

THE REVEREND THOMAS R. WARD, JR.



Following his academic and seminary training at Sewanee – The University of the South, Oxford University, and Virginia Theological Seminary, Fr. Tom has been an Episcopal priest for over forty years, serving parishes in Mississippi and Tennessee. From 1994 through 2005, he was University Chaplain at Sewanee (the one university owned and operated by the Episcopal Church in this country). Fr. Tom’s ministry focuses on the contemplative dimension of the gospel, teaching centering prayer, and leading retreats. He has a special interest in fostering this practice in local congregations. For the past twenty years Tom has worked closely with Fr. Thomas Keating and Contemplative Outreach Ltd, a network which seeks to foster contemplation. Welcome to St. Paul’s Tom – we’re so glad you are with us this weekend.

Personal: Born 1945, Meridian, Mississippi
 Married (1974) to the former Margaret Nagley
 Two children: Reid (33) and Sarah Catherine (Ward) Wilkes (32)

Education: Virginia Theological Seminary
 Alexandria, Virginia
 M.Div, 1975
 Cum Laude

 Oxford University
 Oxford, England
 B.A., M.A., 1969
 English Language and Literature

University of the South
Sewanee, Tennessee

B.A., 1967 – Magna Cum Laude

Work: Instructor in English
Head Basketball Coach
Meridian Junior College
Meridian, Mississippi
1969-1970

Instructor in English
The University of the South
Sewanee, Tennessee
1970-1972

Assistant to the Rector
Trinity Parish
Hattiesburg, Mississippi
1975-1977

Rector
All Saints Parish
Grenada, Mississippi
1977-1981

Rector
Christ Church Parish (now Christ Church Cathedral)
Nashville, Tennessee
1981-1994

University Chaplain
University of the South
Sewanee, Tennessee
1994-2005

Centering Prayer:

Began a practice in 1988
Formed support groups at Christ Church, Nashville, 1989
Intensive retreat at Snowmass in 1991
Advanced retreat in 1992
Post-Intensive retreat in each subsequent year to present.
Formation training, 1995
Since 1995, I have offered workshops in many parishes and retreat centers throughout the country
Since 1997, I have been part of staff teams offering retreats of varying lengths at St. Mary's Sewanee and at other sites.