



SARAH FISHER

PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Equips congregations to be faithful, healthy, joyful and full of holy curiosity. Adept at building and sustaining relationships, offering hospitable liturgies for seasoned Episcopalians, newcomers, and seekers alike. Thrives at creating space for the sacred to take root in the midst of the busy world in which we dwell. Values wonder, deep listening and laughter. Constantly learning.

EXPERIENCE

Rector June 2017 - Current

St. Catherine's Episcopal Church | Marietta, GA

- Partnering with a dynamic and vibrant parish (ASA 200) to become better neighbors, more present in the community and more hospitable.
- Engaging ministries and relationships with new and returning members after the pandemic. Special focus on families with young children, many of whom are new to church-life, on fostering spiritual health and joy.
- Creating and updating much needed policies (financial, HR, facility use) and procedures to ensure good stewardship of our resources, facility and staff, while being transparent with the parish about money.
- Collaborative leadership, in a politically purple parish, with Vestry, Staff and key lay leaders, seeking consensus whenever possible.

Associate Rector November 2014 - June 2017

St. Patrick's Episcopal Church | Dunwood, Georgia

- Fostering community, energy, healing and joy in a urban church as it transitions from a pastoral size to program size.
- Chaplain to Malachi's Storehouse, a food ministry that provides free, grocery store style food shopping each week, feeding an average of 800 people per week.

Interim Rector July 2013 - November 2014

Grace-Calvary Episcopal Church | Clarkesville, GA

- Caring for pastoral-sized church in transition, located in the Northeast Georgia Mountains, focusing on strengthening community.
- Crafted a new approach to stewardship, and in four months yielded an 11% increase in pledge dollars, with over 50% of the parish increasing their financial pledges.
- Helped establish a weekly Eucharist at Arrendale State Prison for Women.

Chaplain Resident August 2012 - July 2013

Children's Healthcare of Atlanta | Atlanta, Georgia

- Primary pastoral care provider for families and staff in the Emergency Department of a Level One Pediatric Trauma Center, as well as care and support for two non-critical hospital floors.

Rector August 2007 - August 2012
St. Peter's Episcopal Church | Chicago, Illinois

- Revitalizing an urban congregation of 135 members in the heart of Chicago by focusing on raising up the baptized for servant leadership,
- Increased both membership and pledging, yielding a 43% increase in pledges over three years and the parish's most successful pledge campaigns in the two decades.

Curate June 2005 - June 2007
St. Paul & the Redeemer | Chicago, IL

- Strengthening and creating opportunities for spiritual formation and education of children and youth at an urban parish of 250 families near the University of Chicago, while learning the craft of priesthood.

EDUCATION

Master of Divinity May 2005
The General Theological Seminary , New York, NY

Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) - Psychology May 1993
Agnes Scott College, Decatur, GA

ORDINATIONS

- Priest in the Episcopal Church, June 16, 2005, Athens, Georgia
- Deacon in the Episcopal Church, December 21, 2004, Atlanta, Georgia

IN THE WIDER CHURCH

- Trainer & Co-Director for *The College for Congregational Development* (Atlanta)
- Board Member (2014-2020) & Vice President of the Board (2016-2020) for *TENS: The Episcopal Network for Stewardship*
- Convocational Dean, Marietta Deanery, Diocese of Atlanta

TIDBITS

I share my life with my wife Mandy, who is also an Episcopal priest, and our dogs Bayton & Maggie, the black labs. Bayton serves as the Chief Joy Officer of my parish. We like exploring in our neighborhood, growing things in the garden, and traveling whenever we can. Transformative journeys in our lives include Israel/Palestine and hiking the Way of St. David in Wales. We love to kayak and look for any excuse to get out on the water. I am both a yoga student and a yoga teacher and find yoga to be an outlet for my creativity, as well as my physical and spiritual health. For fun I like to play in the kitchen, explore thrift stores and drink too much coffee. Favorite books include [A Prayer for Owen Meany](#), anything written by Flemming Rutledge, and the poetry of Naomi Shihab Nye, Marie Howe and David Whyte. These days, I spent a lot of time throwing tennis balls and joyfully watching dogs return them to me.