

The Reverend Dr. Harold James Cobb, Jr.

Curriculum Vitae

WORK HISTORY

February 1995-Present

Rector of Grace Episcopal Church, Norfolk, Virginia. The eighth rector in the one hundred and thirty two year history of the church. Grace is both a wonderful and challenging place to do ministry. There is something happening at Grace on a continuing basis. There is a solid commitment to an ongoing program of outreach which includes a foodbank that has grown from its inception to feed more than 16,000 people (or 4,000 families) annually. The church was designated a Jubilee Ministries Center in 1997, by the Executive Council of the Episcopal Church. Grace has a Community Development Housing Ministry, with Saint Paul's Episcopal Church, Norfolk, that became the largest builder of affordable housing in Norfolk. We completely redeveloped the Central Brambleton Neighborhood, building 75 of a total of 120 new homes. We have done two successful capital campaigns, the first a year after I arrived and the second four years ago required a complete move out of the sanctuary, removing the pews to completely replace the foundation and subflooring. We worshipped in the Parish hall during the renovation. Perhaps my most gratifying work is that I was blessed to mentor and sponsor four persons for ordination to the priesthood in the Diocese of Southern Virginia: The Reverend Howard Purvis, The Reverend Charles Miller, The Reverend Dennis Patterson and The Reverend Terry Edwards. Grace continues to do many outreach programs in efforts to improve the lives of our community.

May 1990-February 1995

Rector after being Deacon-In-Charge of Saint Stephen's Episcopal Church, Winston-Salem, North Carolina. While rector of this parish we were able to develop several outreach programs that targeted at-risk-youth. During my time here we increased membership, outreach and community awareness. We did a very unique capital campaign and building project that included developing parking and produced enough income to partially pay for the project and perpetually provided an income stream.

December 1980-August 1987

Pastor and Founder, Good Samaritan Church, Durham, North Carolina. Starting with zero members, through door to door evangelism, personal visitation and community involvement, developed a fully structured and organized church.

EDUCATION

1976-Graduate Charles E. Jordan High School, Durham, North Carolina

1982-Bachelor of Arts, History, The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

1990-Master in Divinity, The Virginia Theological Seminary, Alexandria

1999-Doctor of Divinity, honorary, Saint Paul's College, Lawrenceville, Virginia

SELECTED LIST OF CONTINUING EDUCATION EXPERIENCES

Kanuga Conference for Episcopal African American Bishops and Priests.
Hendersonville, North Carolina. 1992

Afro-Anglican Conference hosted by Archbishop Desmond Tutu
Cape town, South Africa, 1995

100th Anniversary of Flight, First Flight Centennial Celebration
Kitty Hawk, North Carolina, 2003

Study Tour The Eternal City of Rome and the Vatican
Rome, Italy 2006

John Maxwell Clergy Leadership Conference, Orlando, 2007

Jim Collins, Key Note Speaker, Author of *Good to Great* and *Greatness by Choice*, and others San Jose', California , 2013

Charles Duhigg, Key Note Speaker, Author of *The Power of Habit*
Atlanta, Georgia 2014

Self-Directed Reading and Study every year since Ordination.

SELECTED LIST OF ORGANIZATIONS, HONORS AND CIVIC INVOLVEMENT

Alternate Deputy to the General Convention of the Episcopal Church: Diocese of North Carolina 1994; Diocese of Southern Virginia 2003, 2006 and 2009.

Commission on Aging, Diocese of North Carolina, 1990-1994

Compensation Committee. Diocese of Southern Virginia, 1995-2009

Board of Trustees Saints Paul's College, Lawrenceville, Virginia, 2003-2015

National Alumni/ae Association Executive Committee, The Virginia Theological Seminary, Alexandria, Virginia, 1990-1991; 1994-2002

President, National Alumni/ae Association, The Virginia Theological Seminary, 1996-1997

Board of Trustees, The Virginia Theological Seminary, 1996-2002, 2003 to present

The John Hines Preaching Award Selection Committee, Virginia Theological Seminary, 2012 to present

2013 Humanitarian of the Year Award Recipient by the Virginia Center for Inclusive Communities (Formerly National Conference of Christians and Jews)

**Norfolk International Airport Authority Board of Commissioners
Commissioner 2001 to present, Chairman 2011-2014**

Chairman, Commissioners' Committee, Airport Councils International, North America, 2018- present

Board of Trustees, Chrysler Museum of Art, Norfolk, 2018-present

Board of Trustees, Westminster-Canterbury on the Chesapeake Bay, Virginia Beach, Virginia. 2006 to 2016

Board of Trustees, Hampton Roads Community Foundation, formerly the Norfolk Foundation, 2006-2014

Board of Trustees, Children's Health Systems, Children's Hospital of the King's Daughters Norfolk, 2005-2013

Board of Trustees, The Williams School, Norfolk, 1999-2005

SELECTED LIST OF SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

**Martin Luther King Day Preacher, Saint James Episcopal Church,
Hendersonville, North Carolina, 1993**

Fall Convocation Preacher, Virginia Theological Seminary, 1996

**Absalom Jones Day Preacher, Diocesan Council, Diocese of
Southern Virginia, Hampton Convention Center**

Saint Paul's College Graduation Baccalaureate Preacher, 1999

Norfolk State University, Graduation Invocation (twice)

Tidewater Community College, Graduation Invocation

Norfolk City Council, Invocation (more than 5 times)

**Martin Luther King Day Key Note Speaker, Elizabeth City State University,
Elizabeth City, North Carolina, 2003**

**Chapel Rededication Preacher, Christ Episcopal Church,
Elizabeth City, North Carolina, 2004**

**Martin Luther King Day Key Note Speaker, Eastern Virginia Medical School,
Norfolk, Virginia 2005**

**Martin Luther King Day Speaker, United States Army Corps of Engineers,
Norfolk, Virginia 2009**

Opening Preacher, Union of Black Episcopalians National Convention, Norfolk

International Operation Sail 2012 , Governor's Ball Invocation, Norfolk, Virginia

Invocation, Opening Session Virginia Legislature, House of Delegates (twice)

Invocation, Opening Session Virginia Legislature, Virginia State Senate

PERSONAL

**I am blessed to be married to Sheliah Jeffries Cobb, we were married by The
Right Reverend Robert W. Estill. We are the parents of one daughter: Caryn.**

**I am an avid reader, I enjoy cooking, ping-pong, swimming, walking,
art museums, history museums, and travel.**