

100 Years Ago at St. Paul's

April 1915

The following piece of sarcastic and ironical fiction was published in the April, 1915, monthly newsletter of St. Paul's and was entitled, "The Parson's Dream." The term "parson" refers to the rector or clergyman of a church. Remember, 100 years ago women were not ordained.

"It was late at night and the parson had just completed his report to the bishop. Financially it was the best report the parish had ever made. As the parson sat musing he must have fallen asleep.

"He found himself in a large church and the priest was preparing the altar for the first service, for it was still early morning. The parson felt that he was with a multitude who were there worshiping. They seemed to be of all kinds and from all ranks in life.

"It turned the thoughts of the parson to his own ministry. He humbled himself as he recalled his own failures and mistakes.

"The service ended and he then rose, determined to thank the priest but already a number of people were there waiting to see him. The person next in line proved to be the treasurer who reported to the priest, 'Mrs. H. said she would stop giving if you didn't get yourself a new cassock. She sees the patches in yours every time you go to the pulpit. Mr. S. said we should have a new organ because people say that St. Peter's Church is much handsomer than ours although it is not so strong a parish.

"The priest interrupted, 'Look at the congregation this morning, and the congregation last Sunday. I really fear some of these people are growing careless. There could not have been more than 700 in church last Sunday.

"There was a pause and in that moment of stillness the parson awoke to find his report had fallen to the floor. It was after all only a dream, but shall it be always only a dream?"

In May, 1915, the following report was given:

The Consecration

"A more beautiful day than April 21, 1915, could not have been desired for a fitting close of our beloved rector's long ministry of 23 years, when he was consecrated in St. Paul's to be our bishop coadjutor. 700 tickets had been given out. Three crucifers led the three groups of choir, diocesan and visiting priests and bishops with the coadjutor-elect with his presbyters.

"It is a consoling thought for the parish that our former rector is still to live in Burlington and we shall be heartily glad to have been able to give him up for the sake of helping our bishop and for the good of the diocese."

At the parish annual meeting held in May, the vestry reported the following expenses for the year:

Rector's salary	\$2200
Deaconess	720
Sexton	600
Chime ringer	50
Music	1650
Utilities	212
Organ tuning	125

The annual report of the Pastoral Aid Society stated that "The Pastoral Aid is not merely a sewing society, but a social one as well, and there are great opportunities to send sunshine of our lives to the lives of others.

"At Thanksgiving, 20 well-filled baskets were distributed to members of the parish. During the year there were 39 garments made: aprons, dresses, bloomers, shirts, flannel skirts, drawers and night dresses."