



The Reverend Dr. Geoffrey Hahneman

Though I was born and raised in Houston, Texas, I do not speak as other Texans do. That was because my father was a recent émigré from New Jersey and my mother was Australian, a war bride. Like my two siblings, an older and younger sister, I went to Baylor University in Waco, Texas, where I rebelled by majoring in Philosophy and returning to the Episcopal Church of my youth! After graduation, I went straight to Virginia Seminary in Alexandria, the second oldest Episcopal Seminary in the country. My first summer in Seminary was spent as a chaplain at Montreal General Hospital, where I lived in the nurses' quarters! After ordination, I became a Curate at The Church of the Advent on Beacon Hill in Boston, serving under the newly arrived Rector, Richard Holloway, a well-known British writer and communicator, who became my mentor and friend. After four years there, I applied to Oxford University on a bit of whim and was accepted at Christ Church. More serendipitous was that Richard Holloway became the Vicar of Mary Magdalene's, Oxford, at the same time, so I continued to work for Richard for another two years, until he was elected Bishop of Edinburgh. Richard recently retired as the Primate of the Episcopal Church in Scotland. I studied Early Church History at Oxford with Maurice Wiles as my tutor, specializing in the formation of the Christian Bible and a particular document, the so-called Muratorian Fragment. I finished my doctorate in three short years and was published by Oxford University Press. After graduation, I was called to become Rector of All Saint's Church in the Waterloo suburbs of Brussels, Belgium. Ostensibly an "American Episcopal Church," All Saints' was more than 2/3s filled with non-American Anglicans from around the world and was a marvelous cacophony of cultures. After six years abroad, I was ready to return to the States and was called to be a Canon at the Episcopal Cathedral in Minneapolis, where I developed a unique day-care program for low-income students with children, and was awarded the Minneapolis Award by the Mayor in 1994. Unfortunately, the Dean of the Cathedral retired and the Canons had to move on. Soon thereafter I was called as Rector to Trinity Church in Portsmouth, Virginia, in the historic Olde Towne district, a wonderfully old parish with a fascinating history from the Colonial through Civil War days. More recently, I completed three and a half years as an Interim priest at parishes in New Hampshire and Rhode Island. Then I served for 15 years as the Rector of St. John's in Bridgeport, a wonderfully diverse congregation with services each Sunday in English, Spanish, French and Créole! I have four wonderful children; Clare (born in Boston), married with two daughters (Lily & Isla), living in Edina, MN. Nicholas (who was born in Oxford at home!) recently moved to Los Angeles. Cate (born in Brussels), married with two children (Margaret &), living in Excelsior, MN. And Stephen (born in Minneapolis) aged 14 live with their mother in Minnesota, but are regular visitors to wherever I am. My mother passed away the week before I was ordained. My older sister is a lawyer and lives in Norwalk, Connecticut with her husband. They too have four children. My younger sister lives with her husband and their daughter in Birmingham, Alabama. Though we were not allowed to as children, my father became a 'real' Texan and lived with my stepmother on a ranch in the middle of nowhere, not too far from the former President's ranch in Crawford, Texas. My wife, Lisa DiNunno, is also an Episcopal priest and is currently the Interim Priest-in-Charge of St. James' in Danbury. I am the third generation in my family to move a long way from home and as you can tell from my resume, I seemed to have no roots, but Lisa and I are now firmly settled in our home in Kent.

As priest at St. John's, I will be working less than half time, probably a bit on Mondays, then Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays. I imagine doing training (acolytes, lectors, Eucharistic visitors, etc.) and an adult class on Saturday mornings, and a regular Adult Forum on Sundays between the services, with pastoral visits as needed during the week. Please introduce yourselves to me, and be patient with me as I learn all your names!