

Dear St. Stephen's Family,

It is with much joy that I write to tell you all how honored, and how filled with excitement I am to be moving to California in December to be your next rector!

You will have all received by now the news of the vestry's call as well as a short biography of who I am, where I am, and where I've been. I've asked Jock if I could write this letter to give you a little more of a description about me.

I grew up in Tuscaloosa, Alabama, just a few blocks from the campus of the University of Alabama. Both my parents were either graduate students or employed by the university my whole growing up, so I was steeped in "the kool-aid" as they say. However, though our football team has enjoyed a lot of success over the past decade or so, my current parishioners (mostly LSU, Ole Miss, and MS State fans) approve of my humility on Sunday mornings after game days when my team wins. Collectively, my parents and two sisters hold nine degrees from the University; I hold none!

After eighteen years in Alabama, seven years in Tennessee, four years in Texas, twenty-eight years in Mississippi, two daughters, six houses, three dogs, and two cats, we can't wait to spend our next years in California! We've amassed wonderful friends in all these years, and I suspect you'll see some of them in Belvedere soon!

When I'm not working, you will often find me in my kitchen, as I love to cook and bake. Reading is also a passion of mine; I'm not sure if I could live without books nearby. British detective novels are my current favorite genre, but I tend to rotate in and out of a variety of subjects. I love the outdoors, so your hiking and running/walking opportunities are going to be wonderful to discover. While I love Mississippi, I won't miss (at all) the heat and humidity that follows us most of the year. I'm hoping y'all will show me all the great hiking trails to see the exquisite views that surround Belvedere Tiburon. I haven't done much hiking, and I mostly walk for exercise, but I used to run half-marathons, so maybe my first few months there will give me the time to learn to love to run again!

I'm looking forward to my stories and your stories becoming our stories as we work together in our part of the kingdom of God. I know that I will love all of you as I have loved my current parish. I can't wait to meet you, and am looking forward to our first Sunday together on December 18th!

Blessings and Peace,

Kyle