

I am overjoyed to accept the call to become rector of St. Paul's Church Kent this July! My first Sunday with you will be July 12. Through my late father (a Chestertown native) I am a direct descendant of Michael Miller II, the donor of St. Paul's churchyard. This is not why I applied to be your rector (it is why I first read your profile). What made me apply was seeing how you live out your faith in our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. You are faithful to the past we share, to the faith once delivered to the saints, but you are not simply focused on the past. Church on the Beach is an example of you reaching out of the churchyard into the world around you. I also learned you are careful to communicate with new people moving into the community. My wife and I are looking forward to joining you in this mission to learn God's Word, and to live God's Love.

I was born in Washington, DC, and raised in Prince George's County, Maryland. I was brought up in the Episcopal Church and through in all levels of Episcopal Church Camps, and as a teenager was part of the Diocese of Washington's Commission on Peace 1988 Youth Trip to the Soviet Union. I'm neurodivergent. Unable to read until I was twelve, through hard work and the support of my parents, my sister, the late Dr. Harry Wachs, and Prince George's County Public Schools, I was able to adapt and have not stopped reading since.

I am a graduate of Salisbury University here on the Eastern Shore where I double majored in history and philosophy. I was part of the opening staff of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum for four-and-a-half years and studied at the Dominican House of Studies before attending Virginia Theological Seminary in Alexandria, where I met my wife. We both graduated from VTS and were married (two days later) in 2000.

Since then I have served full time as a priest in the dioceses of West Virginia, Virginia, Maryland, and Western New York. I spent eight years (2010-2018) as rector of Trinity Church, Morgantown, West Virginia, on the edge of WVU's campus and most recently spent eight years as rector of the Church of the Good Shepherd in Buffalo (2018-2026). I've led around a dozen week long camps and retreats for high school and college students, served in various leadership positions, and worked under my seminary classmate Bishop Sean Rowe, now the Presiding Bishop, in developing new ways of doing ministry in

Buffalo. I believe this can be useful to our diocese as the future shape of ministry here is determined. I have always been first and foremost a parish priest. I love parish ministry.

My wife, Mother Elizabeth Hadaway, is from the mountains of Virginia. She has a BA and MA in English from UVA, an MFA from UNC-Greensboro, a MTS and a Certificate in Anglican Studies from Virginia Seminary, and was a Wallace Stegner Fellow in Poetry at Stanford University. She joined the Episcopal Church through the Stanford Canterbury in 1997 before we met. A poet as well as a priest, she has an award-winning book, *Fire Baton*, out from the University of Arkansas Press and has contributed poems, essays, and sermons to a number of publications both in print and online. As we move to Saint Paul's she looks forward to focusing on a theological poetry project, while also living out her priestly ministry with us at St. Paul's as a priest associate (a non-stipendiary position), and serving the Diocese of Easton in other ways.

In Christ,

Michael Miller Hadaway +

