

C. Christopher Thompson

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I was born in Portsmouth, Ohio and I am the oldest of three sons. They their families and my father and step mother live in Wheeling, WV. My mother died of cancer 34 years ago. My college time was divided between Marshall University in Huntington, WV and West Liberty University outside of Wheeling. My seminary is Virginia Theological Seminary.

Mary Jo Brown Thompson and I have been married for 29 years. She is from Summersville, WV and we met in Huntington. I am graced with three children, Jay, Elizabeth and Lucy and five awesome grandchildren. Jay and his wife Sonie have Truman and Clara. Elizabeth and her husband Andrew have Nicholas, Sarah Grace and Mary Catherine. Lucy, our youngest will be married in June.

My love outside of work is cooking. I love the Food Network. I especially enjoy Italian and experimenting with leftovers from the fridge. History is my educational background with Civil War and WWII both special interests of mine. I enjoy hiking and camping, but one of the highlight of each year is "*Grand Camp*" when our grandchildren come for a week. It is our time to play, color, tell stories and celebrate their birthdays.

I noted above that I was born in Ohio, but I say that I am a Mountaineer by adoption. We move to Wheeling when I was in sixth grade. I went through the ordination process with Bishop Robert P. Atkinson of West Virginia. Bishop Atkinson ordained me a Deacon in 1979 and Priest in 1980. I began my ministry in Huntington, WV a year later was assigned by the Bishop as a Vicar to a family sized mission in Ripley, WV. During this time I was also the Youth Coordinator for the Diocese. It was in Ripley that I began my military career. I joined the West Virginia Army National Guard and served in both the artillery and combat engineers.

In 1986 we moved to Portsmouth, Ohio when I accepted a call to a pastoral size congregation. It was a wonderful ten years. It was while I was there I transitioned to the Air Nation Guard and worked with the local police department. We were called to a program size church in St. Petersburg, Florida from 1996 until 2005. I served as the chaplain to Canterbury School, grades pre-K through 12. This move brought a change in my style of my military ministry. I transferred to the Individual Mobilization Augmentee program with the Air Force and became the Senior Reserve Chaplain at McDill AFB.

I retired from the Air Force Reserved in 2003 and 2005 accepted the call to Eastern Shore Chapel in Virginia Beach, Va. It is a resource size parish with a very strong military background. Naval Air Station Oceana is literally next door. This parish was one of the first to establish a POW support group during Vietnam.

Being blessed to have served as a volunteer fireman and chaplain in WV as well as a police chaplain in Ohio I sought more involvement in Virginia Beach. Last year I join the police department after completing a sixty hour academy. I love it.

I enjoy people, ministry and making a difference in lives, as Christ has made a difference in mine.