

May 28, 2009

Dear Member of St. Mary's,

The Reverend Margaret Schwarzer has accepted our call to become our Interim Rector at St. Mary's. The Wardens and Vestry are excited and delighted that she is joining us.

About The Reverend Ms. Margaret Schwarzer

Margaret is no stranger to New England; she is a graduate of Smith College and Yale Divinity School, and has spent the last ten years of her ministry as the Episcopal Chaplain at Boston University. While at B.U., Margaret also served as the founder and director of The Micah Project, a nine-month program of service and vocational discernment for recent college graduates. During her tenure as director, she led 36 young adult interns into urban parishes, peace and justice programs, and chaplaincies where they contributed over 2,560 hours of service per year. Margaret has also served parishes and chaplaincies in Washington, D.C., Princeton, New Jersey, and New Haven, CT. She served as an Assistant Minister at Trinity Church, Princeton, N.J., and worked as the Assistant Chaplain at Princeton University. This year, she has been serving at Christ Church, Andover, where she is the Sabbatical Interim Priest. At each of these parishes, she has had a special interest in fostering excellent adult education programs.

“Behold,” says the Christ, “I make all things new!”

When she was asked about her favorite quotation from scripture, she replied that she continues to be moved by Christ's promise to make all things new. She said, “One of the reasons I follow Jesus Christ is because in both the joys and sorrows of this life, I witness the resurrection and redemption Christ brings us. Christ calls us to practice resurrection by staying open to the beauty and sacredness of our own lives, and by keeping our hearts open to “the new things” being done around us, whether they be in our partners, our children, our neighbors, or the stranger down the street.” She told me that she welcomes the opportunity to join us for another “new thing”- preparing our church and our hearts to welcome the next Rector of St. Mary's.

Margaret's Family

Margaret has been an ordained Episcopal Priest for sixteen years, and in the last eight of these years, she has been married to her husband, Jon, who is an active member of the Unitarian Church. They have a son, Benjamin, five, who plans to participate in the St. Mary's Church

School, and they have four older children, Rachel, Asa, Jonas, and Rebecca, Margaret's step children, who are Unitarians. Jonas is graduating from the Rhode Island School of Design this May, and Rebecca attends Colorado College. During family free time, you will find them skiing in the White Mountains, sailing and swimming in ocean water, and hiking around New England.

Summer Schedule

Margaret will officially join us on June 1 and be at St. Mary's on a part-time basis through the summer. Margaret is finishing an assignment as Interim at Christ Church in Andover, where she is committed to be on Tuesdays, Fridays, and Sundays through the end of June. Given this prior arrangement, vacation schedules, and the summer slowdown at St. Mary's, the Vestry and Margaret agreed that a half-time schedule through the summer months made sense for all.

For the month of June, Margaret will maintain office hours at St. Mary's during the week on Mondays from 9am to 1pm, and Wednesdays and Thursdays from 9am to 5pm. Sunday services during the month of June will be performed by the Reverend Gwen Buehrens; Gwen will also be available for pastoral care if Margaret is unavailable.

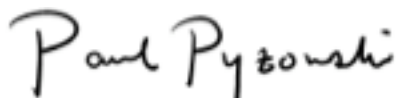
For the months of July and August, Margaret will perform the Sunday services at 10am and also be available during the week. (As a reminder there is no 8am service in July and August.) Office hours for these summer months will be posted in advance.

If there are *pastoral emergencies that come up during the summer* (e.g. serious illness) please call the parish office at 617-527-4769. If this is outside of parish office hours, you can contact Margaret directly on her mobile phone at 617-733-0661.

Margaret will transition to full-time at St. Mary's starting in September.

The Vestry is honored that Margaret has accepted our call to serve as our Interim and we welcome her and her family into our parish.

Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paul Pyzowski". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Paul Pyzowski

P.S. Margaret can be reached by email at margaret@st-marys-episcopal.org or on her mobile phone 617-733-0661.