

Biographical Note

The Very Rev. Richard James "Rich" Martindale

Father Richard Martindale was born in Mishawaka, Indiana (near South Bend) where his parents were attending Bethel College.

By the age of six, the family had moved from there to Western Ohio and then on to Phoenix, Arizona. His family was very active in a small denomination, the Missionary Church, which he jokes was "so conservative it makes the Baptists look liberal." His parents were both teachers, though his father served as pastor for a church in Ohio and later as a supply preacher. Except for one year when the family moved to rural Ohio, Rich lived in Phoenix until he left to pursue a degree in Psychology from Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, Maryland.

Upon graduation, Rich was commissioned as an officer in the Medical Service Corps of the U.S. Army. He served as Medical Platoon Leader for the 3/187th Infantry (Abn) at Ft. Campbell, Kentucky and as executive office for a forward support medical treatment company of the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault); commanded an ambulance company at Ft. Polk, Louisiana and was Director of Plans and Operations at Bayne-Jones Army Hospital at Ft. Polk; commanded a forward field medical treatment company stationed in Baumholder in what was then the Federal Republic of Germany and then was administrator and commander of troops for the Army health clinic serving the region; and was the medical plans officer for the XVIII Airborne Corps at Ft. Bragg, North Carolina and while deployed. He is a veteran of the Persian Gulf War and has been awarded the Expert Field Medical Badge, the Parachutist Badge, the Air Assault Badge and numerous merit and service medals.

Rich left the Army after nearly thirteen years of active service to follow a call from the Diocese of East Carolina to Virginia Theological Seminary and Holy Orders. He was ordained to the Diaconate by the Right Reverend B. Sidney Sanders, Bishop of East Carolina in June, 1995 and to the Priesthood by the Right Reverend Robert O. Miller, Bishop of Alabama in December of that year while serving as Curate of Saint John's Episcopal Church in Decatur, Alabama.

Rich was called to Saint Mark's Pro-Cathedral, Hastings, Nebraska in 1998 and served as the cathedral's tenth dean until 2005. While in the Diocese of Nebraska, Dean Rich was a member of the Executive Committee of the Diocese, assisted and then lead the diocesan camp programs, was spiritual director for the Happening youth renewal program, and led the transition team for the election and transition of the Bishop of Nebraska. For his service and contributions, in 2008, the Vestry of St. Mark's named him Dean *honoris causa*.

Father Rich has served as Rector of Trinity Episcopal Church, Columbus, Georgia in the Diocese of Atlanta since September, 2005. Trinity is this year celebrating their 175th Anniversary with the completion of a multi-million dollar capital campaign, including the installation of a new Letourneau organ. He is a member of the Executive Board of the Diocese and the Diocesan Finance Committee, and last year chaired the study committee that developed and recommended blanket changes to the Diocese of Atlanta's canons for the election of bishops. In Columbus, he is President of the Muscogee County Clergy Association, Co-Chair of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Steering Committee, and serves on several civic boards and organizations.

Rich was married to Jenny Lynn Lucas of Clarksville, Tennessee in 1983. They have two grown sons, J.D. a mathematics graduate student at the University of North Carolina, and Kyle a salesman in Hastings, Nebraska and a newly elected member of the Vestry of St. Mark's Pro-Cathedral.