

Fifth Rector of St. Paul's Installed

The Rev. Dr. Thomas A. Thoeni was installed as the fifth Rector of St. Paul's on Jan. 6, 2019, a bright and beautiful day in Naples. The Right Rev. Dabney Smith, bishop of the Diocese of Southwest Florida, told our new pastor he could drop the "elect" from the title he had been using since joining our congregation on Nov. 1, 2018, in the 51ST year of existence of St. Paul's in Naples.

Senior Warden Dick Breithaupt and Junior Warden Don Anderson told the bishop that Fr. Tom "is well qualified and has been prayerfully and lawfully selected" as rector. In turn, Bishop Smith first asked Fr. Tom to commit himself to this new trust and responsibility, and the congregation to uphold him in this ministry.

A litany then followed, using the liturgy, *Celebration of a New Ministry* from the Book of Common Prayer.

Fr. Peter Wong, a long-time friend of Fr. Tom, delivered the homily, just as Fr. Tom preached at his ordination six years ago. He invited us "to be discipled by Tom Thoeni because he is good at it."

"Liturgy, the Word and relationship are where you will find Christ. Don't be afraid to follow. Start with scripture when you seek guidance in life. When you make a mistake, don't repeat it." He said these aphorisms were instilled in him by Fr. Tom, his closest friend, besides his wife, who was in the congregation with their two young children.

Following the sermon members of the parish presented to their new rector signs and symbols of his office.

A reception, organized by Connie Cunningham and Katie Judnich, followed in Trinity Hall.

A new era has begun at St. Paul's! May God grant us all mercies and graces.



Inside

A profound moment.....	Page 2
Parish reflects on installation.....	Page 3
A 'church shopper' finds home.....	Page 6
Stewardship, ongoing.....	Page 10

There was a moment . . .

...at my installation that was quite profound for me. It was the moment when I was kneeling in front of the congregation and right before I prayed for God's direction and inspiration as I enter this new ministry among you. I paused because I felt the gravity of the situation. I was lost a bit in the moment; so much so that Canon Norman, serving as the master of ceremonies, had to quietly encourage me to start the prayer. It was not that I was absent-minded or daydreaming. It was just the opposite. It was that I was fully aware of the the moment and the words I was about to pray. I prayed them earnestly and, just as earnestly, I hope I can faithfully



and actively participate God's grace in allowing God to fulfill the aspirations of that prayer.

Later I was blessed by the post-Communion prayer assigned for the liturgy. They included the words, "We pray that Tom may be to us an effective example of word and action, in love and patience, and in holiness of life. Grant that we, with him may serve you now, and always rejoice in your glory..." It meant a great deal to me that we were entering a new phase of ministry and life at St Paul's together in prayer and purpose.

I look forward to seeing and discovering the future God has in store for each of us and all of us.

Bishop Smith invites the congregation to applaud Fr. Tom and his family, wife Quincey and sons Harbor, left and Mitchell. Below is Fr. Peter Wong, a long-time friend and homilist at the installation service



At left Wardens Dick Breithaupt and Don Anderson, foreground, present the church keys, saying, "Tom, recieve these keys and let the doors of this place be open to all people." At Right, the Most Rev. Edward Gleason, rectot at Trinity-by-the-Cove, presents the constitution and canons of the church.



The Reception

'Very beautiful and moving'

A lovely reception followed the ceremony in a beautifully decorated Trinity Hall highlighted by a lavish buffet catered by St. Matthews House, arranged by Connie Cunningham and Katie Judnich..

Following is a sampling of comments offered by a handful of St. Paul's parishioners.

"It was wonderful!"

—Bobbie Moreau

"It is always a lovely service. I had not met the bishop before or Fr. Tom's family. Well done!"

—unknown

"The installation service was my first. I was surprised by Bishop Smith's sense of humor and I am so happy with our new rector, Fr. Tom. He's fabulous!"

—Linda Condon

"The installation was very well done and the reception was also excellent. The food setup was just right for the reception and the woman caterer was very efficient."

—unknown

"The installation was well organized and a joyous occasion for all at St. Paul's. The repast was also done well and appreciated".

—Nora B.

"It was wonderful to see that so many of the people attending the ceremony were able to participate and be part of the service. It created a great feeling of community to welcome Fr. Tom."

—Diane Kane

"The excitement of Fr. Tom's installation showed as the members presented him with his gifts and he was truly thankful.

—Van

"I thought the installation ceremony was very beautiful and moving. I was pleased to see Fr. Tom smiling throughout the ceremony."

—Eileen O'Grady

"The installation of Fr. Tom was a perfect service. The reception was also great. Well done!"

—Gail Cooper & Frances Nadeau

"The installation of Fr. Tom was a first time experience for us. We found it to be very thoughtful and memorable. Bishop Smith's homily was wonderful."

—Jim & Sharron Crosby

"A wonderful experience for me. Very uplifting."

—Barbara Pearce

"I found Fr. Tom's installation very uplifting. The Holy Spirit was truly

present. There was a feeling of love inside the church as our church family came together to witness the words spoken by the bishop. I was honored to be one of the presenters. It was a memorable experience. We are blessed to have Fr. Tom as our new rector."

—Joan Farmer

"Very nice day. Happy to have Fr. Tom here, with his nice smile. The Bishop and his wife were so friendly."

—Laurie Harvey

"Very uplifting, wonderful."

—Gil & Agnes Robertson

"Well planned, music was fantastic. Beautiful service."

—Jodi Clair

"Beautiful, inspiring service!"

—Carolyn Hale

"I was sad that more people did not show up, especially the priests."

—Diane

Ken Eastlack gathered these notes. "Unknowns" didn't sign their cards.

The Gifts

Fr. Tom received from the congregation several gifts to symbolize his new ministry: a Bible, to proclaim the Word; Water, to baptize; a stole, to be our pastor and priest; a prayer book, to be among us as a man of prayer; oil, to heal and reconcile; the church keys, with the mandate that the doors be open to all people; the canons and con-

stitution, with the admonition to obey them and be among us to share in councils of the diocese; bread and wine, to be among us to break the Bread and bless the Cup; a portrait of a smiling Jesus, to be among us as a man of mirth and joy; and wine and cheese, as a token of hospitality, to share with us in the warmth of community.



The priest in the photo at left is the Rev. Edward Gleason, rector of Trinity-by-the-Cove

Others are parishioners whom we all should know!



Lots of familiar faces! Fr. Bill Faupel, our assistant rector then priest-in-charge until last October, follows Canon Richard Norman. Behind him is our senior warden, Dick Breithaupt.



A church shopper finds St. Paul's

Have you ever been a church-shopper? Maybe you moved to a new location, or felt that you needed to find a place where the worship reflected your understanding of your faith. If you have, you know what it's like to be welcomed and greeted—in some churches—or to be left adrift in others. You look around, listen to the music and the sermon, and maybe decide to keep looking. Choosing the right church is one of life's biggest commitments.

I've been a newcomer in more churches than most people. I grew up as an Army brat—moving every few years. In those days, military people were expected to be Jewish, Catholic, or “GP”—General Protestant. The pastor could be a Presbyterian or a Baptist, or whoever was stationed at that base. My father was a staunch Episcopalian—if the GP chapel was across the street, and the nearest Episcopal church was 30 miles away over icy roads—well, we got snow tires.

I was a recent church-shopper, until I found St. Paul's. This is a place where Katie Judnich's greeting was so sincere and genuine that I felt welcome right away. You would think my arrival really mattered. Bill Kling followed up with that microphone and an invitation to introduce myself



Author Barbara Metcalfe, left, appreciates a greeting from Katie Judnich, as do we all!

Barbara attends the 10 o'clock service. Ask her about EfM and her career teaching college kids to write.

—my performance being rewarded immediately with applause!

The atmosphere inside the church was one of reverence. One is drawn to focus on the beautiful altar and the traditional appointments of the sacred space—an atmosphere in which worship comes naturally.

Liturgy is what makes the Episcopal church special—and at St. Paul's, the holiness of our sacrament is emphasized in the prayerful and respectful treatment of every aspect of worship.

The music enhanced that atmosphere of reverence—the choir led us in hymns and responses that were familiar to us and beautifully

rendered. As we sang “Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place,” I knew it to be true.

I learned there are other interesting things to do at St. Paul's—will it be possible to finish reading the Holy Bible in three months? I will see. I've made a promise to do so.

But this church-shopper's decision was made with the preaching. How often do we remember a sermon after coffee hour is over? Yet I still think of my upper- and lower-case sins; I still try to observe gratitude, helping, and moving—remember those?

The day when I made my decision to stay with St. Paul's was the Sunday when we celebrated the Baptism of Christ. When I heard the word “stewardship,” I thought I was in for a little mind-wandering, recognizing that it's necessary to hit the parishioners up for pledges, but not looking forward to it. I can't remember when I've been more surprised. We really heard about commitment, and we moved on to renewing our baptismal vows. I renewed mine with all my heart.

So this church-shopper has found a place for that commitment. I hope to bring enthusiasm and energy to contribute in any way I can to this holy community. Thank you for the welcome! Let's pass it on!

These doors are open to all

St. Paul's is very welcoming. You will find greeters like Katie at the door and visitors to identify themselves during the service and we invite them to join us in Trinity Hall for fellowship.

If newcomers fill out a visitor card found in the pews, Judy Allen and Bill Kling arrange a visit with them in their homes or in our chapel.

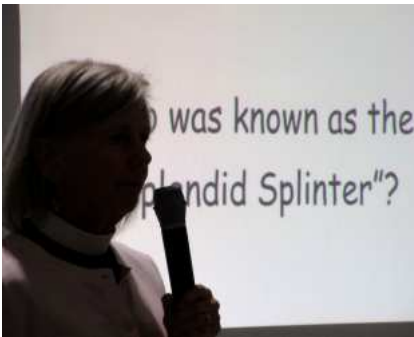
The purpose of this interaction is to increase our population and make them aware of the many ministries at St. Paul's. During this visit, the newcomer is presented with a St. Paul's bag with mugs, a directory, a letter from Fr. Tom and the booklet about our 50 years of existence.



Bill Kling inviting a visitor to take the mic



Bible in 90 Days: Deacon Mary leads a discussion with parishioners who have taken the challenge to read the entire bible in just 90 days. It's a challenging proposition that has its rewards.



It was appropriately advertised as a Fun Sunday event, and very much lived up to its billing, as some 50 parishioners and guests grappled with questions about Americana of the past.

More than \$1,200 was raised for the TumainiFund, a charity for orphans and widows in Tanzania, Sunday afternoon, Jan. 27.

The event was the brainchild of Deacon Mary and Jan Abrams, she posed the questions and he tallied the answers. There was a silent auction of artwork, restaurant gift cards and other items donated by parishioners and

merchants, solicited by the trivia team set up by Deacon Mary Abrams and comprised of Nora Brosziet, Tom Connolly, Betty Lentz, Van Geoghegan.



A new dynamic at St. Paul's



Pathway

is a periodical
written for and by the
people of
St. Paul's Episcopal
Church, Naples FL

Join the team. We're
looking for writers,
editors, photographers,
social media, website
and video helpers.

Publisher

The Rev. Dr.
Thomas A. Thoeni
Rector

Communications team

Don Anderson
Deb Avery
Nora Broszeit
Tom Connolly
Ken Eastlack
Van Geoghegan
Diane Kane
Barbara Kling
Eileen O'Grady
Fr. Tom, *ex officio*

Is all the excitement of the last two years over? First, we have celebrated for over a year our 50th anniversary, culminating in a glorious dinner celebration. Once that celebration was over, it was on to electing a search committee to find our rector-elect under the time pressure of Fr. Bill's departure on Oct. 31. The diocese presented names to the search committee in early May. The committee then did a wonderful job and turned over three names to the vestry in July. The vestry did its job and selected Fr. Tom and then earlier this month Bishop Smith installed Fr. Tom as our rector.

I would again like to publicly thank all the members of the Search Committee who traveled hither and thither to interview candidates. The committee consisted of Linda Connelly, vice-chair, Tom Connolly, Connie Cunningham, Ginny



Harper, Don Anderson, David Abernethy and myself. I would also like to thank publicly Canon Michael Durning of the Diocese of SW Florida. Every Friday morning Canon Durning and I would have a telephone conversation to discuss the events of the past week. We would not have obtained Fr. Tom in such an expeditious manner without the assistance of Canon Durning.

As I asked at the beginning, perhaps some of the excitement of the last two years is over and all we have is a new, dynamic Fr. Tom. I am sure that by now you are all thrilled at the majesty and timeliness of his sermons. Please ask your friends to come and experience Fr. Tom. Some people show up on their own, but most require being asked. Do not deprive your friends of the opportunity to get closer to our Lord through Fr. Tom. Ask them to join us Sunday.

Junior warden's report

At most Episcopal churches the junior warden is the vestry person who has liaison responsibility for the physical properties of the church. Not so for St. Paul's. Here we are blessed with God's Gardeners who, over the past 47 years, have and continue to take great care of maintaining and improving our campus.

So, in addition to assisting the rector and the senior warden when called upon, the junior warden has vestry liaison responsibility for outreach and use of facilities by outside groups.

Because of our dire financial situation, St. Paul's outreach is now limited to that

of the ECW outreach program and the deanery-wide outreach for the children's shelter in the Dominican Republic. We look forward to restoring other valuable programs soon.

Use of facilities by outside groups is very active. Daily, groups like the Brazilian Church, the Armenian Church, AA, Yoga or other exercise groups use our facilities and we are delighted to have them. The Haitian Congregation also makes good use of St. Paul's facilities and rightfully so because they are part of St. Paul's. The outside users generate some \$14,000 revenue annually.

Treasurer's report

A substantial change in leadership is an expensive process. Out-of-state church visits and interviews, the costs of moving Fr. Tom in and moving out the existing tenant, Fr. Panel, as well as furniture storage, temporary housing, etc all add up. In addition, we incurred far greater expenses in updating the rectory than we anticipated. I bring these issues up because we are a church where

expenses exceed revenues. Like many other churches, our congregation is dwindling, and so is the revenue and volunteers to help in the many church needs. We need every member's help to grow our congregation and to pledge a financial amount you feel comfortable in giving.

Thank you, and God Bless.

—Dave Abernethy



Thanks very much for supporting these children in the shelter of the Good Samaritan in the Dominican Republic. About a hundred children are in this day care whose financial support comes from Episcopalians of Naples. The recent fund drive at our parish resulted in raising more than \$5,000. Thanks for your generosity, and please remember to keep these kids in your prayers. The shelter is for more than a few of them the only place they get loved.



This is the cast of the latest Christmas pageant, a 30-plus-year tradition at St. Paul's. Many folks help with the costuming, the set and lighting, all under the direction of Charlene Connolly, far right.

Men of the parish

The men of the parish meet at noon on Wednesdays for fellowship and discussion, some entertaining, some educational and some spiritually uplifting; a mixed bag.

Bring your lunch and a drink. And a friend.

On the first Wednesday of the month we will gather for Holy Communion in the chapel followed by a lunch of scrambled eggs, courtesy of Fr. Tom.

Stewardship team still at work

If you misplaced your letter from a member of the stewardship committee, fear not. We will have extra pledge cards on hand Sunday at the annual meeting.

It's important for the purposes of planning that the leadership of the church, i.e., the rector, vestry and especially the treasurer, have an idea of what to expect in the way of income for the year so they may fulfill their responsibilities.

The drive to encourage each person who heads the household to turn in an estimate of giving will not end until the team makes contact with those whose cards are

among the missing.

A pledge is to be seen as a hoped-for goal of giving, and is not a promissory

note or legally binding. If adjustments are necessitated by a change in a pledger's circumstances, or for any reason, the pledge may be changed.

Stewardship team members are Bev Whiteman, co-chair with Ken Eastlack, Dick Breithaupt, senior warden, Gail Bones, Roger Conant and Tom Connolly.

You may expect a friendly reminder from one of them if you haven't turned in your card. Your dollar amount is strictly confidential.

Please pray about your support of our Church!



Upcoming

Saturday, Feb. 2 Pancake Breakfast at the Farmers' Market

**Sunday, Feb. 3 Annual Meeting in Trinity Hall.
Elect new members of the vestry,
between the services.**

Thursday, Feb. 7, 7 p.m. The Great American Songbook concert featuring Paul Todd Jr.

Sunday, Feb. 10, Consecration Sunday

**Sunday, Feb. 17 Fashion Show
and tea, Trinity Hall 2 p.m.**

**Thursday, Feb. 28 Parish dinner
5:30 p.m. potluck**

“And finally my brothers and sisters: Live in harmony and with compassion, show kindness and humility, return no evil nor slander but return blessings to all. Bless and do not curse for such is your call in Christ Jesus our Lord; and the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, shall be with you this day and forever more.”

—Fr. Tom

-ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH PRESENTS-



**THE GREAT
AMERICAN
SONGBOOK**

**FEATURING
PAUL TODD JR
& PAUL TODD**

**FEATURING
THE MUSIC OF**
MARTIN...
SINATRA...
DARIN...
BUBLE...
MANILOW...
& MANY MORE!

**THURSDAY,
FEBRUARY 7TH
AT 7 PM**

**TICKETS ARE
\$20**

TICKETS:

**Church office, Farmers' Market
and www.SaintPaulsNaples.org**