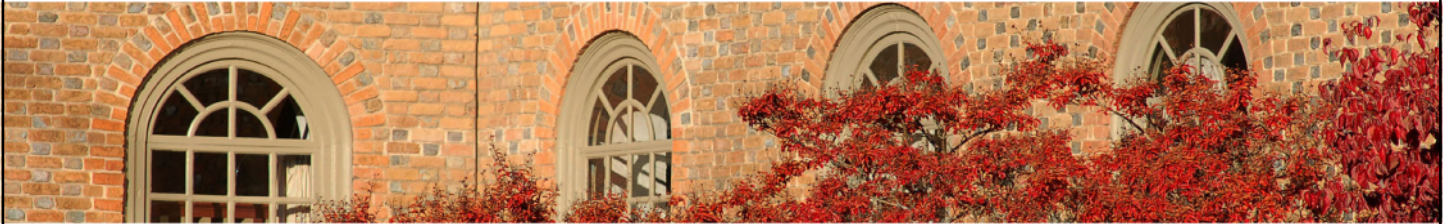


Bruton Parish Episcopal Church

In the heart of historic Williamsburg, Virginia



Bruton welcomes The Reverend Christopher Epperson as new rector

The Reverend Christopher "Chris" Epperson has been called by the vestry to become the 35th rector of Bruton Parish Church.

Fr. Epperson, 41, has been rector of St. Columba's Chapel in Middletown, R.I., since 2006.

Ronald Hurst, senior warden, made the announcement during services today. He said, "We sought a rector who would, by word and deed, be a spiritual example, a leader and team player, a compelling preacher and teacher, and an effective pastor and mentor. We believe that Chris and his gifts match these requirements, and that together, with God's help and direction, he will lead us into an exciting time of renewed ministry."



The Rev. Chris Epperson, his wife Laura, and their children Zaven and Nell.

Before leading St. Columba's, Fr. Epperson served as associate rector at St. John's Church in Johnson City, Tenn., and as associate rector for Christian formation and pastoral care at All Saints' Church in Atlanta, Ga. While at St. Columba's he also was interim chaplain at St. George's School in Newport, R.I.

"It is with great enthusiasm that I have accepted the call to Bruton Parish," Fr. Epperson said. "I look forward to serving a parish whose mission is 'walking through history into the future with Christ.' The opportunity to do that in such a unique and enduring parish is very exciting. Our family is looking forward to getting there and getting to know you all."

A native of Tennessee, Fr. Epperson took his undergraduate degree at the University of Tennessee, with a major in psychology and a minor in economics. After working in his family's jewelry manufacturing business, he decided to enter the ministry. He received his M.Div. degree from General Theological Seminary in New York City, with a two-year field placement at Trinity Church in New York.

Chris met his wife, Laura, at an Episcopal camp, where they were working with economically disadvantaged children. They married in 1996 and have two children, Zaven, 7, and Nell, 4, with a third expected in June. Laura has been director of project management and operations for the Office of University Communications at Roger Williams University.

A passionate reader, the new rector enjoys leading book-discussion groups. He is also a serious runner and a "hopeless student" -- in his words -- of the guitar. In Rhode Island he has been active in diocesan affairs, serving on both the Diocesan Council and the Commission on Ministry, and in the community, where he chairs the local YMCA board.

Chris will assume the role of rector at Bruton on May 2 and deliver his first sermon on May 15.