

Madeleine's Announcement

Friday March 14, 2025

Dear Grace and Holy Trinity Community,

I am delighted to share the good news that Madeleine Preston will be joining our community early this summer as our next Director of Formation for Youth and Children. I am so grateful for the ministry of the Search Committee in Terry Hathaway, David Lewis, Megan Lecky, and Singith Perera. We found Madeleine to have a servant heart, curious intellect and a gentle teaching nature filled with intentional listening and sharing. She is thrilled to join us and enjoyed connecting with many of us during her recent church visit.

In her own words – I am excited and grateful to be joining the Grace and Holy Trinity community as Director of Formation! I've spent the last three years in Durham, NC, working toward my Master of Divinity at Duke Divinity School and serving at Church of the Holy Family, where I teach Sunday school and sing with the choir. Praying with children and youth and hearing their reflections on Scripture are some of my favorite spiritual practices, and I'm eager to continue this work with the young people of Grace and Holy Trinity. – Madeleine

Madeleine comes with an abundance of formation experience. As a Seminarian at Church of the Holy Family in Chapel Hill and previously at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Cary, she assisted in the planning and leading of children's programming and some preaching. At Duke Seminary, she trained students to become acolytes and how to lead Morning Prayer. In addition to other church experiences, she was the Associate Director for Reunions at Wheaton College where she planned and executed events, including the recruiting and advising of volunteers. She is Certified Godly Play storytelling, participated in the Episcopal Preaching Foundation's Preaching Excellence Program and she also has advanced Spanish writing and speaking skills. These experiences and skills will all translate well into our formation planning and implementation at Grace and Holy Trinity.

Madeleine graduates in May from Duke Divinity School with a Master of Divinity and Certificate in Anglican Studies. She graduated from Wheaton College in Wheaton, IL seven years prior earning a B.S. in Applied Health Science and B.A. in Spanish. A highlight in college for her was a 16-week study abroad program in Querétaro, Mexico. Great students make terrific teachers! As I shared at the Annual Meeting, formation will be a church planning focus in 2025. We sit engulfed in the educational blessing of VCU.

Formation as a key identity, we seek to be shaped and strive to enhance our engagement within the entire community of learners around us. Madeleine will be a key voice in renewing our attention to formation.

Lastly, I give thanks to Ministry Architects who guided us throughout the process. They posted this position in 26 places, received 16 applications, and presented four candidates for us to consider interviewing. They celebrate with us in **Madeleine!** She joins us here at GHTC on June 9th. Please keep her, our community, and the work before us all in your prayers. May God Bless us as we begin this crucial work of formation together.

In Peace, Fr. Brent

PS- An important way to be part of living into our formation work now is by attending the **first session** of the Vision Summit **on Friday, March 21st**. There is dinner starting at 5:30 pm followed by the session at 6:30 pm. Register at [GHTC Vision Summit Survey](#).