



# Greetings St. Richard's Community!



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We can continue to get to know each other better and better through sharing our stories with each other. Last week, Bob Cochrane who is an Ombudsman shared his

experience of visiting nursing care facilities through the pandemic. This week Carmen Graham, member of the vestry, shared a short biography of her husband Justin. It is touching and helps you to really know Justin. In addition, Burr Anderson our Junior Warden and member of the Schola St. Richard's wrote a reflection piece called Restoring the True Church. You can see both pieces below.

Let's continue to use this time apart to share our stories, our joys, our sorrows, our insights with each other! Please send me your story or call someone you miss at St. Richard's and ask them about their life and if you can share it with the wider community.

It's my honor today to share with you the happy news that Drucila Mundo our Parish Administrator, married Shawn Dougherty in our Memorial Garden this afternoon. I will post a photo of the special event on our Facebook page. Please send Dru and Shawn good vibes and congratulations! The Flower Guild made sure the event was extra special.

-The Rev. Alison P. Harrity

*Getting to know...*

## Justin Graham

Most St. Richard's folks probably know my children Evaly and Paxon from their silly antics at church, but they probably don't know my husband Justin Graham very well since he works weekends and is often unable to join us at church on Sunday.



Justin was born and raised in a housing project in the Bronx, New York. In 2001, his family moved to Central Florida to be closer to his grandparents. He graduated from Winter Park High School in 2003 with dreams of becoming a doctor. However, at the time, he was the main source of income for both of his disabled parents as well as his little brother and needed to start working as soon as possible. In 2006, he graduated from Advent Health University as a Registered Nurse. He worked night shifts on a neurology centered floor at Orlando Health then at an epilepsy center in downtown Orlando. In 2015, he graduated from UCF as a Nurse Practitioner and has continued treating neurology patients at Advent Health Orlando ever since. He is currently pursuing another master's degree in Healthcare Administration with the hope of becoming a teacher and help shape the future of nursing.

I have known Justin since we were teenagers and have been a couple for the past 14 years. We will be celebrating 8 years of marriage in October. He is a hopeless romantic. For as long as we've been together, he has bought me flowers every week. He is the introvert to my extrovert. But, under that quiet exterior, is a funny

goof ball who loves to play pranks on people. He can make anyone smile. The beach is his happy place. He is a home body who is content spending time with the kids all day. Evaly and Paxon are his whole world. He is a proud soccer dad and is the first to volunteer his height for every PTA fund raiser. He lives a vegan lifestyle and is very passionate about health and fitness. One of his favorite hobbies is weightlifting with Evaly. He is extremely competitive and loves all sports, especially football. He is bookworm and loves consuming all sorts of random factoids to add to his trivia knowledge. He hopes to one day audition for Jeopardy.

I wanted to write this story because while he might not always be at church, the community at St. Richard's is so special to him. As a very faithful man, he feels blessed that our children get to see a manifestation of God's love in this community every single weekend. He considers this church one of the biggest blessings in our life. Next time you see him, tell him a new trivia fact and you'll be his friend for life!

in a good book that we finally have time to read. Or maybe we might see the Lord in the faces and actions of those essential workers, who, until now, we haven't had time to appreciate.

As for me, this fearful and unforeseen period has definitely reinforced the importance and the sacredness of life. As so many throughout the world are fighting and losing those closest to them, it seems ever more essential that each of us must make the most of each day that God has given us, even if only in small things, like being a little kinder or more forgiving, taking more time to listen or being more sensitive to the needs of others despite social distancing. As we seek to reexamine ourselves in the midst of crisis, many of us may end up going in different directions or discovering new purpose. And although our parish at St. Richard's may never be quite the same as we reach the other side of COVID-19, I'm sure we will all be making our best effort to maintain the sacredness of our own lives as we work to restore the true church, rich with the gifts of the many souls that make up the body of Christ.

-Burr Anderson  
Jr. Warden

## Restoring the True Church

This time of pandemic has certainly made us aware of how much we do not know and how much over which we still have little or no control. Hopefully, it has also made us keenly aware of our need for and dependence on God. The ongoing crisis has definitely provided a unique opportunity to reexamine the foundations of our church, as we seek to find creative ways to maintain our spiritual community in the face of intense financial, social and political upheaval. From Black Lives Matter to devastating job loss and health care shortages, our technology and resources are being challenged as never before. But what is God trying to tell us in the midst of all this? What are we to learn as we seek to redefine our lives?

It seems with more alone time, we do have a chance to redefine our priorities, not only by analyzing our lives intellectually, but also by taking time to meditate and to try to focus on the still small voice of God. For different people, this will most surely happen in different ways. For some, God's presence might shine through on a daily walk. For others, it might appear