

Greetings to the Cathedral community of St. Stephen's!

It is an honor and great joy to write to you as your next Dean and Rector. My family and I are excited to become a part of the life of St. Stephen's Cathedral and School, growing together, serving together, and sharing the gospel together. I will be joining you all beginning on October 1st, just in time for Diocesan convention! Until then, I want to share a little about myself and my family: Catherine, Willa (10), Clara (soon to be 6), and Leo (our pooch).



Catherine and I met at General Seminary in New York City, where she earned her MA in Religion. We've been married for 14 years. Catherine serves the Diocese of West Virginia as Canon for Ministry and Mission, helping to oversee and coordinate programming from formation at the youngest age to retreats for clergy. Her work allows her to serve remotely, though the role calls for occasional travel.

Our girls share a love of figure skating and are looking forward to continuing the sport in Harrisburg. Willa loves wildlife (especially bees and butterflies), environmental stewardship, reading, Jeopardy, and card tricks. Clara loves Taylor Swift, Disney, dressing up as a princess, roller coasters, and picking flowers for her mom. Leo, though an old dog, finds the energy to chase bunnies in the backyard and continues to alert us to other dogs passing by the house.

Before I attended seminary, I was an athletic trainer, receiving my undergraduate degree from West Virginia University. I worked for two years with UPMC Sports Medicine in Pittsburgh, PA, where I cared for the athletes of three inner-city high schools. I served congregations in Parkersburg, WV and Lewisburg, WV, before being called to St. Matthew's in Wheeling, WV. Within the Diocese of WV, I've served on the Standing Committee, the Constitution & Canons Committee, and the Commission on Social Witness. I was a two-time Deputy for General Convention. While a Deputy, I served on the Creation Care Committee. I am the clergy representative to Province III Council for WV, and I also serve as Archdeacon for Community Resilience and Disaster Response.

I find restoration in hiking, gardening, and woodworking. I also played ice hockey (goalie) growing up, and I occasionally tend the net for the local adult recreation league here in Wheeling. Like the girls, I'm looking forward to year-round ice in Harrisburg!

I look forward to this new chapter in our life with anticipation, and I am excited to walk with you and the leadership at the Cathedral, the Episcopal School, and the wider Diocese as partners in Christ — worshiping together, working together for justice and peace, and helping equip and encourage one another on our journeys of faith. Until then, you remain in my prayers. I ask for yours in this transition, too: for me and my family, and for St. Matthew's here in Wheeling as they look to navigate the weeks and months ahead.

In gratitude and thanksgiving,

Josh+