



### Fr. Stephen Shortess – “Greetings from the Bayou!”

For the past two years, Stephen has served the parishes of St. John’s Episcopal Church in Thibodaux, Louisiana, and Trinity Episcopal Church in Morgan City, Louisiana. Stephen understands his vocation to serve God and God’s people as the calling to promote sacramental living, preach and teach the Holy Scriptures and the tradition of the Episcopal Church, to serve as a pastor, and to encourage people to discover their mission in the ministry.

But it is the opportunity to serve as a pastor, walking and knowing people in their daily lives, where Stephen finds the most fulfillment as a priest.

Stephen has served the broader church as an acting member of the Diocese of Louisiana Disciplinary Board, and as a board member of the local Habitat for Humanity. He has also helped to create ministries that have served the local first responders of the Morgan City area, the retired residents of St. Joseph’s Manor in Thibodaux, and to support the International Students at Nicholls State University.

Stephen was ordained at St. John’s Episcopal Church in Thibodaux, where he served along with the parish of Trinity, Morgan City, before accepting the call to be the next Rector at St. Andrew’s Episcopal Church in Seguin, Texas. Stephen is a former parishioner of Trinity Episcopal Church in Baton Rouge, serving that parish in various lay ministries.

Stephen earned his bachelor’s degree in construction management at Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, and received his Master of Divinity at Virginia Theological Seminary in Alexandria, Virginia.

In a previous life to the priesthood, Stephen worked as a construction manager in the Baton Rouge area. He also spent time as a crisis counselor for the Baton Rouge Crisis Intervention Center and as a “buddy” for the Miracle Leagues of Baton Rouge, a baseball league for special needs children. Though Stephen, a “cradle Episcopalian,” has lived most of his adult life in the state of Louisiana, he was born and raised in the state of Florida. While he is a die-hard LSU Tiger, he remains an avid and loyal supporter of the NBA’s Orlando Magic and the only perfect football team in NFL history, the Miami Dolphins!

Arriving in Seguin with Stephen is his wife Jennifer Shortess, an accomplished Civil Engineer, LSU alum, a true Texan, and whom he met volunteering at the Miracle Leagues of Baton Rouge. They have been married together for eight years, and they have two children, Abigail (6), she is the artist in the family, and James – a Lego builder and destroyer. Their family brings along with them their rescue cat named Whispers.

