

BIOGRAPHIES

Lisa Brown, Director of Digital Ministry for Membership Vision, works with faith-based organizations to map their ministries onto the digital landscape. She is passionate about creatively enriching spiritual lives through digital storytelling, experiential learning, and collaborative art. Lisa contributed to John Roberto's book Faith Formation with a New Generation and her book, The Best VBS Workbook Ever! was released in 2017. A writer for Building Faith and InsideOut camp curriculum, and an active member of Forma, she thrives on supporting others in their ministries. She continues to grow in personal faith through Education for Ministry (EfM) and holds a certification in Leadership in Faith Formation from Virginia Theological Seminary. Lisa is also on the General Convention Task Force for the Formation & Ministry of the Baptist; and represented the Diocese of Pittsburgh as a Deputy for General Convention in 2018.

The Rev. Dr. Grace Burton-Edwards is Rector of St. Thomas Episcopal Church in Columbus, GA, where she leads a growing, joyful, welcoming congregation in mission and impact in the local community. She also serves as Vice-President of the Global Episcopal Mission Network and as a member of the Standing Commission on World Mission.

Cookie Cantwell is the Youth Ministries Coordinator at St James Episcopal Church, Wilmington, NC and she serves on the Youth Advisory Council for the Domestic & Foreign Missionary Society. She is the Province IV Youth Ministries Coordinator and she is serving on the General Convention Task Force for "Safe Church Training. She has a zeal for Mission and Outreach and for teaching youth to "serve" other people within our world. Cookie lives in Wilmington, NC and she enjoys hiking in our National Parks, Snow Skiing, new adventures, Needlepoint and Reading.

Dirk deVries is a former youth pastor, Christian education director, curriculum developer, writer, and editor. He leads workshops on a variety of topics including spirituality and photography. Dirk holds M.A. degrees in both clinical psychology and church education. Since retiring from Church Publishing, Inc. in 2016, Dirk devotes much of his time to fine-art photography, selling his artwork through PhotosByDirk.com. He is also the author of the blog The 60-Second Sabbath. Dirk attends St. John's Episcopal Cathedral in Denver where he has the joyful privilege of team-teaching the world's greatest 4th and 5th graders each Sunday morning. He and his husband Tim live in Denver and are the proud parents of two cats, Romeo and Willy.

Emily Given serves as the Director of Engagement and Communication at St. Thomas' Church, Whitemarsh (Suburban Philadelphia) and is the author of two volumes of Building Faith Brick by Brick (Church Publishing). She has worked on both the congregational and diocesan levels for over twenty years, and her experience ranges from New England mission-size to southern megachurches. Emily is a mixed media artist, mother of two remarkable humans, a novice accordion player, and is always looking for a place to plant something.

Jenny Grant serves as the Officer for Global Relations and Networking in the Department of Global Partnerships. In this role, she works to develop mission related resources, map companion relationships across the Anglican Communion, share the story of Episcopalians engaging in global mission, and on other projects supported by departments across the Presiding Bishop's staff. Prior to this position, Jenny served the church in other capacities including as a Young Adult Service Corp missionary in Kenya and a contractor on the Asset-Based Community Development initiative, *Called To Transformation*. She is passionate about the intersection between faith and justice around the world and cares deeply about how the Episcopal branch of the Jesus Movement is participating. Jenny completed both her undergraduate and graduate degrees in Social Work and Non-Profit Management at the University of Georgia. She now lives in Alexandria, VA with her husband, Jared, and their dog, Bella.

Isiah Harper is a member of St. Thomas Episcopal Church in Columbus, Georgia. He is one of the premier drama teachers in Columbus, who will take a guided approach to releasing play within yourself to provide an environment where imagination and creativity for youth can thrive. Harper is an entertaining presenter, singer, dancer and writer who knows his subject. He's theater director and Fine Arts Department chairperson at Northside High School. He also directs Summer Theatre for Girls Inc. of Columbus/Phenix City, and he's an educational consultant for the RiverCenter for the Performing Arts. Harper is a graduate of Florida State University and Troy University, and he was a 2015 Top Three Teacher of the Year for the Muscogee County School District.

Missy Harrison is the Messy Church Coordinator for Michigan and Director of Children & Youth Ministry at St. John's Episcopal Church in Midland, MI. Missy's involvement with the Episcopal Church is a life-long one. She was raised by a mother who served as organist, youth minister, deacon, and priest for Episcopal churches so you might say that service was in her blood. Early vocations for Missy included gymnastics coach, Girl Scout leader, and travel agent. In 2002, Missy took the plunge into Children and Youth Ministries at St. Jude's Episcopal Church (Fenton, MI). It has been a blessing to become a Godly Play Story teller, take youth on pilgrimages, run a Messy Church, create and offer programs at Camp Chickagami and Camp Lakotah, and so much more. When not walking her dog or goofing off with her grandchildren, you can find her creating labyrinths out of clay or writing her Sacred Play Space blog.

Kristin Hutchison has been an elementary school educator since 1996. She currently serves as a reading specialist in an elementary school in Sugar Land, Texas. In this role, Kristin primarily works with students with Dyslexia, and has a passion for fostering a love of learning with these struggling students. Kristin also has the opportunity to work with teachers and administrators to meet the needs of all learners in their school through her expertise in differentiated instruction, intervention, and brain-based learning. Kristin earned a Bachelor of Arts in Early Childhood Teaching from The University of South Carolina and a Master's Degree in Divergent Learning from Columbia College. She is a National Board Certified Teacher, 2015-2016 teacher of the year, and a 2016 H-E-B Excellence in Education Award Statewide Semi-Finalist.

Author and Artist, **Roger Hutchison**, is the Director of Christian Formation and Parish Life at Palmer Memorial Episcopal Church in Houston, Texas, and the author of four books including “My Favorite Color is Blue. Sometimes.” He had the privilege of painting with children who had experienced the tragic shootings at Sandy Hook Elementary in Newtown, Connecticut. This affected him profoundly and convinced him of a vocation to use his writing and art to serve those who grieve. Roger currently serves on the Forma Board and is a member of the National Association of Grieving Children.

Joseph R. Jones, PhD is the Youth Minister Coordinator for St. Thomas Episcopal Church in Columbus, Georgia. He earned his undergraduate degree from the University of Alabama at Birmingham and his PhD from The University of Rochester, both degrees are in education. Dr. Jones recently accepted a position as Dean of Education at Gordon State College in Barnesville, Georgia. This academic year he completes two years teaching English at Northside High School and has taught high school, middle school, and special education. He also has a long career in higher education, including service as Associate Dean. The focus of his academic research addresses homophobia and bullying within educational environments. He is the author of numerous books and articles and is a frequent presenter at professional conferences. In addition to all of these accomplishments, Dr. Jones is a deeply committed Christian with many years of experience in youth ministry in a variety of church settings. His vision for youth ministry includes building relationships, incorporating youth into the full life of the church, and developing a servant-leadership mindset.

Michael Lyons has served as the Director of Christian Formation at St Edward’s Episcopal Church in Lawrenceville GA for three years. He is the Affiliate Director of Lawrenceville Path to Shine. Path to Shine provides tutoring services for children in need at nearby elementary school. Michael is a retired teacher of 30 years. He has been the leader of Vacation Bible School for three years. Additionally, he has completed a three year term on the Vestry and was the Junior Warden. Drawing on his experience as a home gardener, he is now updating the landscape design of the church’s Memorial Garden. He is responsible for the care and maintenance of the Memorial Garden.

Dr. Westina Matthews is an adjunct professor for the Center for Christian Spirituality at General Theological Seminary where she has taught contemplative spiritual direction for the past nine years. She is an author, public speaker, spiritual director and retreat leader whose practice reflects contemplative living through “holy listening.”

Catherine Meeks, PhD is the Founding Executive Director of the Absalom Jones Center for Racial Healing as well as the retired Clara Carter Acree Distinguished Professor of Socio-cultural Studies and Sociology from Wesleyan College.

Catherine is an author who has published six books including her recently edited book, *Living Into God's Dream: Dismantling Racism in America* which focuses on racial healing and reconciliation published in 2016. She is a regular contributor to *Hospitality* which is published

monthly by the Open Door Community. She is involved with prison work and faithfully visits a person who was formally on death row. She is committed to working for the abolition of the death penalty, writing and helping to create spaces where transformation and rebirth can occur.

Meg Olive-Allison is the Minister for Adult Formation and Communication at St. Thomas Episcopal Church in Columbus, Georgia. Raised, educated and ordained in the Baptist church, she especially appreciates the welcome and intentionality offered by the Episcopal Church. She and her wife are foster and adoptive parents and currently have five kids under the age of 6.

Rev. Ruth Pattison serves the people of Highpoint Episcopal Community Church in Sandy Springs, Georgia as the Parson, exercising her gifts for collaborative leadership through preaching, liturgy, and the pastoral arts. The Rev. Ruth Pattison was born in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Although raised in the Baptist church, her father was an organist and choirmaster in the Episcopal Church, which is where she discovered her love for liturgy and music. She was ordained in the Episcopal Diocese of Atlanta in 1994 and Rev. Pattison has practiced her priesthood ever since with great joy and deep devotion, both for God and the people of God.

She has been married to fellow priest Benno Pattison since 2012. Together they love to camp and fish, hike and bike, sing and dance, talk on the porch, drink coffee and write poems, stories, and sermons. Together they have six children.

Ralph Wimberly oversees the “behind the scenes” action that takes place throughout a liturgical year at St. Thomas Episcopal Church in Columbus, Georgia. Using his formal education, including Yale Divinity School, and many years of experience in retail, design, floral arranging, costuming and event planning, one would call him a jack of all trades. He embraces worship and utilizes his skills to create a place of respite and healing, of growth and exploration, of inspiration and joy. He serves on the Flower Guild, Worship Committee, Memorial Committee, Grounds Committee, Parish Life and is a member of the St. Thomas Choir.