

# ST. CHRISTOPHER'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

6320 HANOVER AVENUE \* SPRINGFIELD, VA 22150

October 7, 2020

To St. Christopher's Family and all who see this, greetings!

It is with great honor, joy, and reverence that we announce the appointment of The Reverend Carey Connors as the new Priest-in-Charge of St. Christopher's Episcopal Church in Springfield, VA. It has been over a year since our search began, but the wait could not have been more worth it.

The Rev. Carey comes to us as a newly ordained priest after graduating from Virginia Theological Seminary. However, her ordination is just the latest chapter in a life of service to the church, her community, and the world. For many years, Carey called St. George's Episcopal Church in Fredericksburg her home. While there, she served as the Director of Children's Ministries, a program that grew to over 100 children from the ages of 0-12 and required three staff members and multiple volunteers.

Additionally, Carey's passion for personal ministry led to her appointment as St. George's Director of Outreach Ministries. In that role, she inspired over a hundred congregational and community volunteers to provide food and educational ministries to the vulnerable in Fredericksburg. Carey co-founded *The Table*, an Episcopal Church Jubilee feeding ministry. The Table continues to distribute over six thousand pounds of food weekly, 60% of which is fresh produce. Over 24,000 people per year are served by this all-volunteer ministry. Recognizing an opportunity to provide services more efficiently, Carey co-founded the Fredericksburg Area Food Forum that brings together schools, social services and ministry groups involved in feeding the hungry in order to optimize resource sharing across the community.

Carey's passion for service is not constrained to Fredericksburg or even the United States. Carey founded the Diocesan Ministry Women to Women. This ministry connects the Diocese of Virginia with the Diocese of Bukavu, Congo. This program provides educational opportunities to congregations in both countries and builds relationships and awareness of the challenges of Anglican congregations in Eastern Congo. She formerly served with the Global Partnership Group with The Episcopal Relief and Development working to develop a comprehensive plan of support to Church leaders in the Great Lakes region of Africa. Carey created *Girls in Real Life* and *Youth in Global Community*, a curriculum for mission which spends six months educating American youth about the realities of life for women and girls around the world. The youth conclude their learning by joining the Episcopal Church and Anglican Communion at the



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United Nation's Commission on the Status of Women. The curriculum has been used by churches in Virginia and Ohio.

Prior to her ordination, Carey served as a Deacon at St. Peter's Episcopal Church in Port Royal, VA and has also served as Senior Warden and many other lay ministry positions. Carey is a prime example of acting locally while thinking (and acting) globally. You are as likely to find her sipping coffee with the homeless on a street corner, as you are to find her addressing public officials and policy makers. When she is doing neither, she may just be hiking in the mountains and hills of Virginia and Maryland.

For all of her outstanding service, it is no wonder Carey Connors was recognized with the Diocese of Virginia Episcopal Church Women's Distinguished Woman of the Year Award in 2015. It is such a pleasure, and a true honor to welcome The Reverend Carey Connors to St. Christopher's.

Lastly, we want to recognize all who have made this selection possible. We hold tremendous gratitude for the following members of our search committee: Gaye Evans, Doug Gudakunst, Ruth Erbe, David Medding, Tam O'Neill, Mark Ingebretsen, and Megan Pa. We also recognize the Vestry of St. Christopher's and the Diocese of Virginia for their support. And we thank Marifran Bustion, Meredith (Maple) Perry, and Nina Miller for their outsized roles in getting us through this most difficult year. Finally, we thank all of the parishioners of St. Christopher's. Without your love, support, faith, and community we could not have endured. Thank you all for creating a truly special worship community, one that we now share with The Reverend Carey Connors.

God Bless Us All,

Robert J. Hall, Senior Warden

Marifran Bustion, Junior Warden