

The Rev. Donald Allston Fishburne, D. Min.

I enjoy coaching clergy, mentoring recent graduates of seminaries, and serving as a Field Education Supervisor and speaker in the department of Contextual Education of The School of Theology of The University of the South at Sewanee.

I'm a student of Appreciative Inquiry and am concentrating on clergy coaching skills and transitional ministry in ongoing study with the Clergy Leadership Institute. My sabbatical work in 2013-2014 is synthesizing and sharing best practices in peer group learning, co-mentoring, and coaching for fruitful ministries.

I've been Rector of Saint Paul's Church in downtown Chattanooga since 2008. Saint Paul's is the mother church of Episcopal congregations in the greater Chattanooga area of the Diocese of East Tennessee. The church has a substantial endowment for music ministries and for extension of the Kingdom and is served by three fulltime clergy and by a non-stipendiary priest and a deacon. The parish enjoys a close relationship with The University of the South and its School of Theology, and the parish serves as a Field Education site with three mentors for multiple seminarians.

For seven years I led congregational development as Rector of Saint Michael and All Angels Church, Sanibel Island, in the Diocese of Southwest Florida, focusing on preaching and worship, developing ministry leaders and teams, Stewardship of the Riches of God's Grace, outreach ministries, and endowment building.

In the decade of the 1990s I specialized in city ministry at Saint Paul's, Augusta, Georgia. I have served parishes large and small in the Carolinas in my 34 years of ordained ministry and have served in five dioceses on diocesan standing committees, conference center boards, commissions on stewardship, congregational development, Christian education, youth and college ministries. I have been a consultant to the Mission Committee of a new congregation, Vestries of congregations and to the Chapter of a Cathedral, and I now mentor rectors and deans of other parishes and cathedrals as well as recent graduates of Virginia Theological Seminary in its Second Three Years program. I have served for the last eleven years as a summer chaplain at The Church of the Redeemer, Sorrento, Diocese of Maine.

Sarah Vann Fishburne and I have been married for 27 years. She is a former diocesan coordinator of youth and college ministries. We have a son Allston, 26, and daughter, Sarah Hart, 23.

I am a native and exile of the wonderfully different Charleston, SC, a lifelong Episcopalian and a graduate of The University of the South and The Virginia Theological Seminary. I earned a Doctorate in Ministry from Sewanee where since 2008 I have served on the Board of Regents (Chair the College Committee; Committees on Property & Finance, The School of Theology, University Relations, and Regents' Affairs / Honorary Degrees). I have also served on the Visiting Committee to the School of Theology and on the Advisory Committee of the new Center for Religion and the Environment.

I am President of the Consortium of Endowed Episcopal Parishes. I recently served on the Search Committee for the Bishop of East Tennessee and this year have been a preacher and speaker on Day1 weekly radio broadcasts and daily podcasts; see www.day1.org

I enjoy time with family, prayer walking, hiking in national parks, the mountains, the coast, travel, writing, mentoring and coaching other clergy from whom I learn, and environmental studies / stewardship of creation.

Fishburne@stpaulschatt.org Direct dial (423) 602-5664 Cell / text (423) 598-2231