

A-1 Back To Our Roots: Recharge, Reconnect, and Renew. Many months ago, a committee was formed to work with The Reverend Robert Cowperthwaite in planning a sabbatical - the first of his 35 year career - that would achieve a multifaceted renewal. After researching and studying successful sabbaticals, it became apparent that in order to renew the whole person, three specific areas must be consciously addressed ~ spiritual, emotional and physical. Like intersecting circles, these three areas have been strategically planned to overlap each other to create a comprehensive renewal program. The first focus is to recharge Father Bob's spirit by spending time with his wife Susan and their family. Included in this part of the sabbatical is time for him to rest, relax and then, with Susan to return to their respective ancestral homelands. The second is to reconnect to his pastoral passion through prayer, meditation and education. And third is for Father Bob to travel and experience the joys of sharing his gifts through mission work and to explore the depth of his faith through pilgrimages that follow the life and death of Jesus and the missionary work of our church's namesake, the Apostle Paul. This will provide an opportunity to reexamine and renew his commitment to his ministry. We look forward to his return with renewed enthusiasm as he shares experiences and insights with us in his preaching and teaching.

The theme of the sabbatical, *Back to Our Roots*, encapsulates the spiritual, emotional and physical aspects of the whole person, Father Bob, Rector of St. Paul's Episcopal Church and Bob Cowperthwaite, husband, father, and patriarch.

A-2 Like other denominations, on a national level the Episcopal Church has wrestled with issues that have threatened to divide congregations and rip at the unifying fabric of many parishes. Throughout, Father Bob Cowperthwaite has been steadfast in walking with those who

questioned and supporting those in spiritual crisis. Despite the controversy, St. Paul's continues to thrive.

With the continued growth of our parish family, the Vestry of St. Paul's is beginning to explore expansion options to accommodate our increasing need for physical space. Any building project brings stress and apprehension to the parish, and for a historical church, there are a wealth of other potential issues. The timing of Father Bob's sabbatical would allow him the opportunity to rejuvenate before once again leading our parish through a possible building project with passion, compassion and vision.

A-3 During our 2008 Annual Meeting, our Senior Warden, Tom Stearns, announced Father Bob Cowperthwaite's commitment to remain at St. Paul's until his retirement. This announcement was met with a boisterous and lengthy standing ovation. The congregation was also informed that as part of our commitment to Father Bob, a planning committee had been formed to plan a three month sabbatical for him. Again, the congregation offered an enthusiastic round of applause.

A-4 A member of the congregation, who travels extensively, researched current airline, hotel, apartment, and program prices; as well as, conversion rates, personal knowledge of travel expenses and probable increase in travel expenses to determine the Sabbatical budget.

08/23/09 – During the 11:00 am service, the church will have an official Leave-taking Ceremony for Father Bob and Susan and a commissioning of the Clergy, Staff, Vestry and Congregation. After the service, the congregation and community will be invited to join in a festive, bon voyage reception.

08/24/09 – 08/27/09 – Bob and Susan Cowperthwaite will fly to California to spend time with their daughter, Sarah.

08/27/09 – 08/30/09 – Holy Cross Monastery, Castro Valley, California. In preparation for his journey of renewal, Father Bob will spend three days at the monastery in prayerful preparation and spiritual tranquility. The Holy Cross Monastery serves as a spiritual haven for those seeking spiritual nourishment and renewal.

08/31/09 – 09/02/09 – Visit with Sarah for several more days before leaving for overseas.

09/03/09 – 09/04/09 – Father Bob travels from Los Angeles to Tel Aviv and then to Jerusalem. Funds have been requested for one hotel night, meals and travel to Jerusalem.

09/05/09 – 09/18/09 – Educational program provided by St. George's College Jerusalem entitled "Paul and the Early Church: From Jerusalem to Ephesus." Beginning in Turkey and exploring Asia Minor, this course examines St. Paul's mission and the expansion of Early Christian theology.

09/19/09 – 09/30/09 – Father Bob is looking into several options in Israel involving peace and justice work, i.e. Sabeel Clergy Program, B'TSELEM - The Israeli Information Center for Human Rights in the Occupied Territories, or other groups. If that does not work out, Susan, who is the Diocese of Tennessee coordinator for Episcopal Relief and Development, will find alternative mission work opportunities.

10/01/09 – Travel to Scotland and be reunited with Susan.

10/02/09 – 10/15/09 – This will be pilgrimage time for Bob and Susan. A week would be spent living with the Iona community. From there, they will head to Lindisfarne for several nights,

then to Durham, the Nothumbria community, finishing at York. St. Paul's youth minister, who is English, leads an annual Pilgrimage for our teen-age Confirmation class in these areas and will assist in planning. This will be an opportunity for Bob and Susan to have such a pilgrimage experience.

10/15/09- Travel to Rome, Italy with Susan

10/15/09 – 11/01/09 – Susan's family is Italian, from the Calabria area. This will be an opportunity to rest, perhaps take an Italian cooking class and visit wine areas in Tuscany.

11/01/09 – 11/02/09 – Travel to Jerusalem

11/03/09 – 11/16/ 09 – With Susan, attend an educational program provided by St. George's College Jerusalem entitled "The Palestine of Jesus." Through pilgrimage and course study, Father Bob and Susan will experience the life and death of Jesus in the very land where He lived and taught. By walking as pilgrims together through this journey, Bob and Susan will have the opportunity to reconnect their marriage and ministry in an environment uniquely charged for spiritual growth.

11/17/09 – 11/18/08 – Return to United States and travel to North Carolina

11/19/09 – 11/30/09 – Celebrate Thanksgiving with son and extended family in North Carolina

12/01/09 – Officially return to St. Paul's Episcopal Church

12/06/09 – During the 8:45 a.m. service, Father Bob and Susan will be officially welcomed home and those who filled in during the Sabbatical will be recognized and release from duty. After the service, the congregation will gather for a reception and, as is, our tradition on this particular Sunday, to make Advent Wreaths together.

A-5 St. Paul's has grown from some 300 members when we moved here, to over 1,100 now. The first few years here, I became connected with our community beyond St. Paul's in ways that continue to help give us a high profile, especially for an Episcopal Church in this part of the country. We are recognized for our outreach in the community, our hospitality and offering of our facilities, and my involvement as what some might call a "town parson."

As St. Paul's has grown, and as we have added staff, I have continued to exercise my gifts as a pastor. This sabbatical will be an opportunity for me to rest, be renewed in body and spirit, and to reconnect with my spiritual and family roots. We live in a rectory across the street from the Church, and my Sabbatical Committee has encouraged me to spend the entire time away from Franklin. The congregation may well respect my sabbatical, but there are so many others in the community who might not know or understand the concept that it would be difficult to maintain emotional or spiritual distance.

St. Paul's has been a wonderful place to exercise my ministry. Our children were in the fifth and sixth grades when we moved here, and along with Trinity, NY, St. Paul's is their spiritual home. A significant part of the sabbatical will be spent in the Holy Land. I hope to bring a fresh understanding of St. Paul and the early Church in my preaching and teaching after the "Paul and the Early Church" program, having followed Paul's footsteps. Even more significant for my returning to my roots will be the "Palestine in the time of Jesus," also through St. George's College in Jerusalem. Years ago I did an introductory trip to the Holy Land. This will be time with Susan to gain a deeper understanding and appreciation of our spiritual roots and a chance to experience the culture and geography of our faith's birthplace. Again, I believe my preaching and teaching will reflect a new depth as I share our experience.

My name is English, with some Scottish roots as well. The sabbatical plans include time in that part of the world for pilgrimage and to reconnect with those roots. Susan will be retiring from University School of Nashville in July, 2009, after 20 years. Whereas I have been deeply involved in community life in Franklin, she often feels a disconnect, since she has so little time to be part of life here. We also have not had much time to be together. The sabbatical includes time for us to travel, time for us to be in England, and time in Italy, where her family roots are.

Having been present through these 20 years, I believe the staff, Vestry and congregation will benefit from my being absent for a time. Even though we are a Program sized parish and I work very hard to encourage and enable others to discern and use their gifts, there is still a tendency to want to seek my “stamp of approval.” With good preparation, with a meaningful commissioning service that encourages them by sending them, “out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord,” [BCP p. 366] and with the gift of my absence, they will share in the theme of this sabbatical, to Recharge, Reconnect and Renew. Upon my return, we can celebrate our reunion and will all be ready to hear how Christ is calling us to be about the mission of St. Paul’s: “To proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ, and to Care for All.”

A-6 Father Bob has cared for the parishioners of St. Paul’s with unwavering devotion for the past 20 years. His call to ministry was divine and his passion to serve continues to bless those in the Franklin community. We are each on a pilgrimage of faith. Father Bob is there to walk with us when we lose our way, offer comfort when we are tired and celebrate when revelations become clear. Those who will immediately benefit from the sabbatical are Father Bob and his family. The long term beneficiaries of the sabbatical are the parishioners of St. Paul’s. For decades Father Bob has proven time and again that he shares his passion for ministry

with each of us. By cheerfully giving him time to recharge, reconnect and renew, we in turn will reap the benefits of a Rector recommitted to his calling.

Another powerful benefit, is the transformational affect that will occur in how our parish ministers to each other and the community. Because we have been blessed to have Father Bob for so many years, we tend to turn to him first. During his sabbatical, the other priests, lay staff and parishioners will be called to engage in a more in depth role of ministering to each other. Not only will this provide the opportunity to discover gifts in each other, but to nurture them in ourselves. This will be an opportunity to reexamine our gifts of faith and recommit to our own ministries.

A-7 St. Paul's is blessed to have two additional full time priests serving the parish family. During Father Bob's sabbatical, the Reverend Ann Van Dervoort and the Reverend Monna Mayhall will continue to serve the pastoral needs of St. Paul's.

As a congregation, St. Paul's will be engaged in educational activities that mirror the pilgrimage of Father Bob and Susan. These activities include:

Vanderbilt professor and author, Amy-Jill Levine will speak to the Adult Forum regarding St. Paul and the formation of the Early Church and then the Life and Death of Jesus. Members of the congregation who have completed the pilgrimage in England will speak to the Adult Forum and the Sunday School classes about the impact of these spiritual journeys. Several church members who serve on non-profit boards will discuss how volunteering and service provide an impact in the lives of those in our community, nation and the world. Scott Smith, the church historian, will speak about the history of St. Paul's during an Adult Forum and Sunday School class.

Each of these activities will keep the parishioners connected to the Cowperthwaites while strengthening our relationships with one another. In the detailed budget report, there is no honorarium for Dr. Levine because this has already been included in the annual budget.

A-8 Travel journaling has been a long time favorite pastime for Father Bob. Through an online blog, the parishioners of St. Paul's will be able to travel on the spiritual journey with him. In order for the sabbatical to be a stellar success, the congregation will not have access to Father Bob through cell phone or email. We firmly believe this sabbatical must truly be a time devoted totally to recharging, reconnecting and renewing.

B-1 On August 27, during the unseasonably warm summer of 1827, The Reverend James Otey was joined by local residents of Franklin, Tennessee who were interested in forming an Episcopal Church. This meeting resulted in the birth of a new parish called, St. Paul's Episcopal Church. Named for the Apostle Paul, the church is the Mother Church of Tennessee.

During the Civil War, the City of Franklin was occupied by the Federal Army and was home to the bloodiest battle of the Civil War, the Battle of Franklin. For three years, St. Paul's was commandeered to serve as the barracks for the Federal Army. The soldiers used the pews, altar and organ as fuel for a fire that burned under the bell tower. Following the Battle of Franklin on November 30, 1864, St. Paul's was used as a hospital for wounded troops—first by the Federals and then later by the Confederates. When it was all over, virtually nothing more than the thick walls were left intact. Despite the destruction and the enormity of the project, St. Paul's was rebuilt.

For more than 180 years, the square tower of St. Paul's has proudly stood as a reminder of our unique history and our illustrious future. The parish of St. Paul's has enjoyed the benefit

of a history of rectors who are passionate about their ministry to serve. Regardless of the challenge, the priests of this congregation have always stepped up to lead with compassion and vision.

B2 Today, St. Paul's is home to more than 1,100 parishioners. Regular worship services include: Sunday 7:30 am, 8:45 am, 11:00 am, 6:00 pm, Tuesday 7:00 am, and Wednesday at 12:05 pm. Average Sunday attendance is currently 365.

B3 The Rev. Charles Fulton, 1972 – 1987, The Rev. Claude Behn, 1968 – 1972, The Rev. Tom Meadows, 1963 – 1968, The Rev. William Ray, 1957 - 1963

B4 *Worship & Spiritual Ministries:* Usher, Chalice Bearer, Altar Guild, Oblationer, Acolyte/Torch Bearer/Crucifer, Reader/Intercessor, Music Ministry. *Parish Life Ministries:* Dinner Groups, Men of St. Paul's, Women's Dinner Gathering, Hospitality, Friends in Deed, Coffee Hour, Newcomer Committee, Parish Nurse Program, Library, Saints and Sinners, *Outreach Ministries:* Spring Street, Graceworks, Meals on Wheels, AA, Diocesan Involvement. *Spiritual Formation Ministries:* Adult Forum, The Lost Tribe, Children's Ministry, Catechesis of the Good Shepherd, Youth Ministry, Fish 'N Loaves, Nursery, Seekers, Vacation Bible School, Lectionary Bible Study, Reel Theology, Theology on Thursday, Companions In Christ, Walking the Mourners Path, Another Good Book, K-Group, Lenten Series, Centering Prayer, Education For Ministry (EFM), Daughters of the King, St. Paul's Friends in the Spirit: A Caring Ministry, Spiritual Direction. *Administration Ministries:* Communication and Publicity, Office Volunteers, Finance, Long Range Planning Committee, Property, Stewardship Committee

B5 St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Budget Summary for 2008

INCOME

Cash in Plate	225,000
Net Pledges	532,000
Interest/Other	54,000

TOTAL	\$ 811,000
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EXPENSES

Staff

Clergy	287,000	3 Full-time
Lay	236,000	3 Full-time, 3 Part-time, plus Child Care

Programs

Christian Education	22,000	
Music Ministry	37,000	
Youth Ministry	22,000	
Outreach	13,000	
Diocese	63,000	"Fair Share"

Operations

Building Maintenance	26,000	Excludes major items
Insurance	12,000	
Utilities	35,000	Gas, Electric, Phone, Water
Office Equip & Supplies	23,000	
Stewardship/Hospitality	5,000	
Worship	4,000	
Other	21,000	

TOTAL	\$ 806,000
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NET SURPLUS	\$ 5,000
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C1 – Graduated from Washington and Lee University, Lexington, VA in 1970 with BA in Political Science. M.Div from Virginia Theological Seminary in Alexandria, VA in 1973.

C2 – Ordained: Deacon: 6/13/1973, Bishop West, Episcopal Diocese of Florida; Priest: 5/8/1974, Bishop West, Episcopal Diocese of Florida; Asst., St. Catherine's, Jacksonville and Vicar, St. James', Macclenny, FL 1973-1976; Asst., San Jose Episcopal Church, Jacksonville, FL, 1976-1981; Pastoral Officer, Trinity Parish, New York City, 1981-1988; Rector, St. Paul's, Franklin, TN 1988-present.

C3 For the past 35 years, Father Bob's ministry has been defined by his actions. He has served on Bishop and Council, Standing Committee, and various boards and committees at the Diocesan level, elected Deputy or Alternate to five General Conventions of the Episcopal Church, and served on the Committee on the Status of Women for six years. He has been active in AIDs ministry, helped establish a Pastoral Counseling Center in Franklin, has been active in civic organizations, and serves as chaplain at the hospital and for the Rescue Squad and Sheriff's departments. Father Bob's ministry encompasses our parish family, the community and beyond. Despite the long and often emotionally exhausting nature of his ministry, Father Bob has never taken a sabbatical to renew his spirit.

We, the people of St. Paul's, are not only fully committed to this sabbatical, we are excited about it. We have all come to understand how important it is to each of us that he experiences this journey. Father Bob is the guiding light and spirit of our congregation and we know on his return it will burn brighter and longer to lead us forward.