane** and I have had a busy summer thus far, 2 college graduations of grandsons (in MN and MA which we attended) and 3 H.S. grandchildren's graduations in the Detroit area. We have been playing golf and bridge weekly and are looking forward to a grandson's wedding in mid August. In September, we will be traveling to India. Lastly, we are looking forward to returning to Naples in mid October.

**Chuck Kromer and Jane Thompson**

**Walt** and I are enjoying life in upstate New York. But it has been just like Florida for several days now. Very hot and humid!

Enjoying get togethers with friends and family. Lots of golf for Walt. See you in the fall.

**Walt and Liz Hotaling**

**Brian** and I are in Brandon, Manitoba to visit Brian's sister and her family, and our sister-in-law and her son. Next we go into Winnipeg where I will have lunch with a friend, and we will stay with friends we met in Naples. There we will play bridge, then back to Ottawa.

August and September will bring family birthdays, and we will enjoy our time with our grandchildren. We are fortunate to have our family near where we live in Ottawa.

We return to Naples in mid October.

**Kay and Brian Richardson**

**Presiding Bishop Michael Curry** will be teaching and preaching at our diocesan convention in Punta Gorda on Friday, Oct. 12. Details at: <https://www.saintpaulsnaples.org>

**Fr. Bill and Bonnie** will be staying in Naples, as he has accepted the position of associate rector at St. Mary's, Bonita.

Bone up on your trivia, as **Deacon Mary & Jan Abrams** will quiz us on Fun Sunday, mid January.