



St. John's United Methodist Church



5312 Backlick Road, Springfield, VA 22151

Reverend Paula Werner Appointed to St. John's UMC

The Bishop of the Virginia Conference of the United Methodist Church has appointed Reverend Paula Werner as the new pastor at St. John's UMC. Paula has served as an ordained minister in the United Methodist Church for almost 14 years and is currently the pastor at Prince of Peace UMC in Manassas. The Pastor Staff Parish Relations Committee is extremely excited with Paula's appointment and have been heartened by her personality, her background, her sense of excitement and her love of the Lord. Pastor Paula's first Sunday in the pulpit at St. John's will be June 30, 2013.

Pastor Paula and husband Roy both grew up in Orlando, Florida (before the mouse arrived!). They met in college, married and have lived in a number of locales depending on their jobs. They have called several places home in the Maryland, DC and Virginia area while beginning their family with daughter Kelly and son Brent, now both adults.

Pastor Paula trained and taught 7th – 9th grade, was an archivist at Oxford University, England, and worked briefly as an assistant press secretary on Capitol Hill. Pastor Paula then made a "career" out of volunteering, which culminated in service as a local elected city councilmember in Irvine, California for 8 years.

Pastor Paula believes that her call from God came after an early lifetime of training and education that prepared her to say "yes" to full time ministry. She began seminary at Claremont School of Theology in California and then transferred to Wesley Seminary, Washington, D.C., when husband Roy's job was transferred.

After serving 5 years as associate pastor at Old Bridge UMC in Woodbridge and 6 years as pastor at St. Matthias UMC in Fredericksburg, Paula was appointed to Prince of Peace UMC in Manassas in 2010.

Pastor Paula and Roy are grandparents of 6. Two granddaughters (Tesa aged 8 and Tenchoe aged 15 ½) live with them. It's a lively household! Paula, Roy, Tesa and Tenchoe will move into the St. John's parsonage on June 26.

Following the Worship Service on June 30 there will be a picnic reception in Donaldson Hall. Please plan to join this celebration as we begin the process of welcoming Paula and her family to St. John's.

A reminder that June 16 will be Pastor Bill Burroughs's final Sunday at St. John's. This special service will be followed by a reception in Donaldson Hall where we'll celebrate Bills 8 years of service to St. John's and his pending retirement after 41 years as a pastor!

One of the gifts that will be presented to Pastor Bill is a personalized scrapbook which we are asking each member of the congregation to contribute to. Please see the second page of this letter for details on how you can contribute.

Pastor Staff Parish Relations, St. John's UMC, Springfield, Virginia (May 18, 2013)