

The Rev. Susie Comer



Rector Search Announcement from Senior Warden and Search Committee Chairman

My Dear Fellow Parishioners,

On behalf of the Vestry and Rector Search Committee, it is with great pleasure that I announce that a call was issued and accepted by the Rev. Susanne Darnell Comer to serve as the next rector of St. Mark's Episcopal Church in Richmond. The Reverend Susie has served as the Priest in Charge at St. Mary's Episcopal Church in Lampasas, Texas, for the past six years. Prior to that she has served at St. Mark's in Austin and St. James in Austin since becoming ordained as an Episcopal priest in 2010.

In our Parish Profile, we said that we are looking for a dynamic and energetic priest, ready to lead a dynamic and energetic congregation. We sought someone who is passionate about recognizing and developing strong lay leadership and ready to share and execute our vision of a growing church in a growing community. A priest who bestows responsive, compassionate care and understands that we are a Christ-centered congregation was important in our search. We wanted someone who understands our core values and

openly respects and welcomes everyone in our theologically diverse church and community.

The Rev. Susie made an impression on the Search Committee right from the beginning in addressing our needs and concerns about the qualities we were seeking in a new rector. Having lived in Ecuador, as a small child, with parents who were evangelistic missionaries, growing up as the daughter of a Presbyterian minister, the multi-cultural nature of our world was impressed upon her from a young age. Rev. Susie completed a Master's Degree in Theology from Harvard Divinity School and a Master's in Divinity from Columbia Theological Seminary in Decatur, Georgia. She served as an ordained minister in the Presbyterian Church before attending the Seminary of the Southwest to obtain her certificate of Anglicanization with a focus on Liturgical Studies and Anglican History. In addition, her training as a social worker and therapist give her the understanding and skills for compassionate and responsive pastoral care. Her experience as Priest in Charge at St. Mary's has given her the experience of understanding the broad role and "many hats" that are required to manage a congregation the size of St. Mark's. After extensive interviewing and multiple visits, it was quite evident to the search committee that Rev. Susie clearly exceeds all the criteria that were established in our Parish Profile.

We are delighted to announce that the Reverend Susie will be joining us in October and we know that you all will be delighted to meet her and welcome her into our beautiful church family. Stay tuned for information on formally welcoming her to St. Mark's.

Faithfully,
Rector Search Committee
Chris Abbott, Chairman.
Barbara Scheibner
Charlie Phillips
Bettye Newberry
Ruthie Hurta
Brad Knecht
Dorothy Dawlearn
Kathy Barzilla

Vestry Members
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Brad Knecht, Junior Warden
Rock Moen, Treasurer
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