

**The Rev. Robert P. (Bob) Goolsby** became the seventh Rector of St. Christopher's Episcopal Church in September of 2008. Under Bob's leadership, St. Christopher's mission and ministry has been reenergized with a renewed vision for its growing day school and thriving resale shop, and a comprehensive church renovation. As Rector, Bob emboldens the congregation to be a compassionate people by supporting ministry to the homeless, the working poor, and a local non-profit hospice.

Prior to St. Christopher's, Bob served as the Assistant to the Rector at the Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd in Kingwood, Texas -- a community known for its abundance of young families. Bob's ministry focus was to families with children, including ministry involvement with one of the largest Episcopal Day Schools in the country. He established missional communities in the homes of young and new parishioners, building relationships among this demographic. Bob also created a family-friendly Sunday morning worship service that continues to this day. He also provided pastoral care, taught Christian formation and ministered to youth and college students in addition to other leadership and administrative duties.

As a "cradle Episcopalian" Bob has served the Church throughout his life, serving middle and high school youth at Holy Sacrament, Pembroke Pines and St. Mary Magdalene, Coral Springs, in the Diocese of Southeast Florida and at St. Richard's, Winter Park, in the Diocese of Central Florida. During seminary, Bob prepared young people for Confirmation at St. Mark's in San Marcos, in the Diocese of West Texas.

Throughout the 1990's Bob worked for a nation-wide fine art gallery as a custom framer, and later as a designer and retail manager. With a love of creative arts, experience in management, and a desire to serve God, Bob was called to the liturgical beauty of the Episcopal Church and brings entrepreneurial gifts to his ministry and leadership.

Bob earned a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology at the University of Central Florida, and a Master of Divinity from the Seminary of the Southwest in Austin, Texas. He is married to Karla, a communications director in the medical industry. She has a son, who is a Lieutenant in the U.S. Navy and a daughter who is an elementary school teacher in Virginia; making Bob a very proud step-dad. Bob and Karla are avid dog lovers and rescuers and currently have three rescues: a Shih-Tzu mix, a Schnauzer, and an 80-pound Doberman who yearns to be a lap dog.

