

June 27, 2017

Dear Friends,

God calls us to bring our whole selves into relationship with God and our neighbor in order to help heal the world. Nothing that we are or have experienced is wasted. With that in mind and with a fervent hope in God's work at St. Paul's Church in Jackson, I humbly and excitedly accepted the call of your vestry to be your new rector. My wife Dee and I have been praying and dreaming about life among you in Jackson and where God will use our gifts and skills for the people of St. Paul's and the wider community.

I have said throughout this discernment process that I am so very proud of you all and the amazing work you've done in the past few years. The Holy Spirit has been working over time it seems to prepare you for the next chapter in your history and I'm so very grateful to get to be on this journey with you! I bring an interesting history of life and work having been raised in the South and then making my first career backstage in the theater and then campus ministry. My call to parish ministry is a call to be an integral part of a parish family helping all ages and abilities to see ourselves as God sees us and challenging us to step out into our own callings knowing how beloved we are. Working together with each other and God's Spirit we can do marvelous things!

As I begin my time among you on August 1<sup>st</sup>, I search the Gospels each day for Christ's words and actions to be my guiding light. I pray for you unceasingly that we would all resemble Jesus more and more each day for each other and for our community. I ask you to pray for me as well as we begin this important relationship together. Let us be hopeful and patient with one another as we get to know each other and let's find ways to have fun as well as work on the tasks God gives us to do. I can't wait to get to know you and your families and see what's in store for us all!

With joy in my heart I remain faithfully your rector,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sarah" followed by a small cross-like flourish.

Rev. Sarah Midzalkowski