



The Wardens and Vestry of St. Christopher's Episcopal Church announce with absolute delight, the election of The Rev'd. Geoffrey Ward as 8th Rector of St. Christopher's Church, River Hills

The Rev. Geoffrey Ward comes to St. Christopher's most recently from Eagle River, WI, where he served as 'church planter' of a new mission church – St. Francis. There, he led the congregation to full union status with the convention of The Diocese of Fond du Lac, seeded a needs-based ministry – *Caritas of Eagle River*, and established significant Ecumenical partner relations.

Prior to Eagle River, Fr. Ward was priest associate at Christ Church Cathedral in downtown Hartford, CT. There he assisted the Dean in most matters of the Cathedral, and was intrinsically involved with their Urban feeding ministries.

For the past decade his role is known as a 'tent-maker', (*named so after St. Paul, who earned a living as a tent maker*). In that capacity he held a secular position and has been a non-stipendiary resource to the church. His executive experience includes management of the Pension Resource CenterSM, a MetLife company responsible for more than 17,000 qualified retirement plans. As subject matter expert on ERISA regulatory matters; he collaborated with the firm's gov't affairs group and was an active participant on committees and discussion panels for a number of industry trade organizations; holding professional designations Chartered Life Underwriter, Chartered Financial Consultant, Accredited Investment Fiduciary, and Certified Financial Planner. Now fully retired from secular work, he has accepted the call for Rector of St. Christopher's.

A graduate of Nicolet High School, Fr. Ward also holds a Bachelor's Degree from Viterbo University, Master of Fine Arts Degree from Trinity University, and Master of Theological Studies from Seabury Western. Other interests include fishing, canoeing, scouting, cross country skiing, and of course our home town teams – The Brewers, Packers, and Bucks. He and wife Valerie have six children, two grandchildren, and two yorkies who think they are children – Banjo and Susanna.

"My wife Valerie and I are humbled by the call from St. Christopher's, and very excited about the future together. We greet our coming ministry in The North Shore with great Joy and Gratitude."

Fr. Geoffrey Ward+

"Father Geoffrey Ward approaches his ministry from the perspective of abundance, joy and love; and we look forward to discovering together God's mission for St. Christopher's Church in this community." Mary Cady Thickens, Senior Warden.

Father Ward will be with us at St. Christopher's on February 20, 2017. His first Sunday serving at the altar at St. Christopher's will be February 26, 2017.