

Dear Members of St. Paul's Rock Creek Episcopal Church,

Grace and peace to you all.

With great joy and excitement, I write to introduce our new Rector, Reverend Cynthia Ann McKenna, who has been called to lead our congregation. This marks the beginning of an inspiring new chapter in the life of our church as a body of Christians and the surrounding community.

After a thorough and prayerful search, the Vestry is confident that Reverend McKenna is the right person to guide us in the next phases of our spiritual journey. She comes to us with nearly 27 years of experience, exceptional educational and training in theology, liturgy, congregational development, transformational leadership, and counseling. More recently, Reverend McKenna became a Fellow in Transformational Leadership at the Yale Divinity School. She holds advanced degrees in Counseling from St. Mary's University, a Master of Divinity from Seminary of the Southwest, and a Master of Education/Human Development from Texas Tech University.

Since 1997, Reverend McKenna has been a priest, sharing the Good News of the Gospels. She will hold the designation of Senior Rector (***Mother Cynthia or Reverend McKenna***) welcoming the opportunity to lead our congregation into a new era of community, love, and devotion to the values and teachings of Christ. Reverend McKenna's dedication to preaching, pastoral care, community outreach, youth ministry, etc. aligns perfectly with our church's mission and vision. *When asked, How are you preparing yourself for the Church of the future?, Reverend McKenna responded, in part: "Teresa of Ávila said that Christ has no body but ours. Our work is to be the Body of Christ in our neighborhood, building relationships, [and] sharing God's love in action as well as word and sacrament. As followers of Jesus, we are invited to speak up for the oppressed and marginalized. I am on the Clergy Advisory Board for our local Micah ministry, serving those with housing and food insecurity. I've participated in Sacred Ground and continue to learn about my own prejudices. I am part of the initial cohort of transformational leaders participating in Yale's "The Leader's Way." This fellowship is intended to transform ministry and broaden our vision for how the Spirit is at work in the Church. I've participated in excellent training for digital and hybrid ministry."*

We could not be more delighted and excited by Reverend McKenna's response and the many conversations and interviews that led to our discussion. She has a rich spiritual background and a profound passion for nurturing faith and fostering community. Her enthusiasm for joining St. Paul's Rock Creek and helping to strengthen our future together is truly inspiring. We, the Vestry, believe deeply in the transformative power of the Holy Spirit and the importance of working together to grow both individually and as a congregation, and we have selected Reverend McKenna based on these foundational goals.

Sunday August 18th, Reverend McKenna will join us. She will report to the St. Paul's Wardens, Vestry, and The Rt. Rev. Mariann E. Budde, Bishop Episcopal Diocese of Washington. In the weeks following her on-boarding, anticipate that Reverend McKenna will reach out to each of you in time, eager to hear your stories, understand your hopes, and learn about your dreams for our congregation and your spiritual walk. We are confident that under her leadership and working closely with the Vestry Board and operational staff, we will continue to grow in faith, love, and service.

We invite you to join us in welcoming Mother Cynthia with open hearts and minds. Let us come together in unity and support, trusting that God has wonderful plans for our future. Please keep her, our Vestry, operational staff, and our church congregation in your prayers as we embark on this exciting journey.

If you have any questions feel free to contact me or a member of the 2024 Vestry. Let us embrace this new beginning with gratitude and anticipation for the blessings that are ahead.

Let's come alive by coming together at St. Paul's Rock Creek

In Christ's love and service,

Larry Dorman, Senior Warden