

Meet The Rev. James Barnhill, Priest-in-Charge, St. Peter's, Jacksonville

Spending much of his youth in idyllic Clemson, South Carolina, where his father taught History at Clemson University, The Rev. James W. Barnhill came to the ministry following a successful career in business. One of the critical experiences that confirmed his call to Ordained Ministry happened on September 11, 2001.

Father Barnhill was one of the passengers of Delta Flight 129 from Shannon, Ireland. He was flying with his family when the flight was directed to land with 49 other airplanes that were grounded in Gander, Newfoundland on that day. After 27 hours on the grounded plane, the 280 passengers from Delta Flight 129 were sent to a Red Cross shelter in nearby Lewisporte, where they stayed until September 15, the day that flight restrictions were lifted. Following this experience, Father Barnhill accepted the call to ministry because he so clearly saw God at work through the people who cared for him, his family and the other stranded passengers by offering food, shelter, emotional support and more.

Today, Father Barnhill serves as the Priest-in-Charge at St. Peter's Episcopal Church, Jacksonville since February 2017. He and his wife Donna are currently in the process of selling their home in Camden, South Carolina, where he served as Rector of an Episcopal Church in the Diocese of Upper South Carolina. Father Barnhill has also been active in ministry in the Episcopal Diocese of Western North Carolina and Lower South Carolina.

Father Barnhill rejoices in his position of Priest-in-Charge at St. Peter's, which has an Episcopal congregation where the music is lively, the worship is Spirit-filled, and the people are in love with the Lord. He's also excited about the Wednesday night Praise and Worship activities, which embrace a significant focus on teaching God's Word.

He and his wife Donna were drawn to Jacksonville to explore a new ministry and life in a vibrant urban setting, and to be able to spend more of their free time in the home they've built in the countryside near St. Mary's, Georgia on the north bank of the Crooked River. Father Barnhill hopes to be a witness to how God can grow the congregation of St. Peter's

into a vibrant force for Christ in the community of Southwest Jacksonville/Orange Park, by enhancing the local mission activities with ministry partners like Community Health Outreach (CHO), which St. Peter's founded twenty years ago. Father Barnhill serves as President of CHO, which is currently in the search process for a new Executive Director. Last year, through CHO, God provided 41,847 meals, 1,446 doctor visits, 2,192 dental visits, and 691 teen-pregnancy support consultations for the poor in our community.

St. Peter's also has an active Youth Program and a committed Missions Board, which supports missionaries in Africa and Central America. On a personal note, Father Barnhill loves music, having devoted a number of years to lyric opera in Europe and the United States during his twenties, and to the production of musical broadcasts during his time at National Public Radio (NPR). His wife Donna is a Principal Information Specialist for a contractor to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Jacksonville Office).

Father Barnhill holds a Master of Divinity from Trinity Episcopal Seminary, a Masters of Business Administration from American University of Washington, D.C., a Bachelors of Music and Journalism from University of South Carolina, and an Associate Degree in Music from Brevard College.

Welcome to the Episcopal Diocese of Florida, Father Barnhill, Donna and your four-legged children, August Herald (a rescue cat) and Barnabas (a 125-pound Great Pyrenees Sheep Dog)!

To view events at St. Peter's Episcopal Church, Jacksonville, please visit: <http://www.stpetersjax.org/events>.