



Good Shepherd Episcopal Church

Deacon John Riherd



John Riherd was born and raised in Belle Plaine, Iowa, where his family was very active in the Evangelical United Brethren Church, the local church founded by his great-grandparents. As a youth, John loved to spend weeknights listening to missions taught by visiting evangelists and enjoyed memorizing scriptures for these missions. He was very active in the church's Youth Fellowship group.

John attended the University of Iowa, serving on the Student Senate. He was President of his fraternity and elected to a national honorary leadership fraternity. Following graduation, the military draft caught up with him and he served in the US Army. John was discharged from military service following a tour of duty in Vietnam where he was awarded the

Bronze Star Medal.

After returning to Iowa, he enrolled in the University of Iowa College of Law. Upon graduation, he and his wife moved to Spokane, WA, where he lived for 30 years and developed a successful law practice. He became a Catholic at the time of his marriage, and served on parish boards and committees, Diocesan and statewide boards. John earned a Master of Arts degree in Religious Studies from Gonzaga University.

John was ordained a Deacon for the Catholic Diocese of Spokane in 1999.

During his years as a Deacon, John was active as a volunteer chaplain with various a volunteer chaplain with various hospice organizations. He continues as a chaplain for Tidewell Hospice in Venice. He also served as a chaplain for the Portland VA Medical Center.

John moved to Venice after retiring. He remarried at Good Shepherd in January of 2010. He and his wife Katherine have a blended family of three daughters and one son, three grandsons and one granddaughter.

Having recently completed a year of study at The School for Ministry of The Episcopal Diocese of Southwest Florida, John was received as a Deacon in the Episcopal Church on July 26 at Good Shepherd.