

For the council corner this month I thought I'd share a bit about myself. I was born and raised right around the corner in Williamsville. I'm the youngest of three boys. My dad was a mailman and my mom worked for the Amherst Bee. I graduated in 2000 from Williamsville South and enrolled at Daemen college. I graduated from there in 2004 with a degree in psychology.

My home congregation was St. Paul's Williamsville. We lived close enough to walk to Church and did so every Sunday. I was active in the youth group and even in the Junior Choir. I was confirmed there and remained active until I moved away for seminary. My family still attends.

My Church Introduced me to LCLC and I was a frequent camper there and eventually ended up working there throughout college. It was there that I first became a leader and truly began to understand my call. It is also where I met my wife Olivia. We were both staff members and met when we were assigned to weed the outdoor chapel together. I knew as soon as I met her that I wanted to spend as much time with her as possible. After our second year on staff together I proposed to her at the end of summer staff banquet. She said yes and we got married one month after graduating from college, we were married in the same outdoor chapel where we had first met.

Two months after getting married Olivia and I moved to Gettysburg for me to attend seminary. While I was at seminary Olivia began a career in the mental health field. We loved Gettysburg and still think of it as a second home. I took time away from traditional seminary education to gain experience that I felt would aid my future ministry. The first such experience was spending a year as a hospital chaplain at York Hospital in York Pa. My service line was the inpatient psychiatric unit as well as the ER trauma bay. I often times rely on what I first learned serving those in mental health crisis and in the midst of trauma. After Chaplaincy I worked with at risk youth in inner city Harrisburg. These youth came from troubled homes and lived in exceedingly challenging neighborhoods. I helped lead an after-school program for them where we helped them work on developing positive coping skills, anger management and other similar life skills. Again I've continued to find this to be invaluable life experience. After this I finished my seminary education and graduated with my Masters in Divinity in 2011.

My first call was to Lord of Life in Depew. I was the Associate pastor with a focus on youth and family ministry. It was a wonderful first call and I was able to work with former St. John's Intern Pr. Turley who was (and still is) the senior Pastor there. I was then called as the Pastor of Trinity South Newstead and St. John's Akron. Originally serving both congregations I was able to journey with them as they merged together into a single congregation. The merge was a daunting task but led by the Spirit it was a process that went unbelievably smoothly and in the end there was a congregation that was stronger than either of the congregations that formed it. I have been profoundly grateful for the people of all these congregations who I have been fortunate enough to serve alongside in the mission of the Gospel.

Finally I would be remiss if I did not talk for a moment about the thing in this world which I am most proud of, my son Drake. Drake was born less than a year after I was first called to Lord of Life. Through out the seven years that I've gotten to experience life with him he has taught me so much about the wonder of God and how great God's love truly is. I can not imagine life without Drake, Olivia and I are truly blessed.

It's hard to make a brief summary of a life and so I'll end with an invitation. I can't wait to get to know you better and I'm happy for you to get to know me better. So feel free to stop by my office, catch me on a Sunday morning or find me at one of the many events here at St. John's and we can chat and get to know each other better. I'll look forward to it.

Peace

Jamie