

The Rev. Marie Smith

The Rev. Marie Smith is excited to join the staff and family of St. Philip's, Jackson. Raised on a cattle farm in Gadsden, Alabama, Marie grew up Southern Baptist and, while a student at Ole Miss, was confirmed in 2002 at St. Peter's Episcopal Church, Oxford. She graduated from Ole Miss in 2006 with a Bachelor of Arts in History, the University of Southern Mississippi in 2010 with a Master of Education in Higher Education Administration, and the School of Theology at the University of the South (Sewanee) in 2021 with a Master of Divinity. She is slowly plodding toward a Doctor of Ministry degree from Sewanee.

Before going to seminary, Marie worked for over a decade in various student affairs roles at multiple institutions, including Ole Miss, the University of Southern Mississippi, Hinds Community College, and Millsaps College. Formed by the Episcopal Church at Ole Miss campus ministry, Marie began hearing a call to ministry with college students and adults, especially in their faith formation. This first manifested in her work with Episcopal campus ministries at Ole Miss, USM, and Millsaps, and continues in the various adult forum classes she teaches. In 2021, after graduating from Sewanee, Marie became the Deacon-in-Charge, Priest-in-Charge, and then Rector of The Episcopal Church of the Incarnation in West Point, Mississippi, where she served for three years. 2024 saw Marie's family move to Minnesota, where she served as a supply clergy in rural congregations for the Episcopal Church in Minnesota.

During her tenure at Incarnation, West Point, Marie was the only American selected to be a Canterbury Scholar in the three-week residential program for seminarians and newly ordained clergy hosted by the Anglican Communion at Canterbury Cathedral in Canterbury, England. While there, Marie and 26 other clergy and seminarians from 28 countries engaged with each other, the Anglican Communion headquarters, and others to explore what the Anglican Communion means to the world today.

One of five children, Marie is married to Brandon Smith, a Road Foreman for CPKC Railway (formerly Canadian Pacific Railway and Kansas City Southern Railway). They have guardianship of Brandon's first cousin, Hailey, a rising Junior at Ole Miss. Marie and Brandon are also loving staff/owners to their four cats, better known as the Real Housecats: Julian, Hildegard, Bernadette, and Rita. During her spare time, Marie loves reading, traveling, playing trivia, getting tattoos, spending time with friends and family, and listening to true crime and soccer podcasts. She's an Ole Miss fan and a rabid follower of her favorite soccer team, Leeds United, along with her other soccer teams, Minnesota United and Birmingham Legion. Marie and her family cannot wait to start our new chapter at St. Philip's and look forward to meeting everyone and finding out how we can serve Christ and each other together.