

About Us

Kate Paradise

When I made arrangements to go to Kate Paradise's home for this interview, I learned that she lives in Eastham on Town Cove. The GPS showed I had to pay close attention to turning right off of Route 6 just after the big rotary. This is not an easy route even when you know where you are going! But I found her street and then felt like I was going into the secret garden as her home setting is quiet and peaceful yet only 500 feet from hectic Route 6. She and her beloved golden retriever, Violet welcomed me and we set up for a lovely morning chat.

Kate was born and raised in Chappaqua, NY in Westchester County. She is the oldest of three children; sister Elizabeth passed away two years ago and her brother John lives in Illinois. Her mother of Scottish decent (MacLeod) was a passionate Anglophile so all three children (Katherine, Elizabeth, and John) were named for an English king or queens. All the kids went to public school in Chappaqua and the family came to the Cape every summer.

Kate's father was a WW2 Veteran who was an Army Captain serving in North Africa and Italy. While in Italy, with his company pinned down, her dad was wounded out of action saving others. When he returned from the war, he worked as a newspaper reporter, eventually becoming editor-in-chief of the popular trade magazine, *"House and Home"* (later *"Housing"*). Her mother, who served in the Navy during WW2, was a full-time homemaker and very active with the Chappaqua Drama Group. Kate's parents divorced when she was in her teens.

Kate's father was Jewish and her mother Episcopalian but both religious traditions were included in her family life and continue to influence her to this day. Kate went to Curry College in Milton, MA and earned her BA studying early childhood education with a focus on learning disabilities. She taught 2nd grade in Quincy, MA until Prop 2 ½ resulted in school budget cuts and larger class sizes that ended her brief teaching career.

She continued to work in office administration and was introduced to human resources being mentored by a former VP of Personnel at Star Markets. He said she had a sixth sense, could "read people" and encouraged her to continue in a career in HR. She became a technical recruiter for two corporate placement companies. This grew into an interest in employee benefits and her becoming the benefits team leader in Computer Science Corporation's Consulting Division. Kate led her team of 8 benefits specialists merging the acquired employee benefit plans into the CSC plans. Kate negotiated with numerous health and welfare insurance companies to ensure best benefits programs. She went on to be the US Benefits Program Manager at Parametric Technology Corp in Needham and was also instrumental in introducing healthcare cost sharing and employee wellness programs into the benefits offerings.

After 9/11, Kate took a package in 2002 and following her deepening interests in yoga and spirituality, began six months of studies Kripalu Center for Yoga and Health in Lenox, MA graduating as a nationally certified massage therapist. In 2007 Kate enrolled in the Education for Ministry (EfM) program and graduated in 2010.

Kate eventually moved full time to Cape Cod in January 2012, after a divorce in 2010. As a child she had come to the Cape every summer. Her Dad's uncle, author Waldo Frank owned property in Truro and the extended family would come to Truro each summer. Kate's family occupied a small cottage on Cape Cod Bay for decades and since she always loved being here moving here was for her a logical next step. She worked as office manager for the Orleans Chamber of Commerce, bookkeeper for the Cape Cod Museum in Dennis, and then for the Town of Truro as office administrator for the COA and Recreation & Beach Departments, and retired in June 2019.

Kate has been very involved with the Society of the Companions of the Holy Cross and their ministry Adelynrood Retreat and Conference Center in Byfield since 2002. The Society of the Companions of the Holy Cross is a diverse group of 650+ Anglican women worldwide. Her former mother-in-law took her on one of their retreats and it was a "wow moment". She then went back to more retreats, got more involved with the Companions, and through a two-year process, became a member of the Society. She has been the Associate Companion-in-Charge of the Boston Chapter and is currently an officer of the Society in her role Chairwoman of Programs, developing annual summer programs, retreats and lectures on an array of topics from spiritual direction to interfaith collaborations for peace and social justice. Her time with the Society has validated her reliance on guidance from the Holy Spirit, intercessory prayer, and her work on social and environmental justice.

When asked how she came to be a member of CHS, Kate shared she had every intention of "church shopping" when she moved here full time in 2012. Having spent summers in Truro, a logical choice was St. Mary's on the Harbor in Provincetown. But first, she would give Holy Spirit a chance as it was closer to her Eastham home. Adam+ was Rector and he and many others made her feel so welcome, she did not need to look further. Adam+ advised that she just sit in the pew for a year and let God work on her ... and she ended up becoming a LEM, Lector, and Vestry member and she developed our new website and administers the church Facebook page.

Kate has always loved Golden Retrievers and owned many. Today she shares her home and life with Violet, a lovely and very well behaved companion. Her love of yoga, Pilates, and walking continues and she is also passionate about photography beginning with that first Brownie camera she picked up as an 11-year-old. She has had a number of gallery showings here on Cape Cod.

Kate feels God calling her to now focus not just on issues around justice, but also on our environment and the sustainability of the earth. She feels blessed to have both her Christian and Jewish traditions to guide her. Her background and passion for a faith filled and faith driven life will do her well on this next journey.