

Dear friends,

A beautiful print of a cathedral hung over my desk while in seminary. After graduating, I carried this print with me to my office at St. Mark's Church here in Jacksonville, then to a small parish that I served in rural Massachusetts, and finally to St. Luke's in Dallas. This print of St. John's Cathedral was a gift from Dean Kate more than a decade ago, after I served as an intern here. Over the ensuing years, it has reminded me of the foundation for my faith, and has served as an image of a church that is defined by love at the core.

I grew up at St John's and this church has always held a special place in my heart. The Cathedral is where I developed a relationship with God: attending Sunday School here, serving as an acolyte, marrying Mary, and then celebrating my ordination. I am overjoyed to have been called to serve in the church where the foundation of my faith was built, and to support Dean Kate and the ministries of this extraordinary cathedral.

I am currently serving as the Rector of St. Luke's Episcopal church in Dallas, where I helped guide this parish through a season of growth, recovery from a devastating tornado, and then a capital campaign to build a new parish hall. Leaving St. Luke's was a difficult decision: leaving friends we have come to respect and love, and leaving a church that has grown in so many ways. But God's call is compelling, and I am confident that God is calling me to serve the Cathedral family.

Mary and I eagerly anticipate getting to know you and serving alongside you! Mary is a dermatologist and fondly remembers serving on the altar guild at St. John's shortly after we were married. We also bring with us a one-year-old boy named Philip (who celebrated his birthday last week!) and a two-year-old puppy named Winston.

We look forward to worshiping with you on Palm Sunday. In the meantime, please keep us in your prayers. We will be praying for you and for the work that God is calling us to do together. And, I look forward to showing you the print that will once again hang in my office.

Yours in Christ,

Mark+