



The Episcopal Church of St. John the Baptist
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The Rev. Paula J. Waite, Deacon

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Dear Faithful Members of St. John the Baptist,

It is a privilege to be given this chance to send you a personal greeting following your warm welcome in July. As with all of life's journeys, our paths are varied and I would like to take this opportunity to give you a snapshot of my path to St. John the Baptist.

My husband Tom and I have been married for 28 years. Before moving to Heritage Creek in Milton, we spent 21 years in Annapolis, Maryland. I had a home-based business during those years offering custom window treatments and interior design services.

Although I have always been an Episcopalian, I felt a strong calling to serve God and sought the guidance of my rector at St. Anne's, the Church in the Circle, in downtown Annapolis. With her guidance and support, I began the arduous task of pursuing a Masters in Theology and also accepted a part-time position with St. Anne's as the Coordinator of Membership and Volunteers. These experiences, and the Episcopal discernment process, solidified my call to serve the church as a deacon. Additionally, I was blessed with an insightful bishop who sent me to Christiana Hospital in Newark to begin the intensive training to become a chaplain. After completing my residency last year, I now complement my service to God at St. John the Baptist through my role as staff chaplain at Beebe Hospital in Lewes where I offer spiritual and emotional support to patients, their families and our staff.

As we move forward, I hope to stimulate the growth of our congregation and also inspire you to find new ways to engage your faith in our parish and our community. I'm excited to offer a blog on our website to highlight St. John the Baptist's history and suggest ideas to support your own faith journey. Additionally, I have met with our senior warden and this fall we will offer a daytime program of study to examine women in the Bible. This learning opportunity will be open to all.

Finally, I would like you to consider joining me for fellowship on a periodic basis. This could be a potluck brunch, lunch, or dinner. So many times we get caught up in the stress and busyness of life that we forget that we travel our paths together with other believers. Our faith is strengthened in numbers! Watch for details for the first "St. John the Baptist Gathering!"

Thank you all!
Deacon Paula