



### **Q&A with April Trout – Newly Appointed BKB Program Coordinator**

*This fall we look forward to welcoming April Trout to role of BKB Program Coordinator. A recent graduate of the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg, April comes to us from the Lower Susquehanna Synod of the ELCA with twenty-eight years of experience in labor and delivery nursing as well as a term of service with the Peace Corp in Tanzania. This will be her first call as a rostered Minister of Word and Service.*



#### ***What are you looking forward to in this new role?***

I am so looking forward to returning to Tanzania - it is such a beautiful country - and to the African lifestyle. I am excited for the opportunity to meet new people, discover and explore a new part of the world, learn a new language, and do it all in service to God and the church.

#### ***What inspired you to consider serving in this capacity?***

After serving in the Peace Corps in the 1970s, I knew that I had the ability to adapt to different cultures, and I appreciated how my worldview had been expanded and impacted by the experience. I also knew that someday, when I had children, I would want to give them the same kind of experience - which is why I took my son to Tanzania in 2004. Now, having graduated from Seminary, I believe that I have been gifted for mission work. Returning to Tanzania is just icing on the cake!

#### ***What challenges do you anticipate in this call?***

I expect that I will be challenged initially by a bit of homesickness and sadness over leaving family and friends, my church, and my Sweet Adelines chorus barbershop singing. And there will be so much to get to know - new job, new people, new geography. But I learned as a Peace Corps volunteer - one of the most valuable life lessons I've ever learned - to take some time to observe and adapt before trying to make any big moves or changes. I think that immersing myself in this observation will help me get over the homesickness and sadness.

***What is on your 'to do' list these next few months?***

I've got so much to do! Basically I have to downsize in a major way - rehome my cats, sort through all my belongings, decide what to take with me/what to store/what to dispose of, sell my house and car, and make whatever arrangements I need to for life in a foreign country. But I look forward to doing it - what marvelous soul exercise it is, stripping life down to the bare essentials.

***How can the people of the Saint Paul Area Synod pray for or otherwise support you?***

I would appreciate prayer particularly for success in selling my house - it's my biggest concern, as I cannot afford to pay the mortgage once I start this new venture - and for my finances in general. I don't have a great deal of money saved (I've lived an "adventurous" life, following the Holy Spirit, which doesn't always pay well); thus I won't have anything to live on other than my monthly stipend. But I trust in God to cover it!

***Any surprising or interesting facts that people might want to know?***

I've been a Sweet Adeline (women's barbershop) for 17 years. I sing bass in barbershop (women sing in the same four parts as male barbershoppers), although I have sung soprano for most of my life. But I have occasionally sung tenor (the highest part) as well; I have a 3-octave range. I hope to get the opportunity to sing with a Tanzanian choir while I'm there and learn a different way to sing acapella music.

I am the oldest of four: I have two brothers and a sister, who is an ELCA pastor and graduate of LTSG. My paternal grandfather and his brother were also graduates of LTSG.

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**Missionary Support**

The role of BKB Program Coordinator is a shared-placement position offered in cooperation with ELCA Global Mission. Here, in Saint Paul, the position is funded through a combination of synodical support, administrative fees, and direct contributions from sponsoring congregations and individuals like you. Contact [begakwabega@spas-elca.org](mailto:begakwabega@spas-elca.org) to learn how you can assist.