

What has brought you the most joy doing this particular work?

Since my arrival in June, so many wonderful, joyful occasions have occurred in the realm of children's and youth ministries. I would have to say that what has brought me the most joy has been getting to know all of your young people. They are phenomenal and essential parts of our parish life. Even more, what has made me incredibly happy has been the excitement I have seen from our young people about wanting to get involved in the life of the church. We have seen more participation in youth group activities and acolyting because our young people want to be present in the life of the church. That's something to celebrate and encourage as much as we can.

What have you learned this year that you didn't know last year?

In this new position as Associate Rector, I am constantly learning. I am meeting new people, I am learning what some of our traditions are at St. Paul's, and I am also trying new things to see what works and does not work. I am also learning what it means to live into my new vocation as a priest, and I am so thankful to do it in the supportive and loving community of St. Paul's.

What are you most looking forward in the year ahead?

I have not been here for a full year yet, so there is still so much I have not experienced and I cannot wait to see what the next year will bring. I am looking forward to continuing to get to know our young people and all the people of St. Paul's. I have already grown so much as a priest from my work here at St. Paul's. I look forward to seeing how we can continue to grow together.

Any statistics that you think are relative to our common life?

With the addition of Headwinds (our 3rd-5th grade youth group), we have an average turnout of 10 to 15 young people on a Sunday night for youth group. This semester, Headwinds will be joining Crosswinds every Sunday evening. We opened up acolyting to 3rd graders through Seniors in high school. Right now, we have 7 Crucifers and 11 torchbearers that rotate duties on Sundays.

Submitted by Ashley Simpson