

August 15, 2014

My fellow parishioners:

It is my honor and privilege to notify you that our Vestry extended a Call to the Reverend R. Casey Shobe to serve as the fourth Rector of Transfiguration, which he accepted. The vote of the Vestry was unanimous, upon recommendation of the Search Committee. Bishop Lambert canonically approved the Call.

This Call occurred after a long, discerning search process by the Search Committee, Vestry and each of us in this parish. No stone was left unturned, and this search attracted the interest of those around the world. In the end, Casey's talents and vision most clearly aligned with the needs and desires of Transfiguration, as identified in our responses to the survey, the Holy Conversations, and our parish Profile. Both the Vestry and the Search Committee felt him the best possible candidate to honor our past and lead us into a new era of ministry that is consistent with our mission.

Father Casey comes to us from St. Peter's By-the-Sea Episcopal Church in Narragansett, Rhode Island, where he has served for the last six years. Prior to that position, he served as a Curate at Christ Church Cathedral in Houston, Texas – a large corporate church with similar size and budget to Transfiguration. As an undergraduate, Casey attended and graduated from the University of Texas. He obtained a Masters in Divinity from the Virginia Theological Seminary and is in the process of completing his Doctorate in Ministry from the University of the South (Sewanee).

Casey is a dynamic preacher who also maintains a strong liturgical style that aligns with our rich history and traditions. He is a gifted visionary and has participated in all aspects of church administration. Casey is passionate about Christian formation and the incorporation of all parishioners into church life (children, youth and adults). He is keenly focused on ensuring that his congregation embraces its role and responsibility in local, national and international outreach efforts. A charismatic leader, Casey is involved in many community and diocesan events, all done in an effort to foster meaningful relationships at and around his parish.

Father Casey is married to the Reverend Melody Shobe, who is also a highly accomplished and regarded Episcopal priest. Casey and Melody have two daughters - Isabelle (5) and Adelaide (1). Casey is an avid outdoorsman – golfing, hiking and biking. He has made two personal pilgrimages to Israel and Palestine, as well as accompanied youth from his parish on national and international pilgrimages.

We anticipate Casey will begin his work at Transfiguration in late-September or early-October. We look forward to welcoming him back to Texas and enjoying his many God-given gifts as our next Rector. Further details from the Vestry and the Transition Team will be forthcoming. (He is most comfortable with parishioners calling him Casey or Father Casey, whichever is most comfortable for you.)

Please keep Casey, Melody, Isabelle, and Adelaide in your prayers as they begin their journey to us. As excited as we are to have Casey and his family in our future, we are mindful of the sadness and challenges that result when a rector or priest departs. Please keep Casey's parish (St. Peter's By-the-Sea) and Melody's parish (Emmanuel) in your thoughts and prayers as they, too, begin their respective processes of transition.

In gratitude,



Chris Ayres,
Senior Warden

