



Christ Episcopal Church
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December 14, 2017

Dear Friends,

The wardens and vestry of Christ Episcopal Church in Springfield, Ohio are delighted to welcome the Reverend Margaret (Maggie) Leidheiser-Stoddard as our next rector! Maggie's first Sunday with us will be January 21, 2018.

The search committee unanimously recommended that the Rev. Maggie Leidheiser-Stoddard be called as rector of Christ Church. The vestry accepted the recommendation and unanimously voted to extend the call to Maggie. The vestry was particularly impressed by this excerpt from the search committee's letter:

"The Rev. Leidheiser-Stoddard has experience, strengths, and talents consistent with the five characteristics listed as important in the parish profile. She is a gifted preacher with a warm delivery that delivers fresh spiritual insights. We believe that her academic background, which informs her preaching, will be appreciated by both young and old in our parish. She is a strategic thinker who has demonstrated the ability to create and grow programs and bring new people into the church. The committee was impressed with the faith and perspective she brought to questions about church growth and current trends in membership. Her youth will be an asset as we seek ways to attract new faces to our congregation. She is a trusted counselor with experience in both hospital and parish settings. She is very approachable and invites conversation. She is an attentive listener and her ability to form genuine relationships with others is a clear strength. She has also demonstrated administrative abilities in a variety of roles, and her leadership style seems like a fit with Christ Church."

Maggie is originally from North Carolina, but has lived in central Ohio for the past seven years. She graduated from Bexley Seabury Seminary in May 2016. Maggie graduated from Mount Holyoke College in Massachusetts and has Master's degrees from Queen's University in Kingston, Ontario and Pacific School of Religion in Berkeley, CA.

Maggie was ordained to the priesthood at Christ Church Cathedral (Cincinnati) in June 2017 and has been serving as Assisting Priest and Diocesan Resident at St. John's, Worthington with the Reverend Phillip College since her ordination. She previously spent six years as Coordinator of Children's and Youth Ministries at St. John's.

Maggie currently lives in Bexley with her husband Jon, son Jesse, and guinea pig, Mr. Chubbikins. She plans to commute from Bexley to Springfield for the first few months of her time at Christ Church, then she and her family will move to Springfield at the beginning of the summer (after Jesse finishes 3rd grade). Maggie shared in an email that she is "passionate about vibrant worship and preaching, pastoral care, education for all ages, and building meaningful relationships both within and outside the parish." Maggie concluded her email by saying she is "grateful, humbled, and EXCITED to embark on this new journey with God and the people of Christ Church!"

Please plan to join us on Sunday, January 21, 2018 to welcome the Reverend Maggie Leidheiser-Stoddard. Thanks be to God, and welcome, Maggie!

Peace,

Bonnie Shelburne
Senior Warden

