

# Breaking News!

## Ware Episcopal Church

Gloucester, Virginia

October 2, 2014

Ladies and Gentlemen of Ware Church,



I am pleased to announce that the Vestry on this Tuesday evening, September 30, 2014, called The Reverend Mr. Theodore Grant (“Grant”) Ambrose to be the 19<sup>th</sup> “Called” Rector of Ware Church (There also have been 3 “Interim” Rectors over the years including Ted). Mr. Ambrose was unanimously recommended by the Search Committee and the decision to call him was unanimously approved by the Vestry. To introduce The Reverend Mr. Ambrose, I excerpt below portions of the Search Committee’s presentation of the Nominee to the Vestry. These excerpts provide a “snapshot” of Grant’s background and experience. We expect Grant and Martha, his wife, to move to Gloucester in November and to

begin his ministry with us at Ware at the service on November 16<sup>th</sup>, the date of our annual congregational meeting.

The Rev. Theodore Grant (“Grant”) Ambrose, a priest in the Diocese of Virginia, serves currently as Associate Rector at St. Mary’s, Arlington. He was one of the first candidates to apply for the position of Rector at Ware when we began receiving names in early April. He has demonstrated a steady and consistent interest in Ware since that time.

Ordained in January 2012, Grant has been at St. Mary’s since 2009. He began his association there while performing his “Seminarian” service as part of his Master’s degree program in Divinity at the Virginia Theological Seminary (VTS) in Alexandria. Following graduation from VTS, Grant was asked by Andrew Merrow, Rector at St. Mary’s, to stay on as Associate Rector.

St. Mary’s is a large, ‘corporate’-sized church, with an average Sunday attendance (ASA) of 525 at the 9:15 service (one of four services each Sunday). During his time at St. Mary’s, Grant has taken the opportunities this setting provides, to lead and be active in a number of capacities, as well as to experience first-hand the workings of an active, established parish. As associate, Grant has had responsibility for youth groups, adult education, mission and outreach, pastoral care, and of course regularly leading worship and preaching. He’s had oversight of the parish’s

\$200,000+ annual budget for their Outreach Ministry. He's led a number of retreats to Shrinemont, for both young and old.

Prior to moving to Virginia, Grant lived in his home state of North Carolina. A fifth-generation Episcopalian, Grant was raised on a large farm in Eastern North Carolina, which had been in his family for many generations. He was an active member of his hometown, small Episcopal church in Creswell, NC, where he was elected to Vestry as a high school student. Grant remained on this Vestry through college at North Carolina Wesleyan and only gave up this duty when his status as a young priest prevented him from serving on a Vestry.

Grant has a strong personal interest in history, particularly early American colonial history and church history. He graduated from college with a double-major in English and in History. He also taught AP English and History at an independent school in Merry Hill, NC. He was also employed as an interpreter by the North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources. In Northern Virginia, Grant has taught adult education classes on church history, with one activity being Saturday field trips to historic Episcopal churches.

Grant was married to his wife, Martha, by Bishop Shannon Johnston in April, 2013. The Vestry found both Grant and Martha to be warm, intelligent, caring, thoughtful and genuine. He is called to Ware for who and what we are; he also brings energy, enthusiasm, and the Love of Christ.



I want to thank the members of the Search Committee for their outstanding effort in identifying, interviewing, researching, vetting and recommending Grant out of a field of over twenty candidates. And I want to thank my fellow Vestry members for their careful study of Grant and for their enthusiastic call.

Yours in Christ,

*Breck*

F. Breckinridge Montague  
Senior Warden

*God does  
answer prayers.  
Hallelujah!*

