

## 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 9/8/21*

The Rev. Scott Mithen was ordained to the Sacred Order of Deacons on October 21, 2009 and currently serves at St. Thomas in Thomasville. He says, "The Holy Spirit moved me to become a deacon. I was finishing up my third year of EFM and I felt like God was calling me to do something, to be of service to the community and the church. But I had reservations and many long talks with God ...in the end I knew that being a deacon was what I was called to do. When I first met with Bishop Louttit to discuss the Diaconate and the call I believed I had, he asked me if I had ever been in a church with a deacon or knew what deacons did and I said no, only what I had read. He smiled and asked that I go to Christ the King in Valdosta and shadow Deacon Yvette Owens and then we would talk. Shadowing Deacon Yvette was eye opening and I was sold on the idea of being a deacon." His diaconal ministry is found in serving others through work with Hospice and with feeding ministries. He has been with Kindred Hospice for 13 years now and also serves as a member of the Deacon Council and as the Examining Chaplain for Holy Scriptures for the Deacon School for Ministry.



Mithen says as a volunteer visitor with Hospice, he loves being able to visit patients in hospice care in hospitals, nursing homes and in their homes. His goal with each visit is to somehow lighten their day a bit, maybe even share a laugh with them. He says, "If I can take their minds off of where they are or the pain they may have, even for a few moments that means the world to them and to me. " The Covid virus of course has changed this ministry, as it was not safe to allow visitors into many of the places he used to go. Even visits in homes stopped, so when he could not visit someone at home he would call and visit with them over the phone. This of course was not the same as being a presence there but it did work and allowed him to visit with patients in other parts of the state.

For Scott, first and foremost, being a deacon is about the people he meets and serves in his ministries in the community and at church. Just the other day, he was helping to give out food boxes at St. John's Episcopal Church in Bainbridge. An older lady came walking from her apartment and got a box. These boxes were somewhat heavy so he offered to carry hers to her home. They walked for about 3 blocks and talked the whole way. He says, "That day if I had done nothing else, I was where I was needed. " For Scott, being a deacon is a servant ministry that touches so many lives, in so many ways, whether it's serving God's people in the community or in the church.