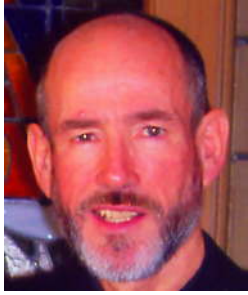


Paul Brouillette, assisting priest



I'm pretty much a new-comer to St. Nicholas, arriving in January 2007, but I'm not a new-comer to the church in general. I was ordained a Roman Catholic Priest in 1970, and in 1976 was received by Bishop Montgomery as an Episcopal priest in the diocese of Chicago. Since then I've exercised my ministry in the Episcopal Church in four different parishes, always as a "tentmaker."

What's a tentmaker? Many Episcopal clergy describe themselves as tentmakers, with the understanding that tentmaking is a word for a specialized apostolic ministry. In Acts 18:1-3 there is reference to Paul having a "day job" as a tentmaker, while serving the church as an apostle.

Who are tentmakers? We are engineers, students, housewives, farmers, lawyers, police officers, bankers and doctors — and we are also ordained clergy. In my case I am a YMCA professional, now retired after a 32-year career. As tentmakers we are called to ministry within the marketplace and wider community while deriving a substantial portion of our income from sources other than the institutional church. We are devoted to the validation of new and emerging models of ministry in concert with the current parish model.

During most of my journey in the Episcopal Church, I worked full time for the YMCA in Metropolitan Chicago for 9 years and then for the YMCA of the USA for 23 years. I was first drawn to the YMCA in the early 70's because of my earlier experience in parish youth ministry and as a prison chaplain intern with the California Youth Authority. I started with the YMCA in Chicago as a Group Home Director, but my aptitude for mathematics and computer science brought me to the metro office where I served as Director of Research.

In 1981 I joined the Research Department at the YMCA of the USA and soon headed a project to develop a PC-based software product called Y-Ware, which was first released in 1985 and at its peak was running in more than 400 YMCAs. Through the rest of my YMCA career I wore most of the hats in the world of technology for YMCAs, including programmer/systems analyst, technical support specialist, salesman, administrator, documentation writer, newsletter editor, trainer, consultant, and mentor. What I always liked about my work in the YMCA was helping someone as a trainer, mentor, and most of all as a spiritual presence and voice in the workplace.

Since retiring in April 2004 I took a course in web page design and set up a new web site for NASSAM (National Association for the Self-Supporting Active Ministry), the national group of

tentmaker clergy in the Episcopal Church. I have also served on the Bishop's Advisory Council on Tentmaking Ministry in the Diocese of Chicago.

My bachelor's degrees are in philosophy and mathematics, with graduate studies both in mathematics and computer science. My Master of Divinity (M.Div.) degree is from Catholic Theological Union. As an avid runner, I derive strength for body, mind, and spirit. I've run 14 marathons and still compete in many road races every year. I enjoy singing, playing 5-string banjo and guitar, camping with family and friends, and the great outdoors in general. My wife, Judy, and I live in Des Plaines, Illinois. We have two sons, Mike (30) and Patrick (24).

I'm excited about what I see developing at St. Nicholas. There is an energy here beyond description and an openness to discover new ways to be the church in the 21st century.