August 30, 2012

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The transition from late summer to early fall is a busy one for all of us as we resume regular schedules of worship, Christian formation, school and work. Alexander House is no exception to this transition, and I have three points of significant news to announce to you regarding our staff.

I am very pleased to announce that I have called the Rev. Geoffrey Taylor to serve as diocesan Canon for Leadership and Congregational Development. Geoffrey has served St. James, Greenville as rector for almost four years and brings extensive experience in congregational growth and development, debt reduction and deficit elimination. In addition to serving a congregation in Georgia prior to coming to Upper South Carolina, Geoffrey has experience in development and management at a non-profit and at Emory University. I am attaching his bio to this letter.

As excited as I am to welcome Geoffrey to our staff, I know that his leaving St. James will not be easy for him and for his congregation. In his own letter St. James parishioners, Geoffrey wrote, “Those of you who know me well are aware that I speak often of being radically open to the Holy Spirit both in our common life and in our several lives. It was in that spirit that I entered into discernment of this call. I also believe that it is the role of every Christian to put their gifts – gifts discerned by themselves and others – to use in the whole Church. Thus, some are called to leave parish ministry to serve in support of the Bishop and all the churches in a diocese.”

Geoffrey will begin his ministry with EDUSC on October 1 and will assist congregations with growth and development, strategic visioning and planning, and leadership formation and stewardship. He will be splitting his time between convocations in the northern and southern parts of the diocese.

My second announcement is a bittersweet one. Julie Price, Canon for Finance and Administration, is leaving the Diocese of Upper South Carolina to become the Controller for the Boys and Girls Club of the Midlands. As many of you know, Julie has served our diocese for more than 20 years with utter devotion, selflessness and thoughtfulness. Her financial acumen and strategic thinking have been critical to our staff and to the congregations we serve. Julie’s expertise has touched countless areas of diocesan life, from convention, to our Statement of Mission, to convocations and commissions, to individuals in all of our congregations. We will miss Julie tremendously and yet are excited about her opportunity with one of the Midlands’ most respected and effective non-profits. Julie’s last day is September 5.

In reflecting on her years with the Diocese and the many with whom she has had the opportunity to serve, Julie says, “I am extremely grateful for the support of the
diocesan community now, and throughout my more than twenty years with the Diocese. As I move into a new expression of my vocation at Boys and Girls Club of the Midlands, I will continue to hold the Diocese in my heart and in my prayers.”

In light of Julie’s departure, we are shifting her responsibilities in what I think is a creative and effective manner. Alisha Hudson, who has been serving as administrative assistant to Kellie Wilson, Canon for Christian Formation, will be our new Controller (not a canon position) and will assume the financial and budgetary responsibilities of the Diocese. Alisha will work closely with Rusty Miller, Diocesan Treasurer, and will be available to assist clergy and treasurers with financial matters. Alisha brings significant experience in operational services and systems, financial reporting and accounting, human resources, and customer service. A real testament to Alisha’s capabilities is that Julie suggested to me that she would make an excellent Controller. Alisha’s bio is attached.

Finally, we will begin looking for a part-time administrative assistant who will work with Kellie. While a full-time assistant would be ideal, our budget will allow only part-time at this point.

I hope you will join the rest of our staff and me in welcoming Geoffrey, expressing appreciation to Julie, and supporting Alisha. I ask your prayers for all of us and for our Diocese as we transition into this new time of possibility. I am excited and hopeful about what lies ahead for all of us.

Yours in Christ,

W. Andrew Waldo
Eighth Bishop
The Episcopal Diocese of Upper South Carolina

Attachments
The Rev'd D. Geoffrey Taylor became the sixth rector of St. James Episcopal Church in Greenville, SC in January of 2009. In addition to his experience as a priest, he brought to the position extensive experience in non-profit management, development (especially in the areas of deficit elimination and debt reduction). He currently serves on the Commission on Ministry and as Dean of the Foothills Convocation.

Prior to his call to St. James, Fr. Taylor was rector of the Episcopal Church of the Redeemer in Greensboro, GA. During his six-year tenure in that position, the church experienced a doubling of its membership and dramatic growth in outreach ministries in Greene County. In the Diocese of Atlanta Fr. Taylor served on the Stewardship Commission, the Congregational Growth and Development Commission and the New Starts Commission.

Fr. Taylor received his Master of Divinity degree with a certificate in Anglican Studies from the Candler School of Theology at Emory University where, in addition to being inducted into the Theta Alpha Kappa religion honors society, he was awarded the John Owen Smith Preaching Award.

Prior to his ordination to the priesthood, Fr. Taylor served as Associate Vice President for Arts and Sciences Development at Emory University with responsibility for all contributed income to Emory College and the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences. In his non-profit management career, he has served as the director of development and marketing for the Atlanta Ballet, the North Carolina Dance Theatre, American Players Theatre and worked as a consultant for arts and historic preservation non-profits throughout the Southeast.

Fr. Taylor is a graduate of the University of North Carolina School of the Arts both in high school and college where he studied bassoon. He also did graduate studies at the Juilliard School in New York. He has performed with such groups as the North Carolina Symphony and the Mostly Mozart Festival at Lincoln Center. While living in New York City, Fr. Taylor augmented his income by playing jazz piano.
Biography for Alisha L. Hudson

**Alisha L. Hudson** joined the Diocesan staff in August 2011. Her professional career encompasses more than 20 years of experience in the private and public sectors in the areas of operational services, financial reporting, human resources, and customer service.

Prior to joining EDUSC, Ms. Hudson was employed by the former BP Barber & Associates (now URS) engineering firm of Columbia, providing analytical, operational and human resources support. Before moving to Columbia in 2007, she served in operational and customer service support functions with the Beaufort-Jasper Water and Sewer Authority (BJWSA) in South Carolina's Lowcountry, assisting with annual financial planning and budgeting, and where she coordinated a number of projects including streamlined regulatory reporting protocols and customer service training offerings.

Ms. Hudson previously worked with Beverly Enterprises, Inc. (now Golden Living), of Fort Smith, Arkansas, a national retirement and health care facility corporation, providing services in financial reporting, projections, analysis of corporate property acquisitions and dispositions, as well as SEC quarterly and annual filings. She also served as Executive Assistant to the Vice President for Human Resources.

Her prior career includes work in insurance underwriting support and legal office management.

An honors graduate of Roland High School in eastern Oklahoma, Ms. Hudson has also studied Business Administration at the University of Arkansas-Fort Smith, and has completed numerous professional development courses in finance/financial reporting, accounting procedures, various computer software applications, and customer service.

Ms. Hudson has volunteered in the community as a Relay for Life participant, as a school PTO member, and as a volunteer with the Alzheimer's Association of Western Arkansas. She currently serves as treasurer for the Blythewood High School varsity swim team, and is an active member of New Kirk Presbyterian Church in Blythewood, where she serves on the usher and communion teams.

She, her husband, Tom, and daughter, Emily, reside in northeast Columbia.