

I was born in Anniston, Alabama, a town of 30,000, between Birmingham and Atlanta. Grew up as Southern Baptist, attended a Baptist College(at that time), Wake Forest University in NC and then attended Union Theological Seminary in NYC. Through several significant personal influences, I was confirmed as an Episcopalian at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine where I was later ordained to the Diaconate and Priesthood. After graduation from Union, I began training in counseling at the BlantonPeale Institute's three year residency in pastoral psychotherapy in New York and in conjunction with Andover Newton Theological School near Boston, I received a D.Miri. in pastoral counseling.

For 34 years, I was in practice as a therapist in NY and also in Greenwich and Stamford, CT. I also taught for more than 20 years in the doctoral program of Hebrew Union College-Postgraduate Center for Mental Health so that parish clergy from all faiths could become more competent counselors. My favorite endeavor there was conducting a seminar for second year students where they could share their cases and plumb the depths of their counselees as well as their own responses for the greater good of serving the client.

Beginning in 2000, I began serving several CT parishes as an interim rector. I discovered how much I enjoyed this new work with a broader focus going beyond an individual person, couple or even small group. With many forces of fragmentation in our society, people need community and safe places for connecting and being themselves while continuing their personal faith journeys.

The patron saint of this parish, St. Thomas, is known as a doubter. I prefer to think of him as a questioner and seeker. I want the parish of St. Thomas to be a welcoming place to all people whether they think of themselves as believers, seekers or doubters. I am grateful, excited, scared and happy to be the new priest and vicar of this parish.

I like to hike, kayak, hang out and dance. In fact, I often think of Life as a dance which calls each of us out onto the dance floor to "do our thing," and discover what best suits us and gives us pleasure and delight as we express who we are in a way that gives and contributes to others all in the name of Love. If we live in the rhythm of love, all will be well. At the same time, community needs such safety so that each can look at the ways we sabotage our full participation in the dance and opt for being a wall flower. When Jesus said to those first followers, "Follow Me," he might also have been saying, "Come, let me show you how to dance(really live) and you'll get a taste of Life the likes of which you have never known."