

## A Word About Deacons

*Each week we will have a submission from a deacon that will explore topics like what a deacon is, what they do, their history, and other stories.*

*From the Episcopal Diocese of Georgia's newsletter 9/1/21*

The Rev. Patti Davis was ordained a Deacon on June 19, 1999 in the Diocese of Southern Virginia and presently serves at Christ Church, Savannah. After completing EFM and a course at the Virginia Institute for Spiritual Direction, she felt God asking for more commitment. And then there was a parishioner in a nursing home who always found ways to keep her coming back to visit --- a tube of toothpaste here, a pair of slacks hemmed there. But mostly Patti couldn't wait to get out of there! And then one day as she was leaving, she glanced in a room and saw an old woman trying to reach a glass of water on the bedside table. "I can do that," she thought. She went in and held the glass for the woman, who then put her head on her pillow and said, "I was so thirsty." It wasn't until Patti got all the way out to her car that she realized she had just given Jesus a drink of water. And so began the journey that was to become ordination. In Southern Virginia she served as Archdeacon for 6 years and was awarded the John Hines Award for preaching from VTS in 2006.



Coming to Savannah was coming home for Patti as she grew up on Isle of Hope. In Savannah she continues her ministry as a nursing home chaplain at Riverview Health and Rehab, making pastoral visits, leading a Hymn Sing, enlisting residents to pack bags of toiletries for Emmaus House, and introducing area priests to her congregation there through a monthly communion service. In thinking about her ministry as a Deacon, she says, "It's important to know that I don't bring Jesus to the residents there. Jesus is already there; my job is simply to find him and point him out to others.... and offer him a glass of water."