

Parish of the Good Shepherd

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The Rev. Jay Weldon Called as Rector of Good Shepherd

A Letter from Fr. Jay

Dear People of Good Shepherd,

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ!

“I am confident of this, that God who began a good work in you will bring it to completion through Jesus Christ our Lord.” -Philippians 1:6

I am writing to you today as your next Rector, and it is quite a joy for me to say that. During the last few months, I have slowly gotten to know some of you— people, traditions, values, and more. What began with a phone conversation with your Search Committee, a visit from some of its members, a trip for us to Waban, and lots of prayer on both sides, has turned into an official call to be your next Rector. I am excited to move into the next phase of ministry with all of you, the people of Good Shepherd.

By way of introductions, please let me introduce my family to you. Alison and I married nearly ten years ago in Atlanta. That is where we met and tied the knot. I grew up outside of Atlanta and she grew up all over the US, the daughter of an Air Force Colonel. Since we married we have lived on the Georgia coast, New York City, back to Georgia, and now to the Bay State. Our daughter Ella is four, though she will be five by the time we arrive officially. She was born on Mothers’ Day, 2011. Our son James III was born last year in August. As of now, he is all smiles and giggles, and we are hoping to keep it that way for a while.

I was ordained a Deacon and Priest by the Bishop of Georgia in 2008 and 2009. I have served parishes in Georgia and New York, parishes that loved both Rite I and Rite II. Currently, I serve as Rector of St. Patrick’s in Albany, Georgia. I am a graduate of General Seminary, Alma Mater of your beloved Rector Emeritus Truman Welch. God willing, much of what I learned at General will help me to continue the good work that God has done with Truman, Sarah, and others along the way.

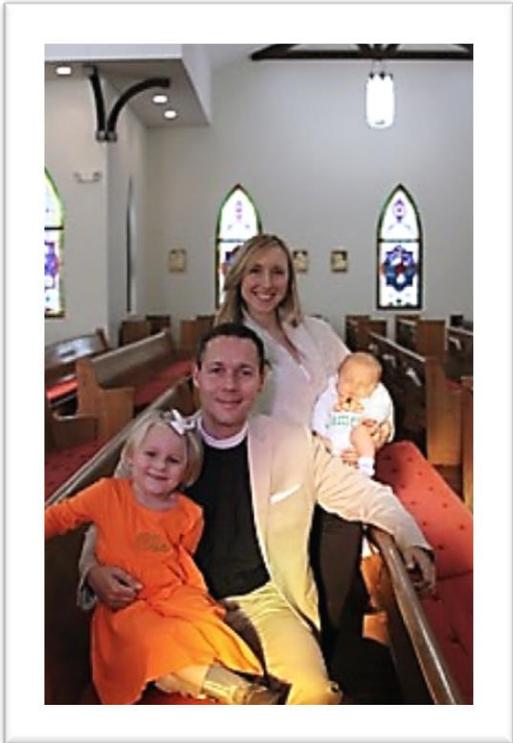
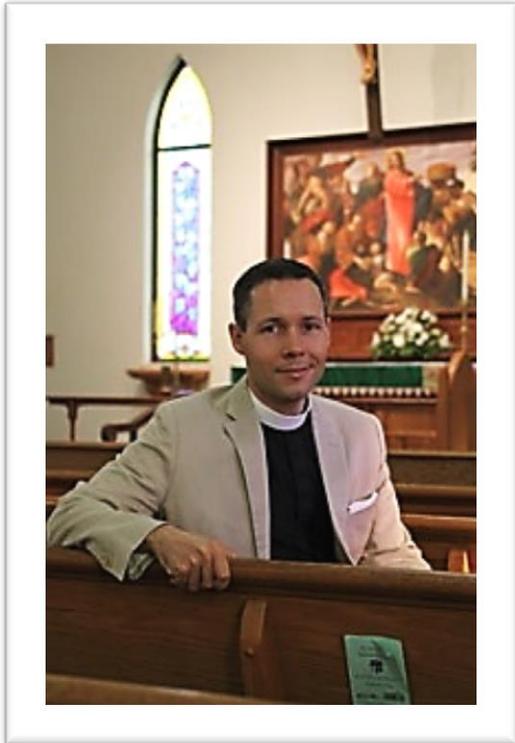
I want you to know what a joy it is for us to come to Good Shepherd. Your Search Committee, Vestry, and staff, have represented you very well and made such a wonderful impression. In the end, with prayer and faith in God, we look forward to beginning ministry with you.

We will be visiting on Good Shepherd Sunday, April 17, to meet you and to get to know you better. We will begin our ministry with you officially in June. Until then there is much work to be done, but we are so glad to be coming to be a part of the Good Shepherd family.

peace, Jay+



Enjoy these photos
of Fr. Jay and his family!
(More parish news follows
on the next page.)



*Parish News -
April 6, 2016*

**Thank You from
the Search Committee**

On behalf of the Rector Search Committee, we would like to thank everyone for the faith that you bestowed in us during the past 15 months. We are thrilled to introduce you all to the Rev. Jay Weldon and his wife Alison, daughter Ella, and baby James. We believe that the Holy Spirit truly was with us during our journey and that we could not have found a better rector for Good Shepherd. The Search Committee is grateful for the tremendous support from Jim Nauen and the entire Vestry. We appreciated Sarah's love and prayers during the discernment process as well as all the support from Good Shepherd staff members. The expert consultation and guidance we received from our diocesan consultant, Phil Whitbeck, was invaluable.

Finally, we want to acknowledge that the search process started with all of you, our congregation, answering the Parish Survey, contributing to the Parish Profile, participating in the discernment meetings, praying for us and the applicants whom we interviewed, and trusting us to represent your voices and share your needs with these candidates. As the start of an exciting new chapter for our parish unfolds, know that we all were honored to have served Good Shepherd on the Search Committee.

May God continue to bless our Good Shepherd community as we welcome the Weldons into our fold,

~ Biz Bracher and Julia Johnston-Ketterer,
Co-chairs, for the Search Committee:

John Burruss, J. P. Cardoso, Patty Morgan,
Nick Nesgos, Jen Pachus, Henry Shepherd,
Martina Stippler

Charles Foster to Preach on April 10

On Sunday, April 10, it will be our privilege to have Charles Foster as our guest preacher at both services. Charles is a parishioner at Good Shepherd and has for many years offered strong leadership for adult education at Good Shepherd.

Fr. Jay Weldon to Preach on April 17

As Fr. Jay noted in his letter, he and his family will visit Good Shepherd on Sunday, April 17. Fr. Jay will preach at the 10:00 a.m. service that day, which is Good Shepherd Sunday. Please join us in welcoming Fr. Jay, Alison, Ella, and James to Good Shepherd on the 17th; they will return in June, when Fr. Jay officially begins his ministry here.

**Initial Report for New Diocesan
Mission Strategy Now Available**

The diocesan mission strategy listening team has issued its initial report and invites the diocesan community's response – in person, online, or by phone. Four open forums have been scheduled at locations around the diocese, at which the team will present its initial findings and invite further conversation. Online and phone response options will also be available during the two-week response period, April 10-24. The report, the online response link and toll-free number, as well as the locations and times of the forums, can be found at www.diomass.org/new-mission-strategy.

Next Newsletter

The deadline for the next newsletter is **Tuesday, April 19**. Please email your items to our Parish Administrator, Margaret Harrison, at office@goodshepherdnewton.org. Thank you!