



Grace Episcopal Church

The Reverend William L. Bulson, *Rector*

The Ven. Michele E. Whitford, *Priest*

The Rev. Michael J. Burg, *Deacon*

The Rev. Paul D. Aparicio, *Deacon*

November 15, 2020

Dear People of Grace,

It is a joy and a pleasure to introduce you to our new Rector, Rev. William L. Bulson, or, Fr. William as he prefers to be called. With the approval of our Bishop, Rt. Rev. Matthew A. Gunter (Bishop Matt), the recommendation of our search committee, and the full and unanimous support of your vestry, Fr. William has accepted the call to Grace!

Fr. William moves into the rectory this week, Wednesday, November 18, and his first Sunday presiding at the Eucharist will be the first Sunday of Advent, November 29. Please join us in extending a warm welcome to Fr. William!

Here is a brief introduction, in his own words:

The Rev William L. Bulson

I have degrees in Russian literature and Slavic linguistics, including brief study in Moscow. I received my M.Div. from Virginia Theological Seminary, a great choice after being steeped in high Anglicanism and eastern Orthodoxy, and after growing up with Roman and evangelical parents. I had a sense of vocation to the priesthood starting around age fourteen.

I have served parishes in Appalachia, the Twin Cities, and Japan, mostly in multi-ethnic and multi-lingual congregations. My Russian is decent, my Japanese, so-so, my Hmong liturgically good but conversationally weak.

As an oblate of many years in the Order of Julian of Norwich, I entered the novitiate at Our Lady of the Northwoods Monastery in the Diocese of Fond du Lac. It was confirmed for me during the novitiate that as a priest centered deeply in prayer, I belong to the faithful in parish life. This is a very happy discernment for me.

I have two children—daughter, Eva, 21; and son Jesse, 24. Both were better ice skaters than me almost immediately after they learned to walk, which they remind me of frequently. I spent most of my growing-up years in Lexington, Ky., living for a time in Italy.

I have done moving van and warehouse, retail, horse farm, factory, library, food service, and non-profit work.

I like being creative and getting dirty, so I enjoy vegetable gardening and landscaping. I love classic and “minge” Japanese art and architecture. I’m very much a *minor* poet. My favorite NHL team: Minnesota Wild; favorite NFL team: Um, well....

I am celebrant, pastor, confessor, teacher, and preacher. I have done ministry with the homeless, immigrants and detainees, and people in prison. I was drawn to you, Grace Church, not only because of your vibrant life in Christ’s Beautiful and Holy Mysteries, including your love of the Mother of God: since I have spoken and met with a number of you, I have felt your warmth and caring for each other, have already learned much from your curious and nimble minds, been humbled by your hunger for deeper faith, been inspired by your growth in active service for the life of the world, and sensed the bonds of the Spirit drawing us together. I am deeply moved to be called to serve with you, I can’t wait to be with you at church, online, on the phone, and in your homes (as the pandemic allows), and ask for your patience with me as an imperfect Christian and priest.

I give thanks to God for all things—to the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.

