



HOLY TRINITY CHURCH

Holy Trinity Church Joyfully Welcomes Our New Rector John W. Yates III

July 21, 2010

To Our Holy Trinity Church Family:

With gratitude to God, an incredible sense of joy and unity, and an understanding of the special significance of this decision at this point in the life of our Church, the Vestry is honored to announce the calling of the Reverend Dr. John William Yates III as the Rector of Holy Trinity Church.

Once again, our great and loving God has blessed us beyond measure. This unanimous decision by your Vestry is a result of nearly five months of seeking God's will for our Church through intense prayer and thorough examinations of the credentials, writings, sermons and references of more than 40 highly qualified men of God, followed by numerous phone interviews and face-to-face visits.

With equal excitement and enthusiasm, John has accepted the call to be Holy Trinity's next leader. He and his wife Alysia and their four children – Sylvia (7), Isabel (5), Jack (3) and Alexander (10 months) – will celebrate their first official Sunday with us on September 12, 2010. We are thankful for God's guidance and faithfulness to us during this process.

John is an outstanding preacher and teacher. While his teaching is thoroughly steeped in eminent Anglican scholarship, his style is straight forward and approachable. A visionary leader, John will effectively guide and shepherd us for many years as we continue to grow in numbers and impact our community. At the same time, he will serve as an outstanding pastor to our existing flock. We are confident that the Lord has placed him in our midst for our Church's next season.

Plans are underway to welcome the Yates family to Raleigh and introduce them to their new Holy Trinity Church family. We know you will want to help us prepare. Meanwhile, we have included some background information about John and his family to help you get to know them better. Please note the questions that were posed to all candidates and excerpts from the material that John wrote in response.

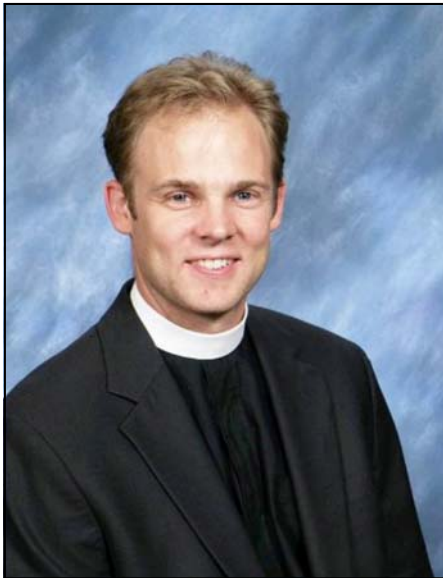
We also encourage you to listen to John's sermons at www.good-samaritan.org/sermons. We are very excited that John's gift of preaching will enable us to continue to "proclaim peace" in Raleigh from Peace Street.

Holy Trinity Church began with a small group of people on their knees asking God for His direction and blessing, and we know that you will agree that He has blessed us with more than we could have ever imagined. As we move forward together into this exciting season in the life of our Church, we ask for your continued prayers: for our Church, the Vestry and Staff, the Yates family, and Church of The Good Samaritan in Paoli, PA. May we continue to keep our focus on Him: thanking Him for His past and present provision, and continuing to seek His guidance as we seek to grow His Church.

In Christ,
The Vestry of Holy Trinity Church

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John and Alysia Yates

Our new Rector, the Reverend John W. Yates III, is the son of The Rev. Dr. John and Mrs. Susan Yates who have served in historic The Falls Church, Virginia for thirty-one years. John began his faith and discipleship journey from this solid foundation in Christian witness and ministry.

John began to sense a calling to ministry in high school, and he was active in leadership in Young Life while a student at the University of Virginia. Graduating from Virginia in 1996 with a BA with Distinction in Religious Studies, he then served for three years as Study Assistant to the Rev. Dr. John Stott, an Anglican scholar who has been described by the New York Times as the “pope” of evangelicals and by Billy Graham as “the most respected clergyman in the world today.” He earned an MA in Systematic Theology from King’s College, London in 2000, followed by a Masters in Divinity from Trinity School for Ministry, Ambridge, PA with the Systematic Theology Award in 2003. He earned his PhD in New Testament Studies from Cambridge University in England in 2007. During his doctoral work, he served as Assistant to the Dean of the Chapel and as part time chaplain.

In 2007, the Church of the Good Samaritan, Paoli, PA called John as an Associate for Adult Ministry where he has been in charge of adult education, young adult ministry, marriage preparation, small groups, contemporary worship service, and design and implementation of all teaching and preaching series.

John and Alysia enjoy telling the story of how John’s grandmother, the late Mrs. Sue Tucker Yates of Raleigh, introduced them while Alysia was a student at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. Alysia’s parents and siblings live in North Carolina. Alysia also earned an MA in Church History from Trinity School for Ministry.

John and Alysia have four young children: Sylvia (7), Isabel (5), Jack (3) and Alexander (10 months).

John has held several leadership positions in Christian organizations (including Fellow and Board member of the Society for the Advancement of Ecclesial Theology) and has published a number of articles and books.

When not engaged in ministry John enjoys “wrestling with Jack, playing *Peter Pan* with Sylvia and Isabel and being drooled on by Alexander.” He also loves to read, cook with his wife, watch English soccer and smoke the occasional cigar.

John's Responses to Questions Posed in the Parish Profile

When asked to describe his relationship to Jesus Christ and how he practices his faith in everyday life, John's response included the following:

I was a self-assured fourteen year-old who thought I had mastered the faith when my father decided it was time to hire a new youth minister. Over Coke and fries at a local McDonalds that youth minister peeled back the curtain on the adventure of the Christian life, helping me to see for the first time the exciting expanse of Christian discipleship.....

At fourteen the genuine and heartfelt faith of my childhood encountered the depths of adult discipleship and I never looked back. I began to study scripture in earnest. I began to believe in the power of prayer and pursue it. I felt the call to mission and ministry and engaged it...

After college I moved to London, England, where for three years I served as study assistant to John Stott. During this time my sense of calling to full-time ministry was clarified. Also during this time I experienced an intellectual awakening, for the first time taking seriously Paul's exhortation to the Christians in Rome that we be transformed by the renewing of our minds...

Throughout my life I have enjoyed a growing relationship with God. Scripture has always been at the center of that relationship. My PhD studies reflect that, and were pursued as an investment in a lifetime of word-centered ministry. As a leader among God's people I have a deep sense of the necessity of worship, rest, study and prayer. I work hard to make space for these essential aspects of life because they are the chief means by which God pours out his grace on us day-by-day. Without them I am all too aware that I would burn-out, break-down or fade away...

I think of my faith in robustly Trinitarian terms. I am a follower of our Lord Jesus. Through faith in His unique work, I have been adopted as a child of God the Father and indwelt by the life-giving Holy Spirit. These are the realities that animate my daily existence and shape my understanding of the world around me.

When asked to comment on the ways in which his gifts for ministry would benefit our parish, John's response included the following comments:

My greatest joy in ministry is preaching. There is no other part of ordained ministry in the church that challenges and energizes me as much as the preaching of the gospel. Preaching is not only a joy, I believe it is also a strength of mine and one of the primary ways in which I have been called to build and grow God's church...It is clear that Holy Trinity has flourished under strong preaching and expects a great deal from her new rector in the pulpit. I am heartened by your emphasis on preaching and believe I would bring a faithful, biblical, culturally sensitive voice to the pulpit...

One of the things that most excites me about Holy Trinity is the site on which you have chosen to build your church. It demonstrates a long-term commitment to the city, the capitol area and the several universities nearby. One of the strengths I would bring to a church in this context is extensive experience in the academy. I pursued and completed my PhD in New Testament for two reasons: first, as an investment in a lifetime of preaching and teaching; second, as an initial step in a vocation for bridging the gap between the academy and the church. I believe that the academy has great things to offer the church, while the church has even more to offer those in academic communities...

When asked how he would plan to build a staff and hire to support his strengths and weaknesses, John replied....

Entering a parish in a season of building and transition presents an incredible opportunity and a number of challenges. There will be a temptation to hire staff quickly so as to encourage the forward momentum so clearly evident in the parish profile. And yet it will be extremely important to make sure the best possible candidates for each position are identified and pursued. This usually takes more time than anyone would like, and yet the benefit of hiring the best people cannot be overstated....

My hope would be to hire an (associate) priest who is particularly gifted in pastoral care and counseling, who is an able preacher and has the capacity to handle a number of varied tasks at any given time. In a growing community clergy need to be nimble, willing and multi-talented. A special focus on pastoral care and counseling, however, would be a great gift to me, enabling me to focus on preaching, vision and team-building...

When asked which of the traditions of Global Anglicanism – Anglo-Catholic, Evangelical and Charismatic - best identifies and expresses his personal faith and praxis in worship and ministry, John responded as follows:

I grew up in the low-church tradition of Virginia. Cassock and surplice, Morning Prayer and sound biblical preaching were what constituted weekly worship....

... while I identify myself as a low-church evangelical, I am familiar with and comfortable in many forms of Anglican worship. I appreciate the beauty of our various traditions and believe that a church need not have a uniform worship style at all services...

First and foremost I believe that liturgical worship ought to be Christ-centered and clearly biblical. It should also be beautiful, well ordered and of the highest quality possible given the setting and those participating. When these qualities are combined the gospel is most clearly proclaimed and God most glorified in our gathering