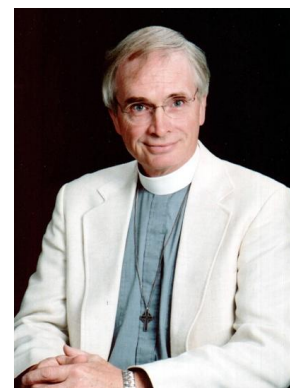




Reverend Doctor Chip Lee: Interim Rector

If you ask him, the Reverend Doctor Chip Lee will tell you that he knew he would become a priest when he was a sophomore in high school. He just found 25 years' worth of excuses to put it off.

Raised in Saratoga Springs, NY, Chip went to work at the local radio station in his junior year, and wound up on active duty in the Navy in 1967 in Armed Forces Radio and Television on board the USS Wright. Following discharge, he re-entered Ithaca College where he earned a BS in Communications and subsequently worked for nearly 25 years as a disc jockey and program director at radio stations in Syracuse, Seattle, and Anchorage.



God kept tapping him on the shoulder and in 1986, Chip entered seminary and received his Master of Divinity from the Church Divinity School of the Pacific in Berkeley, CA and, was ordained to the Diaconate in 1989 at Trinity Church in Bend, Oregon and called as Priest-in-Charge to St. James' in Kemmerer, WY and St. Bartholomew's in Cokeville, WY. He was ordained to the Priesthood in 1990 and in 1992 was called to the mountains of Western Maryland as Rector of St. Matthew's, Oakland, and Vicar of St. John's, Deer Park, where he served until his retirement in July 2026 after 33 years. He still serves as Priest-in-Charge of The Church of the Transfiguration in Blue Mountain Lake, NY, a small summer chapel in the Central Adirondacks in the Diocese of Albany, since 2008. He also developed a podcast, "Prayer at Morning's First Light," to offer Morning Prayer each day on the internet. It currently is heard in several countries around the world and is approaching its two-millionth download. Chip's vision is to enable all members of his churches to be spiritually transformed, reaching out effectively as Christ's hands and heart in the world. He believes The Episcopal Church should be a center for learning and spiritual growth – for all ages, and for outreach, a place of hospitality, service, and welcome for all.

Chip received his Doctor of Ministry in Congregational Development from Seabury-Western Theological Seminary in Chicago in 2002. His thesis, "Changing Times, Timing Change; The Rural and Small Town Church: Family Chaplaincy or Missional Community?" calls for changes in the way clergy are trained and called to small, rural churches so that congregations have the best opportunity to grow into missional communities. This thesis is a seminal work in developing an ethos of long-term care of rural congregations.