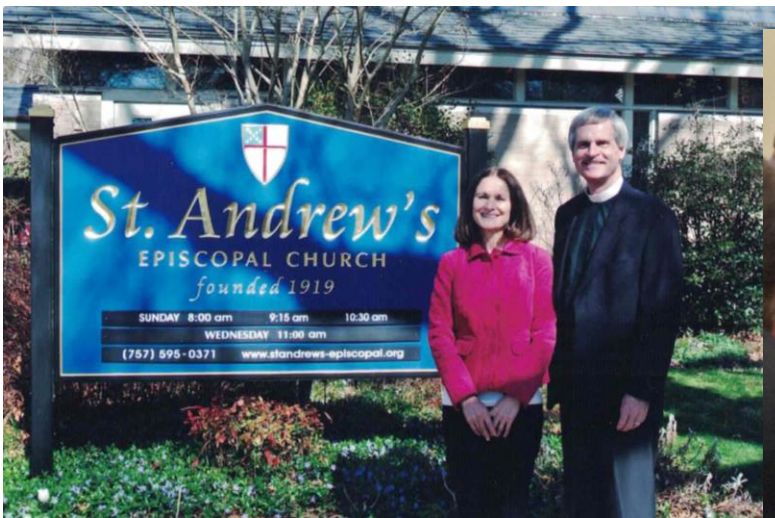


The Reverend Dr. Robert D. Marston
by
Joy Johnson



(Above) Rev. Dr. Rob Marston and his wife Maria c. 2012
(Right) Rob speaking at a reception in the Parish Hall

The Reverend Dr. Robert D. Marston was called as the Fourth Rector of St. Andrew's in 1993 and served until his retirement in 2014. When Rob first arrived at St. Andrew's, I was serving as Senior Warden and needed to take Rob to meet the Diocesan Bishop in Norfolk. Knowing how bad the Hampton Roads Bridge Tunnel traffic could be in the summer, we left an hour early. Of course the traffic was not backed up and we arrived at Talbot Hall with time on our hands. We took a walk along the river and just enjoyed the sight. After some time had passed, we met with the Bishop and returned home. I never knew the rest of the story until Rob thanked me just before his retirement. Rob had been a little uncertain about the meeting and the walk by the river had helped to calm him. Under Rob's guidance as Rector many new programs and outreach activities began or expanded, including: Saturday Night Alive service, youth mission trips, a Spanish Sunday afternoon service, annual Blessing of the Animals service, the 59er's Luncheon, Under the Hill, GAP, St. Andy's Café, St. Paul's bag lunch ministry, the Stephen Ministry, the Order of Daughters of the King, ALPHA, Education for Ministry (EFM), and Women of the Word (WOW).



The Rev. Dr. Rob Marston playing multiple instruments at a Shrove Tuesday talent contest following the pancake supper c. 2010

The Day School Chapel was expanded to include other staff members as chapel leaders. I believe the chapel service was probably Rob's breaking-out-of-the-box venue. The children were amazed at his ability to play the guitar and his harmonica at the same time. Rachel Roby, Rob's long-time administrative assistant, added, "Rob was a kid at heart and greatly loved our parish and day school children. Presiding over day school chapel was the highlight of his day and he really connected with the kids, often writing original songs and accompanying himself on his guitar, ukulele, harmonica and bongo drums, for which he gained the nickname, Mr. Bojangles. The children gave him their rapt attention and their faces lit up when they saw him. But they also knew that when they were going through a rough patch in their lives they could come to him and he would listen intently and offer them understanding, comfort and guidance, always assuring them that God loves them." As a parish we watched his family grow. Lisa and Lauren finished high school and graduated from college. Both Lisa and Lauren were married at St. Andrew's. After becoming a grandfather, the time for Rob's retirement in 2014 came a little sooner than the parish expected. St. Andrew's was indeed blessed to have such a dedicated rector for 21 years.

Virginia Darden recalled how Rob played an important part in her life during his ministry. When her daughter Ann wished to be married at St. Andrew's, Rob did some research and allowed the service to go just as Ann wanted. Rob baptized Virginia's grandchildren Jack and Libby. The use of water from the Jordan River for baptism was done for the first time at Libby's baptismal service. Virginia also recalled the wonderful collegial friendship between Howard Saunders and Rob. Announcements before the service were always a humorous banter between the two.



(L-R) St. Andrew's Clergy c. 1998 - Rev. Howard Saunders, Rev. Mark Winward, Rev. Dr. Rob Marston

Rob and Maria wrote about their years at St. Andrew's, "...we have made the joyful discovery that our treasured memories are far too many to enumerate. Suffice it to say that we consider ourselves richly blessed for the privilege for serving among you in such a way, spiritually uplifting, compassionate, and supportive Christian environment. Their daughters, Dr. Lisa Marie Dutton and Dr. Lauren Caldas, who were 10 and 6 when they arrived at St. Andrew's shared these thoughts. "St. Andrew's is the church of our childhood. Our memories are interwoven with the beautiful images of the church and the warmth of the congregation. The people of St. Andrew's will always feel like extended family who welcomed us with open arms. Our days following our dad through church service setups, drives to the Day School, and numerous church seasonal offerings are precious and powerful."

Rachel Roby summed up her years working with Rob.

Rob hired me to be his administrative assistant in 2003. In all our years working together I found him to be a remarkably sincere person, the same behind the scenes as he was in public. I admired his calm demeanor, and the way he provided space for all sides to voice their opinions. I don't remember ever hearing him utter a negative word about anyone. The worst thing I ever heard him say was, after a particularly intense encounter, "Someone forgot to take their happy pill today." That was so "Rob". Rob steered this parish safely through good times and trying times for 21 years. He left us with an enduring legacy of kindness, acceptance, and grace.

Bill Wilds shared that when the staff celebrated a birthday, breakfast was served and Rob furnished fresh fried fish he had caught.

Rob offered this blessing for the parish's 100th Anniversary:

May Almighty God continue to bless, inspire, and support the members of St. Andrew's as this parish transitions from its first century to its second century. As we, ourselves, are drawn into a deeper knowledge of, love of, and service to the Lord, may we seek to draw in others as well. And, may the result be an indwelling of the Holy Spirit that permeates throughout the parish, the community, and beyond to the Glory of God. Amen.



(From top left) Rob and Maria in retirement in Tappahannock. Rob continues paddling his kayak on the Rappahannock River. While he was at St. Andrew's Rob used his experiences on the river in his sermons. (From bottom left) Lisa Marie and husband Elliot; Lauren and husband Ed and with sons Robbie and Joseph

Maria Marston wrote this update on what she and Rob are doing in retirement in addition to babysitting their grandsons every Friday.

"Six weeks into retirement, Rob sensed a call to a puppet ministry, and began training in the art of ventriloquism. In 2015, he became a member of the International Ventriloquist Society and began performing fun, interactive, and spiritually uplifting puppet shows that incorporate original songs accompanied by multiple instruments. Maria accompanies him to all of his shows: "Padre, Pedro, and Peacock", "Cowboy Bert & Bubba the Bull - with

special guest appearance by the runaway pig", and "A Christmas Special - Starring Padre, Pedro, and Peacock." The venues include schools, churches, libraries, Jacob's Ladder (a camp for intellectually gifted, at-risk children), and Boys & Girls Clubs."



Honor Roll of those who served the church during Rob Marston's tenure at St. Andrew's

Richard and Carolyn Abbitt	Bruce and Anne Fowler	Bill and Mary Poole
Peter and Kathleen Aiello	Roland and Neela Friedman	Louise and Cary Ragland
Mike and Ellen Ancel	Craig and Kathy Frey	Francis Riley
Andy and Edna Bachman	Matthew Frey	Sam Robertson
Rob and Beverly Balsch	Wendell and Betty Graham	Al and Rachel Roby
Stewart and Susan Barnes	Ron and Tonia Graves	Chris and Amy Robinson
Dick and Happy Barnwell	Bob and Jean Groome	Tom and Fran Ross
Jason and Jennifer Batcha	Surry and Marie Harrison	Helen Rountree
Marshall and Porter Booker	C.B. and Jean Harrell	Cabell and Melissa Sale
Sean and Darlene Bradberry	Carter and Lisa Harrell	Rob and Melissa Saunders
Bill and Martha Bradley	Phillip and Isabel Hatchett	The Rev. Howard Saunders
Katherine Bradshaw	Jimmy and Leila Hine	Steve and Rhonda Saunders
Ric and Sherill Beard	The Rev. Dick Holley	Marian Simpson
Lynn and Karen Bean	Lois Holley	Diana Skelton
Mary and Margaret Bivins	John and Margie Holt	The Rev. Pam Skelton
Lee Black	Fred and Lou Horne	Ray and Ginny Spaulding
Bill and Jeanne Blount	Samantha Howell	John and Hope Stewart
Jim and Neta Bowers	Barbara Inslay	Dave and Barbara Stafford
Nancy Boxx	Morris and Joy Johnson	Shannon Suttle
Corky and Gloria Brooks	Bob Kelly	Danny Switzer
Randy and Susan Bryant	Cary Kelly	Terry Thomas
Doug Burgoyne	Bob and Dot Knopf	Ann and Andy Thornton-Lindsay
Wheats Call	Tom and Elizabeth Koerner	John and Ellen Tompkins
Carol Capo	Bert Kopp	Charlotte Vaughan
Judy Carey	Gladys Lash	Ann-Douglas Vaughan
Sara Charlock	Dan Langdon	Jeff and Joan Verhoef
Bill and Allison Clock	Vicki Lanier	Bill and Patty VonOhlen
Mike and Maria Cochrane	Saint and Ann Lee	Bo and Mary Gibson Waddill
Kohl and Linda Coffman	Harper Lewis (Bathal)	Dan and Karen Waddill
Vernon Coppedge	David Lilley	Hamp and Elise Wall
Carey and Grier Curtis	J.R. and Amy Lippus	Nancy Wall
Dee Dee Copeland	Bob and Linda Lord	Karen and Jim Wharton
Meg Cunningham	Curt Lowery	Bobby and Melanie Wharton
John Cunningham	Helen Lyon	Tom and Jackie Wash
Susan Daniel	Jerry McKee	John and Liz Warters
Mike and Barbara Daniels	Eleanor Mabry	Charlie and Katie Weiss
Virginia Darden	Cristy and Maggie Mahloy	Kris Wessler
Jerry and Barbara DeForge	Mike and Pat Marcolini	The Rev. Rhonda Wheeler
Laura Downing Archer)	Bill and Sabrina Miles	The Rev. Mark Winward
Joe Durant	Buck and Gene Miller	John and Nancy Whitley
Joel and Julie Duregger	Bill and Margaret Moore	Bill Wilds
Greg and Barbara Eby	Amine Morgan	Darlene Williams
John and Anne Edelblute	Jim and Bunny Neff	Vernon and Francis Wilson
Greg and Judy Edwards	Margo Nevins	Terry and Betsy Wolak
Ellen Edwards	Brad Norris	Beth Wolak (Pegram)
Graham and Kay Ferguson	Lauri Nosil	John and Mary Wood
Carter and Carol Ficklen	Paul and Nancy Orrison	Butch and Peggy Woodall
Vance and Martha Field	Norman and Ann Palmer	Pat Woodbury
Becky Fitchett	Mary Francis Parrish	Laurens and Lucy Wright
Bill and Joan Forrest	Mary Passage	All names submitted by parishioners

