

Coming to the Church of St. Michael and St. George, Kit McLean

Ch-ch-ch-changes! If you are familiar with the 1970s David Bowie hit of that name, then you might understand why this has become something of a theme song for my husband, Bill, and me. And what exciting changes they are, most especially the opportunity to join The Church of St. Michael and St. George as your new curate. As a recent graduate of the Berkeley Divinity School at Yale, the Episcopal seminary affiliated with Yale Divinity School, from which I received a Master of Divinity and a Diploma in Anglican Studies this past May, I am beyond delighted that we are being called to serve with and among you.

I am originally from Hammond, Louisiana, a town just north of New Orleans. Aside from attending college at Newcomb College (Tulane University) and graduate business school at the University of Texas at Austin, I have spent most of my adult life commuting between Houston, Texas--and Hammond, Louisiana. My brother and I were business partners, and my "glamorous" career ran the gamut from developing and operating washaterias and a convenience store to a master-planned residential golf community. As odd as this may sound, I can think of no better preparation for ordained ministry, than being a small business person with establishments that were open virtually 24/7. I never knew what a day or night would bring, but my belief that God was ever present in the ordinary as well as the extraordinary was reinforced and augmented exponentially, as was my conviction that we are all, without exception, valued and beloved by God.

However, it was through active involvement as a lay person at Palmer Memorial Episcopal Church in Houston, a church that is similar in many respects to the Church of St. Michael and St. George, that my relationship with and to Jesus Christ deepened and I began to sense a vocational call. As the child of a faithful Episcopal mother and a faithful Roman Catholic father, I had grown up between the two churches and although I had no burning bush moment, over time stepping out on the path to ordination became something I couldn't not do.

Just as articulation of a call can be difficult, I truly cannot express how blessed both Bill and I feel to have been asked to engage in God's work in the world with you all. Neither of us can imagine a better start to our life as a "clergy family" than in your midst, and we are honored, humbled and exceedingly grateful to God and to you. In short, we can't wait to "meet you in St. Louis" in the coming weeks!