

## Susan Green's Journey to Being a Deacon



"The strife is o'er, the battle done, the victory of life is won; the song of triumph has begun. Alleluia!" These words from last week's Easter hymn seemed appropriate for this place in my process of discernment for ordination as a Deacon in the Episcopal Church. Because my husband, Andrew, was the Rector, I transferred from St. Paul's five years ago, to serve and worship at St Anthony's – beginning the discernment process. After completion of a ministry project, I was invited to the Diocesan Discernment Retreat to be interviewed by Bp. Mathes and the Commission on Ministry. I was admitted to the ordination process.

After two years of delays due to health issues, I began two years of trips to San Diego to attend the Diocesan School for Ministry. I drove to San Diego Friday evening and returned Saturday night about 50 times. On April 8<sup>th</sup> of 2017, I completed my last class with joy and sadness. And on April 18<sup>th</sup>, I interviewed again with Bp. Mathes, the Standing Committee and Commission on Ministry, after which I was recommended for ordination.

The description of this process seems cut and dried. However, the journey has been anything but. I have had the joy of working at all the Episcopal Churches in the valley. Making countless new friends, while never forgetting my friends at St. Paul's. This widened church family has now surrounded me with a cloud of prayers, for which I am appreciative. Your prayers have been even more valuable since I was diagnosed with breast cancer in February. I have had successful surgery, a good prognosis, and am moving forward with treatment.

I am so grateful for St. Paul's support of me as your Rector's wife and then as I progressed through my ordination process. I will rejoice with all who can attend my ordination on June 17 at 10:00 am, at St. Paul's Cathedral. And I will look forward to serving as a Deacon for the first time on June 18<sup>th</sup> at St. Paul's.