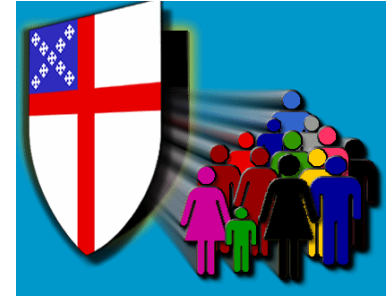


Dear Parishioners of Zion,

I want to introduce myself to you. Some of you know me already but many do you do not. I first came to Zion six years ago looking for a place to worship as well as a friendly congregation. I lucked out and found both in one fell swoop. I knew here I would find my ministry and I did, first as a lay reader and Chalice Assistant at the eleven o'clock service. Since coming to Zion I have served on the Vestry as well as on several committees. Currently, I serve as a member of the Choir and am in charge of coordinating our Adopt-A-Family Christmas program in conjunction with Jefferson County Community Ministries (JCCM).



Our congregation has supported me in my three years of intensive study in our Diocesan program designed to lift up leaders for the Church called “Equipping the Saints” (ETS). I completed this program in June of 2007, and am grateful for the encouragement from our Priest, Vestry and Choir, who were wonderful systems of support.

Throughout my study in ETS I gained helpful knowledge about the Episcopal Church and about our Christian faith. My studies were in three separate areas: Catechesis (teaching); Pastoral Care and Worship. Here’s how I intend to live into these licenses granted by Bishop Klusmeyer:

As a Catechist, I am able to lead a Bible Study, assist with Confirmation classes and other educational programs. As a Pastoral Leader I am charged with overseeing our Lay Eucharistic Visitors program, and assisting the Rector in visiting ill and homebound parishioners. Currently, Zion has twelve LEV’s who visit and bring Holy Communion to our homebound parishioners. My certification as a Lay Preacher enables me to lead Morning Prayer and preach in the absence of the priest.

I look forward to serving our Lord with you.

Yours in Christ,
Janet Barker

Commissioning of the Lay Ministry of Janet Barker

The Examination

The congregation being seated, the celebrant stands in full view of the people. The sponsors and candidate stand facing the celebrant.

The Celebrant says these or similar words

Brothers and Sisters in Christ Jesus, we are all baptized by the one Spirit into one Body, and given gifts for a variety of ministries for the common good. Our purpose is to commission this person in the Name of God and of this congregation to a special ministry to which she is called.

The Celebrant asks the sponsor or sponsors

Is this person you are to present prepared by a commitment to Christ as Lord, by regular attendance at worship, and by the knowledge of her duties, to exercise her ministry to the honor of God, and the well-being of his Church?

Sponsors I believe she is.

The Celebrant then says these or similar words

You have been called to a ministry in this congregation. Will you, as long as you are engaged in this work, perform it with diligence?

Candidate I will.

Celebrant Will you faithfully and reverently execute the duties of your ministry to the honor of God, and the benefit of the members of this congregation?

Candidate I will.

The Commissioning

Sponsors We present to you Janet Barker to be admitted to the ministries of Catechist, Pastoral Leader and Lay Preacher in this congregation.

Antiphon

You are my witnesses, says the Lord, and my servants whom I have chosen.

V. Give thanks to the Lord and call upon his Name:

R. Make known his deeds among the peoples.

Let us pray. *(Silence)*

Have regard to our supplication, O gracious Lord, and confirm with your heavenly benediction your servant commissioned to minister in your Church, that with sincere devotion of mind and body she may offer acceptable service to you; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

In the Name of God and of this congregation, I commission you Janet Barker as Catechist, Pastoral Leader, and Lay Preacher in this Parish and give you this Bible as a token of your ministry.

Anthem: "And Can It Be"

O Lord, without whom our labor is lost: We beseech you to prosper all works in your Church undertaken according to your holy will. Grant to your workers a pure intention, a patient faith, sufficient success on earth, and the blessedness of serving you in heaven; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*