Bishop Robert Wright to Speak at Sewanee on February 23, 2020

The public is invited to attend a free lecture by the Rt. Rev. Robert C. Wright at St. Andrews- Sewanee School on Sunday, February 23 at 4:30 p.m. in McCrory Hall for the Performing Arts. Bishop Wright, Bishop of the Diocese of Atlanta, is this year’s Bishop Reynolds Forum speaker. The topic of his talk will be “Becoming Beloved Community,” a reference to Dr. Martin Luther King’s vision of a society based on justice, equal opportunity, and love of one’s fellow human beings. There will be a reception following the talk.

In a 2014 sermon, Bishop Wright reminded congregants that, “The Beloved Community seeks to describe the reality that good is created, locally and cosmically when people practice Christian love through reconciliation and redemption. And that the practice of Christian love generates unique goodwill that transforms old-age gloom into new-age exuberant gladness.” His message is one of acknowledging past sins in order to move forward.

The Right Rev. Robert C. Wright is the 10th bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Atlanta, which covers north and middle Georgia and embraces 110 worshiping communities. At the time of his election in June 2012, he had served 10 years as rector of St. Paul’s Episcopal Church in Atlanta. Prior to that, he was a school chaplain and on the staff of the Cathedral of St. John the Divine, New York City.

Since becoming bishop, Bishop Wright has addressed the Georgia legislature about gun control, spoke up for Medicaid expansion and has been a vocal and active opponent of the death penalty in Georgia. In commemoration of the birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King, he prayed with a City of Atlanta sanitation crew before taking an early morning shift on the back of a city garbage truck. In January 2015, he was named among the 100 Most Influential Georgians by GeorgiaTrend magazine.

Wright was born in a Roman Catholic orphanage in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and was adopted at 9 months of age. After graduating high school, he served five years in the U.S. Navy. While attending Howard University in Washington, D.C., he worked as a child advocate for two mayors. He earned an M.Div. from Virginia Theological Seminary, and he has been awarded honorary Doctor of Divinity degrees by the Virginia seminary and Sewanee: The University of the South.

Bishop Wright’s visit is made possible through the Bishop Reynolds Forum which brings a prominent speaker to the SAS campus each year to engage students and the community in a topic
of current interest. The Forum was established through an endowment in memory of the Rt. Rev. George Reynolds, the late Bishop of Tennessee. A graduate and former chaplain of the Sewanee Military Academy and a former trustee and past parent at St. Andrew's-Sewanee School, Bishop Reynolds was engaged by and involved with the numerous personal and social issues confronting the individual, the Church, and the society he served. In the forums of his ministry, he had the courage to ask the difficult questions and the strength and openness of mind to explore the ideas that flowed from response to those questions. He was guided by the belief that thoughtful and open address of issues and conflicts created personal growth, moral strength, and sound judgment. The Forum is a creative way to honor these qualities of mind and heart and to encourage emulation of them by students of St. Andrew's-Sewanee School and the Sewanee Community.

In addition to the Sunday afternoon talk, Bishop Wright will speak at an all-school chapel on Monday morning and visit the senior Introduction to Religious Studies classes.

ABOUT ST. ANDREW’S-SEWANEE SCHOOL: St. Andrew’s-Sewanee School is a private, co-educational, Episcopal, boarding and day college preparatory school serving 240 students in grades 6-12. We CHALLENGE our students to fulfill their greatest potential while helping them to cultivate lives of BALANCE and JOY.

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