



Church of Saint Uriel the Archangel

*219 Philadelphia Boulevard
Sea Girt, New Jersey 08750*

April 19, 2022

Tuesday in Easter Week

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The Wardens and Vestry are pleased to announce that we have called The Rev. Jesse Ray Lassiter to be the tenth Rector of the Church of St. Uriel the Archangel. Father Lassiter is currently serving as Priest-in-Charge of two yoked parishes in the Diocese of Southern Virginia (St. Bride's, Chesapeake and St. Peter's, Norfolk). The Discernment Committee and the Vestry have worked diligently and prayerfully in search of a rector that represented the voice of our parishioners. Father Lassiter is committed to upholding St. Uriel's rich Anglo-Catholic tradition. We truly believe the Holy Spirit was at work throughout this discernment process.

Father Lassiter grew up in Ormond Beach, Florida in a Methodist household but attended the Episcopal Cathedral Church of St. Luke in Orlando, Florida with his friends from time to time. He is well acquainted with life in a small seashore town and, as a student leader, initiated regular Bible study by starting a chapter of Surfers for Christ. In college, he began singing in the choir at St. Michael's Episcopal Church in Gainesville, Florida. He graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Classics and a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration in Economics from the University of Florida.

Upon graduation, Father Lassiter worked as a mortgage analyst for three years. He then accepted a job with the Department of Defense Armed Forces Resort Center in Bavaria, Germany working as a ski and snowboard instructor in addition to various guest services and financial management responsibilities. While living in Europe, he received the call to the priesthood on a visit to Rome. He returned to Florida to start the ordination process and chose to attend Nashotah House Theological Seminary because of its rich corporate prayer life. While at seminary, he served as chaplain intern for a senior living facility, sang in the choir, helped run the daily chapel services, and facilitated the Common Room (a social space for students, faculty, staff, and all their families). As a Choral Scholar, he has a deep

appreciation for and background in Anglican chant. He graduated cum laude with a Master of Divinity.

While at seminary, a mutual friend introduced him to Sophia who was obtaining her Master's in Violin Performance and String Pedagogy in Milwaukee. After graduation, they moved to Vermont where they were married in Sophia's home church, Holy Resurrection of the Orthodox Church of America, a branch of the Russian Orthodox Church. Sophia enjoys playing and teaching violin.

Fr. Lassiter and Sophia are the proud parents of their first child, John Lind, born on March 10, 2022. Father's official start date is July 1, 2022. They will be moving into the rectory towards the end of June. Hopefully we will have a good turnout to welcome them at the annual Parish Picnic in July. He and Sophia are very excited to become a part of our church and local community.

Sincerely,
The Wardens and Vestry of St. Uriel the Archangel

Glenn Miller (warden)
Peter Barnett
Peter Cavagnaro
Marcia DeVoe
Diane Haviland
Marjory Hopper

David Kiely (junior warden)
Thomas Pace
Steve Shebell
Nancy St. James
Jeff Thorpe