

*Thank you, thank you, vestry for inviting me to share ministry with you! The story of your success with the Pantry at Ulster, the chaplaincy at SUNY New Paltz which supports the pantry there, your book groups and discussions and pondering about Scripture, the energy and creativity of your congregation all make this feel like a grace-filled call. I was looking for a parish home where worship, education, and service can thrive and nurture each other, and here you are!*

*I grew up in Southern California, in the Methodist church. I came into the Episcopal Church in graduate school through the Episcopal Chaplaincy at Yale, drawn to the beauty of the liturgy and the chance to put faith into action. In that congregation I first learned about apartheid and about faith-led protests of injustice. I returned to Boston to teach philosophy and work in Residence Life at Simmons College, my alma mater, and married an academic scientist. Teaching ethics to nursing students led me to Harvard Divinity School, and then to a doctoral program in Social Ethics at Boston University, with a focus on barriers to leaving abusive situations in a battered women's shelter. Listening to women's stories and helping them find God in their search for new safe lives led to ordination and then twenty-five years of parish ministry in dioceses of New York (Grace, White Plains) and Newark (Good Shepherd, Fort Lee). Good Shepherd I was also the Executive Director of Friends for Life, a support program for people living with HIV/AIDS. I continued to teach as an adjunct in various places until my first child was born. Now Avery is 26, living in Brooklyn and in a graduate program in social work, while Marin, at 19, is a sophomore in college.*

*About 10 years ago, after my divorce, I started teaching again as an adjunct at Bergen Community College and St. Peter's University. I really like the perspectives that teaching and parish ministry offer each other. Most recently I have served as an interim at St. Mark's in the Bowery, St. Barnabas in Irvington, NY, and Christ Church in Manhasset, (Long Island) NY. I am more than ready to settle in to New Paltz, attracted by the strength of your parish, your commitment to college chaplaincy, and the beauty of the area. When I'm not on campus or at church, I look forward to hiking with my dog, kayaking, yoga, and playing with stained glass and "found objects" art projects.*

*Looking forward to getting to know each other better and to serving God in New Paltz.*