



Special Announcement

March 28, 2021

Our Vision

We are a growing community of believers committed to walking with Christ, welcoming all, and serving God by serving others.

Dear Parishioners,

With immense enthusiasm I announce the conclusion to our search for the 30th Rector of Christ Church Warwick. Rev. Amber Carswell has answered the call and will become our full-time Rector effective June 1st. Below are her greetings to all of us.

Ordained in 2014, Rev. Carswell comes to us from the Diocese of West Tennessee, serving as Associate Rector at Calvary Episcopal Church in Memphis. She and her wife, Melissa Wilkinson, will be arriving May 20; her first day in the office will be June 1; her first Sunday leading us in worship will be June 6.

Danielle and her Search Team have delivered a true gem to our parish, and we thank them for that. Our many thanks also to Father Steve for navigating us through a period that was anything but normal. A celebration of his tenure is planned for late April (stay tuned for details), his last Sunday preaching will be May 2.

Peace to all,
Matthew Mumford

Dear members of Christ Church,

I am honored to be writing you as the elected Rector of Christ Church in Warwick.

This was not a sentence I expected to write a year ago as the pandemic began dismantling the way the world worked. Like most people, I simply hoped to survive — to come out with a mundane list of achievements like a perfect sourdough loaf, or an impeccably landscaped yard, or a 100-day streak on the NYT crossword, or having read my way through the corpus of Agatha Christie. I could barely imagine a week into the future, nonetheless the pursuit of a call and a new life halfway across the country.

And yet, I couldn't help clicking when I saw your call for applicants posted in a group of my Facebook friends. It was a small action resulting in a small step toward you. And yet, it was a small step that I kept repeating — hesitantly at first, and then with more conviction

and awe in each stride as I began to recognize something that felt like a call particularly to *me*. On June 1, I'll follow the last of this now-recognizable trail to your red doors. I am honored and I am thrilled.

A little about me: I'm coming to you from Memphis, TN, where I serve as Associate Rector of Formation at Calvary Episcopal Church. In saying goodbye to Calvary, I'm also saying goodbye to the South, where I've lived since 2006. Though I've picked up "y'all," I'm a Midwesterner in accent and sensibility. I grew up in Kansas, the oldest, tallest, and definitely most religious of four sisters.

I am married to Melissa Wilkinson, an artist and professor who is saying goodbye to her job as Professor of Painting and Drawing at Arkansas State University and an equally long tenure in the South (though she is a native Chicagoan.) We have two dogs, Rowlf and Frank, who will be deliriously excited to greet you. We are also proud aunts and godparents.

Each of us are emerging from the pandemic with lives greatly altered, each of us with stories of the people and the moments lost. A year ago, a story I did not expect to tell was how I found God still at work in 2020. I suppose I ought to have, given my years in this work, but the realization of hope surprises me still — small prayers and hopes met with something as unimaginable as resurrection. The writer of Ephesians had found something similar at work when he exclaimed, "Glory to God whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine." It's a line we repeat at the end of Morning Prayer. When I say it from now on, part of what will run through my head is you.

Faithfully,
Amber Carswell

[Please click here for a special greeting](#)

