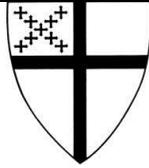


CHURCH OF THE HOLY APOSTLES

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March 23, 2018

Dear Parishioners and Friends of Holy Apostles,

We are thrilled to share with you the news that Holy Apostles has called the Reverend Dr. Anna Pearson to be the new Rector of Holy Apostles and Executive Director of the Holy Apostles Soup Kitchen. The governing body of Holy Apostles unanimously elected Mother Anna to lead our parish community and she will join us full-time on June 1st. While we are excited to welcome Anna, we are also incredibly grateful to Bishop Andrew for being a wonderful interim steward of both the parish and the Soup Kitchen for these last two years as we conducted a search for our new Rector. The clergy, laity, staff, guests and parishioners have all benefited thanks to Bishop Andrew's passion, spirituality and intellect. We are a stronger community thanks to his leadership and will come together to celebrate Bishop Andrew's ministry this May.



Anna joins us from Grace Church, Hastings-on-Hudson, NY, where she has been rector for the last ten years. In her time at Grace, Anna not only raised three sons who are now in college or graduate school, she also initiated the Grace Community Table, a monthly open meal where volunteers and guests cook, serve and eat together. She created the Grace Food Partnership, which collected and distributed fresh produce, canned goods and meals to local organizations in need. And she collaborated with local organizations to offer Breakfast Runs, where volunteers provided hot meals and supplies to homeless and marginalized people in Manhattan. While at Grace Church, Anna also oversaw major administrative projects, including the installation of solar panels, structural support of the church sanctuary, and plans for a complete renovation of the church kitchen.

Prior to her time at Grace Church, Anna was an Assistant Rector at St. John's Church in West Hartford, CT and before that, the Chaplain and Chair of Theology at the Kent School in Kent, CT. A graduate of Barnard College, Berkeley Divinity School at Yale, and Hartford Seminary, Anna has 25 years of experience in ministry in a variety of settings.

It is abundantly clear that Anna embraces the radical hospitality and "food for the soul" ethos that are hallmarks of Holy Apostles, and she has gifts that will help expand our outreach deeper into the community through myriad channels. However, what most drew us to Anna is her deeply lived spiritual life, her love of preaching and her keen intellect; through continued prayer, the vestry came to understand that these were the qualities that would enable Anna to provide a deep pastoral care to our entire community, both inside our church walls and beyond them. We thank the Search Committee for bringing Anna as well as the other highly qualified candidates to us.



In addition, some of the Holy Apostles community may already know a key person in Anna's family. Her husband Charlie Pearson has been a weekly volunteer for many years at our soup kitchen.

Anna becomes the first woman to hold the position of Rector in Holy Apostles' 173-year history and the first woman to be named Executive Director of the Holy Apostles Soup Kitchen. She joins Susan Hill, Liz Maxwell (who also served as our Interim Rector), and a long line of powerful women clergy at Holy Apostles to be a beacon for the church and society, demonstrating what equality and progress look like. More important, we look forward to the work we will do together as Anna, along with our assisting clergy, Soup Kitchen staff, parishioners, choir, volunteers and the extended Holy Apostles community, come together to challenge each of us to serve humanity, have a deeper faith, and find new ways to provide hospitality and hope to the marginalized.

Please join us in welcoming the Pearson family to our community.

In peace,

Louise *Tom*

Louise Tranford & Tom Cunningham, Co Wardens