

Meet The Reverend Deborah Woolsey



Rev. Deborah Woolsey grew up in the small town of Waupaca, located in central Wisconsin, where she and her family were active members of St. Mark's Episcopal Church. Deborah's father is a master plumber who started his own plumbing business when Deborah was five years old. Deborah's mother helps run the plumbing business and raised Deborah and her three siblings.

After graduating from high school, Deborah went on to study Elementary and Middle

Education at Northland College in Ashland, Wisconsin. Instead of going into classroom teaching when she graduated with her bachelor's degree, Deborah managed an independent children's bookstore in Waupaca called 'Dragonwings' Bookstore. She was served as Director of Children's Christian Formation in the very same parish she grew up in. Deborah was not only active in her community and parish, she served on several councils for the Diocese of Fond du Lac including the diocesan Standing Committee.

While attending one of the first Education for Ministry classes in that diocese, Deborah came to realize the time had come to answer her call to be a priest and entered the process for ordination to the priesthood. She attended Nashotah House Episcopal Seminary in the small and picturesque town of Nashotah, Wisconsin.

After graduation and ordination to the priesthood, Deborah served as Rector of St. Alban's Episcopal Church in Sussex, Wisconsin, located near Milwaukee. Deborah also worked as Program Coordinator and Coach for Living Compass, an emerging ministry of the Episcopal Church started by colleague the Rev. Dr. Scott Stoner.

In 2012 Deborah married Michael Luellhoff, who brought his daughter Hailey and his dog Jack into their marriage. Deborah brought two cats, and both are delighted that their family has blended together beautifully. The new family moved to Ohio when Deborah was called to be Rector of St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Dayton. Now Deborah and her family are excited to be moving to Athens where Deborah will be serving as the priest-in-charge of the Church of the Good Shepherd.

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