

CURRICULUM VITAE

WILLIAM SUTHERLAND STAFFORD

The School of Theology
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Born: November 9, 1947, San Francisco, California, USA

Married: June 7, 1969, to Barbara Marie Vail. Five children (three grown, two adopted).

Education:

1965-1969 Stanford University. B. A., History (Honors), June 1969. Phi Beta Kappa
1969-1974 Yale University. Graduate School.
Department of Religious Studies: History of Christianity
1972 M.A., M.Phil., Yale University
1973-1974 Université de Strasbourg: Faculté de théologie protestante
1975 Ph.D., Yale University

Academic Positions:

2010- Charles T. Quintard Professor of Dogmatic Theology
2005- Dean, The School of Theology, The University of the South
2005- Professor of Church History, The School of Theology, The University of the South
1997-2004 Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and Vice President, Virginia Theological Seminary (VTS)
1990-2004 David J. Ely Professor of Church History, VTS
1982-1990 Associate Professor of Church History, VTS
1976-1982 Assistant Professor of Church History, VTS
1974-1976 Visiting Assistant Professor of Religious Studies, Brown University
1969-1973 Teaching Fellow, Yale University

Church Experience:

Baptism: December 21, 1947

Admitted to Church Membership, United Presbyterian Church: 1959

Confirmation in the Episcopal Church: April 27, 1975

Ordered Deacon: May 2, 1981

Ordered Priest: January 17, 1982

- 1981 Assistant to Interim Rector, St. Christopher's Episcopal Church, Springfield VA. *Full time and part time parish ministry, in a growing evangelical parish.*
- 1981-1997 Priest Associate, Grace Episcopal Church, Alexandria VA. *Preaching, teaching, celebration of sacraments, pastoral care in a growing "catholic" parish. Functioned temporarily as priest in charge during vacancy.*
- 1985 Honorary Curate, Escomb and Witton Park, Diocese of Durham (Church of England). *Preaching, liturgy, pastoral care: part time and full time. Rural parish.*
- 1991 Supply Priest, Diocese of Ely (Church of England). *Sent by Bishop of Ely to serve in a parish experiencing internal conflict, for Sunday liturgy, preaching, and pastoral care.*
- 1997-present Priest Associate, St. Mary's Episcopal Church, Arlington, VA. *Preaching, liturgy, teaching, pastoral care, marriages, funerals.*
- 1987-present Priest associated with St. Andrews in the Redwoods, Monte Rio, CA, during summer vacations. Small highly inclusive mission in Diocese of Northern California. *Preaching, liturgy, pastoral care.*
- 2003-4 Priest on North Durham Ministry Team, providing pastoral ministry to six parishes on the north side of Durham City, County Durham, England. *Preaching, liturgy, funerals, etc., half-time.*

Chair, Diocese of Virginia Commission on Liturgy and Church Music (1995-2002), serving under the Rt. Rev. Peter James Lee. Responsible for organization of major diocesan liturgies at Council and ordinations, consultant for special occasions.

Member, Visiting Committee of the School of Theology, The University of the South (1995-2001).

Consultant, Council for the Development of Ministry, The Episcopal Church (study of implementation of canons concerned with ordination process) (1994-6).

Gifts, Skills, and Interests in Ministry

Scholar and Teacher—My chief love is scholarly teaching. I study and teach as a Christian and a priest, but with an open ear to the non-Christians around me. Having taught the history of Christianity and historical theology professionally since 1970, and in a seminary of the church since 1976, I delight to help people find their way into the astonishing riches of the Christian tradition—spiritual, intellectual, political, social, aesthetic treasures, life-giving resources for the world. At VTS I taught the introductory sequence in church history and historical theology in many forms; elective courses in the English reformation, patristic, medieval, and reformation theologians, historical spirituality, and liturgics. I take the critical intellectual dimension of human life very seriously, as integrated in the wholeness of life lived in relationship with God, and serving the

mission of the church. One way I support that is by intense critical study and occasional publication in my field, when possible.

Formation for Ministry—Since 1976 I have been involved in the work of forming and educating people for ministry, both ordained and lay. In administration and teaching, it is students' education and formation for serving the church's mission that has been my steady focus. Deepening the knowledge and love of God through a vigorous corporate and individual life of worship, prayer, and service; learning the ways into Scripture and Tradition; learning to appropriate them thoughtfully and critically; learning frames of reference for mission, ministry, and pastoral care, and skills for ministry in the context of all the foregoing; practicing ministry in a context of action-reflection learning; living in community with Christians, mostly Episcopalians, from a very wide range of the Episcopal Church and the Anglican Communion: I have worked hard to support all that work creatively and actively, in order that seminary graduates be prepared to help "equip the saints for ministry."

Administrator—As Dean of the School of Theology, I serve as a senior officer in the life of the University as a whole, as the leader of the seminary, and the director of the Programs Center. I have primary responsibility for oversight of the life and mission of the School of Theology, including faculty, curriculum, worship, the common life, relationship with constituencies, and institutional management. I do this in close consultation with the Vice Chancellor on one hand and with my colleagues at the School of Theology on the other. Overall, I seek to approach administration with a very strong sense of mission, a pastoral sense of the humanity of the people I serve and of the wide variety of gifts and perspectives an effective community needs, as well as my own fiduciary responsibility for the institution. I am relatively computer literate.

Liturgist—As the Dean of the School of Theology, I am the ordinary of the Chapel of the Apostles, with oversight of all the worship offered there. I am involved in parish liturgy on a weekly basis as celebrant, assistant, and preacher, or as a worshipper in the pew. In the seminary as in the parish, I seek to help build a liturgical team that will assist the people of God in offering resonant, coherent, reverent, joyful, beautiful worship to the Triune God, in a way that is true to the Anglican tradition and also to the particular congregation. I have extensive experience as chorister, can read music, and chant the liturgy gladly. My liturgical preferences find their natural home on the catholic side of Anglicanism (although normally I leave my lace cotta in the closet), but I have a good deal of experience leading worship among evangelical and charismatic Christians.

Preacher—I preach constantly, from once monthly to twice weekly, depending on circumstances. Each sermon is prepared with prayer, close reading and exegesis of the biblical text, and attentiveness to the issues of the day and the life of the congregation. My sermons are biblical, centered in the Triune God and the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. I seek to convey a sense of God's grace and challenge in human life as it is lived.

My sermons are quite different from each other, depending on the nature and situation of the particular congregation—from Durham Cathedral to the Chapel of the Apostles to a country mission.

Pastor in Community—I have spent more than three decades helping to build two different seminaries of the Episcopal Church as communities, including faculty, students, and staff, that would form people for ministry, people of many different backgrounds, nations, ages, and theological orientations. I treat people with respect and courtesy. I have served as a pastor in parishes and missions in Virginia, California, and England. My goal is to help a parish or seminary community to be more fully transparent to God, grow in the Faith, be attentive to each other in healing love, and be actively engaged in witness and service in the surrounding community. I am clear on the role of the priest in community, which includes helping Christians recognize their spiritual gifts and equip each other for ministry. I frequently serve as a retreat and quiet day leader, spiritual director, and confessor.

Community Leadership and Social Ministry—I am concerned with promoting the welfare and health of all people in the wider community, as a sign of God's love for all people. Serving in and supporting outreach and social ministries have been among my highest priorities in every parish or community where I have been a member or served as a priest. Personally, I have often been involved most directly as a foster parent. My wife, Barbara, and I have adopted two of our foster children. Both Sewanee and my former community at VTS are globally connected institutions, and I am from a missionary family. That helps me to see political and social issues in a wider context. I have helped to design and actively fostered immersion courses for seminarians in homebuilding/ homelessness and urban ministry.

Community Service

- 1969-73 Food distribution, transportation for FISH (ecumenical service to the poor, New Haven, Connecticut)
- 1971-3 Prison Reform Committee, New Haven, Connecticut
- 1973 Tutoring community children, New Haven, Connecticut
- 1975-2004 Continuing service in homeless shelters, parish outreach committees, including food and housing; regular service at Christ House and occasional service at Samaritan Ministries, Capital Food Bank, etc.
- 1981-7 Advisory Committee on Foreign Languages, Alexandria City Public Schools (citizen advisory committee for school district)
- 1985-8 &
2001-3 Emergency and long term foster parent, Arlington County Social Services.

Publications (excluding parish, diocesan, and seminary publications, including the Sewanee Theological Review):

- 1974 *Domesticating the Clergy: The Inception of the Reformation in Strasbourg 1522-1524*. Missoula, Montana: Scholars Press, 1976.
- 1977 “Anticlericalisme et mouvement évangélique,” in *Strasbourg au Coeur Religieux du XVIe Siècle: Hommage à Lucien Febvre* (Strasbourg, 1997).
- 1985 “Repentance on the Eve of the English Reformation: John Fisher,” *Historical Magazine of the Protestant Episcopal Church*, December 1985, pp. 297ff.
- 1992 “Sexual Norms in the Medieval Church,” *A Wholesome Example*, ed. Robert Prichard (Lexington, KY: Bristol Books, 1992) pp. 35-44.
- 1993 *Disordered Loves: Healing the Seven Deadly Sins* (Cambridge, MA: Cowley Publications, 1994).
- 1994 “The Case for Downward Mobility: Why Did Francis [of Assisi] Insist That His Followers Live in Absolute Poverty?,” *Christian History* (Issue 42, vol. XIII, no. 2).
- 1994 “Sin in the Third Century,” *SEAD* (July/August 1994, vol. 4, no. 4).
- 1995 “Anglican Spirituality: A Many-Sided Tradition,” *Cathedral Age* (Summer 1995, Vol. LXXI, no. 2)
- 1996 *The Implementation of Title III Canons: A Review of Diocesan Practices*, co-author Lawrence Falkowski. Paper written for the Council for the Development of Ministry (Episcopal Church Center). New York: 1996.
- 1996 “Christmas Eve in the Pew,” *Cathedral Age* (Winter 1996, Vol LXII, no. 4).
- 1998 “Tyndale’s Voice to the Laity,” *Word, Church, and State : Tyndale Quincentary Essays*, ed. John T. Day, Eric Lund, and Anne M. O'Donnell (Washington, D.C. : Catholic University of America Press, 1998).
- 2003- In progress: *The Piety of Lawyers: the Religious Knowledge and Practice of Serjeants-at-Law, 1430-1530*. A book-length study of the religious dimension of the lives of a vocational group of elite English lay persons, prior to the Reformation.

Book reviews, chiefly of scholarly works in medieval and Reformation historical theology and church history, in *Church History*, *The Catholic Historical Review*, and *Anglican and Episcopal History*; occasional articles in *Christian History*, *The Virginia Episcopalian*, and *The Virginia Seminary Journal*

Personal: I like to repair cars, garden, drink wine (French when I can afford it), spend summer holidays repairing my mother-in-law’s house on the Russian River in California, cook, raise

children and visit grandchildren, read, sing, live in England and France, garden, and spend time with my wife, my family, and my friends.