



# PAUL'S CATHEDRAL

127 Northwest Seventh Street, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73102

Tel: (405) 235-3436 Fax: (405) 235-5253

<http://stpaulsokc.org>

July 16, 2010

Dear Friends,

Before I was a Father at St. Paul's Cathedral, I was a child here. Growing up in this place I was held tightly, enjoyed, sometimes endured, and sent forth: first to college, then to foreign countries and eventually to seminary. At many important thresholds of life St. Paul's has been there to bless, share, grieve and celebrate with me.

Today I am writing to ask for your blessing again as I leave St. Paul's. Wednesday morning I accepted the call to be the next rector of the Church of the Heavenly Rest, Abilene, Texas. Eight years ago Meredith and I were married in this most beautiful church and it has been a home away from home for us ever since. The Church has a Pre-K through 5<sup>th</sup> grade Episcopal School where Meredith attended and where our children will attend. We are absolutely thrilled to have this opportunity.

Leaving St. Paul's has always been hard. There is no other place on earth quite like St. Paul's and I consider it the greatest of graces to have served here with the clergy, staff and people whom I love so much. Taking my wife and children away from the only home our family has known challenges all that my mind, heart and soul can bear.

Join me now during this brief threshold-time together. Our final Sunday will be August 15<sup>th</sup>, at which time there will be a tender and simple celebration. Warden Parker and Bishop Ed will have more to say about how this change will be integrated into the changing life and ministry of St. Paul's.

Thank you for carefully and graciously forming me into the Father I am today. I am so grateful. My soul will always be deeply entwined with the Body of Christ at the corner of 7<sup>th</sup> & Robinson.

Faithfully,

Luke Back