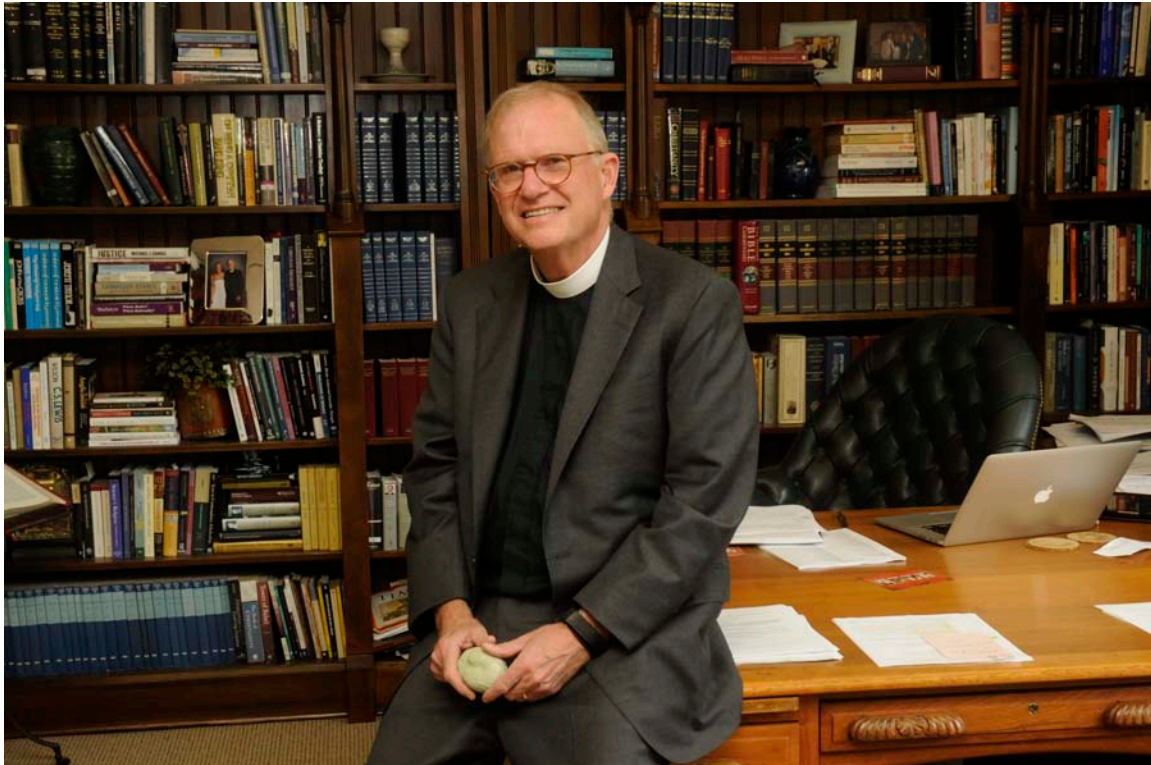


A Life Story About Chris Keller



The Rev. Dr. Christoph Keller, III, is an Episcopal priest and theologian who, through his ministry and life, has blended scholarly pursuits with innovative leadership. A 1977 graduate (B.A., *magna cum laude*) of Amherst College, and 1982 graduate (M.Div.) of the Episcopal Divinity School, he served for 16 years in parish ministry and as Canon Missioner of the Diocese of Arkansas.

In early years, Dr. Keller was Student Body President of Little Rock Central High School. As president, Dr. Keller initiated organized soccer in central Arkansas. The project began with his writing a letter to the presidents of other local high school student bodies, challenging them to form soccer teams. Hall High School and Catholic High School for Boys formed teams, as did a group from the Little Rock Air Force Base. The new, four-team league, playing in the fall of 1972, marked the beginning of youth soccer in Little Rock. Central has fielded a team every year since. Dr. Keller was a striker (forward position) on the first team.

Following high school, Dr. Keller attended Amherst College. At Amherst, he was an American Studies major, with a focus on southern history, and an accent on ethnicity and race. His honors thesis titled, "Busing," included a chapter on his experience at Central, when the era of true racial diversity in the Little Rock public schools began through court-ordered busing. Dr. Keller was awarded the top prize for an American Studies thesis. In college, he switched from soccer to rugby.



Planning to become a scholar in American History, Dr. Keller was a Ph.D. candidate at Harvard University in a program called, "The History of American Civilization." It was as a first-year student at Harvard that he began to discern a calling to become a priest. Acting on the call, Dr. Keller left Harvard and enrolled in the Episcopal Divinity School, located across Massachusetts Avenue from Harvard, where he earned a Masters of Divinity. He also became a Red Sox fan.

Dr. Keller's parish ministry has included churches in Pine Bluff, Fort Smith, and Van Buren, Arkansas. While at Trinity Church in Van Buren, he challenged the rectors of the Fort Smith churches to form softball teams and create a league. They did. During this period, Dr.

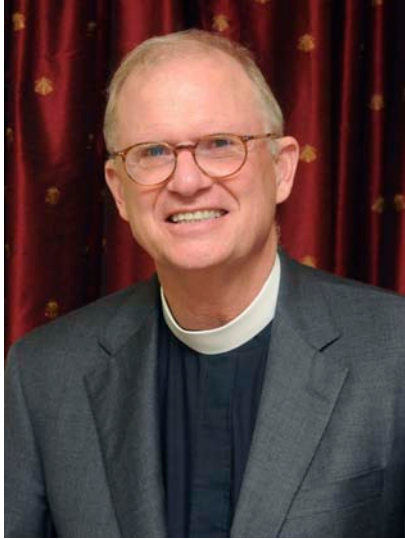
Keller also learned to fly, and is a licensed private pilot with an instrument rating – although he hasn't found time to continue flying.

In 1990, Dr. Keller and his family moved to Little Rock where, in 1991, he founded what became St. Margaret's Church. From its first Sunday in a bargain movie theatre, Dr. Keller led St. Margaret's through growth to more than 500 members, and the construction of the church campus on Chenal Parkway in west Little Rock.

In 1999, he moved with his family to New York to pursue advanced study in theology. Dr. Keller holds a Doctor of Theology (Th.D.) in Anglican Studies (2009) from General Theological Seminary, where his field was systematic theology, focusing on theology and science. His dissertation, "Darwin's Science in Chalcedonian Imagination: Barth, Double Agency and Theistic Evolution," explores and affirms compatibility between Christian faith and evolution. The pursuit of his doctorate also included reading-knowledge of Greek, French, and German. Dr. Keller admits being as rusty at those languages as he now is at flying airplanes.

After five years in New York, Dr. Keller was invited to return to St. Margaret's as "Theologian-in-Residence," in which capacity he founded and served as director of the "Institute for Theological Studies at St. Margaret's." At the institute, Dr. Keller lectured regularly, especially on topics pertaining to religion and science.

Through the institute, Dr. Keller founded SUMMA: A Student Theological Debate Society. SUMMA, a program he conceived to offer high school students intellectual tools for in-depth reasoning and knowledge of the Christian theological tradition, was begun as a pilot project in Little Rock.

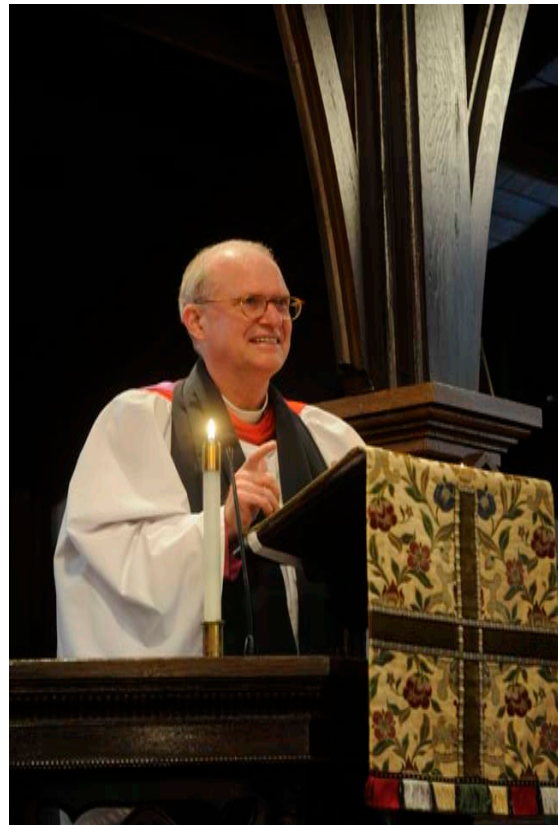


The program has expanded nationally through the Beecken Center of the University of the South in Sewanee, Tennessee, drawing students from across the United States. Dr. Keller holds the title of “Senior Fellow at Beecken Center,” where, each summer, he teaches the depth of Christian faith as an intellectual experience, and the subtleties of argument and debate.

Dr. Keller is an Episcopal Church Foundation Fellow, and an honorary Canon of the Diocese of Arkansas. He serves on the boards of directors of the General Theological Seminary, Deltic Timber Corporation, Murphy USA, and Episcopal Collegiate School.

A long and meaningful connection to Trinity Episcopal Cathedral in Little Rock was begun in 1967 when Dr. Keller’s family joined the Cathedral parish upon the election of his father, Christoph Keller, Jr., as Bishop of Arkansas. In those years, Dr. Keller served as an acolyte, and was an active member of Episcopal Youth Community (EYC). He was ordained Deacon in the Cathedral in 1982.

Serving as Interim Dean and Rector of the Trinity Cathedral since December 2013, Dr. Keller has provided transformational guidance to better prepare the parish for new leadership. Those preparations have borne fruit through meaningful worship, enlightened teaching, financial stability and innovative programming. As the search for a new Dean and Rector experienced an unexpected pause, Dr. Keller felt called to offer himself. That personal call allowed the Bishop and the parish’s Search Committee to include Dr. Keller in the search process, and prayerfully discern his request to be considered and his commitment to serve. After careful deliberation, the Search Committee recommended Dr. Keller to the Bishop and the Vestry. The Bishop then appointed Dr. Keller as Dean of the Cathedral, and the Vestry elected him as Rector of the parish. He will begin his official duties as standing Dean and Rector on Sunday, November 29, 2015, the first Sunday in Advent and the beginning of the new church year. Dr. Keller’s installation is scheduled for Sunday, December 6, 2015, in the Cathedral.



Dr. Keller met his wife, Julie Honeycutt, in the seventh grade in the Trinity Cathedral Sunday School. They were married in the sanctuary of the Cathedral on April 15, 1978. Julie and Chris Keller have two grown children. Mary Olive lives in New York, where she is a Special Events Coordinator for Barneys New York department stores. Son Christoph, a recent graduate of the University of Arkansas School of Law, is serving in Little Rock as a clerk for U.S. District Judge, Kristine Baker. He and his fiancé, Laura Porter, will be married in the sanctuary of the Cathedral on June 4, 2016. Dr. Keller will officiate at that service as the 20th Dean and Rector of Trinity Episcopal Cathedral.

