

## **The Rev. Canon Victoria Heard**

### **- Biography -**

The Rev. Canon Victoria Heard was born in Washington, D.C. at a military hospital, her father being a retired military officer. She grew up on a farm in The Plains, Virginia, the youngest of four children. Victoria met her future husband, David Ridgely, at a debating society when she was an undergraduate and he was a graduate student at the University of Virginia. They have three grown children: Edward, David Jr. and Elizabeth.

Victoria answered a call to ministry, graduating with honors from Virginia Theological Seminary in Alexandria in 1982 and was ordained to the priesthood in 1984, serving at St James, Leesburg, first as assistant rector and later as acting rector. During that period she re-opened Christ Church, Lucketts, an experience that led her to become vocationally interested in church growth and planting. She next served on the staff of the Diocese of Virginia and as curate at Pohick Church, Lorton, and in 1989 Victoria successfully planted St. David's, Ashburn, turning a historic ruin into a new church site.

In 1990, her husband David, a civilian attorney with the Department of Defense, accepted an opportunity to work for the Army in Italy and Germany, where they and their first child spent the next four years. Victoria established an Episcopal community in Vicenza, Italy and, following their move to Frankfurt, Germany; she served as a canon to the Bishop of the Armed Forces.

Returning to the States in 1994, she became associate and then interim rector of St. George's, Arlington. In 1997, she was invited again to serve the Diocese of Virginia as missionary for church planting under Bishop David Jones. From 1997 to 2006, she planned, organized, recruited and trained clergy and supervised newly planted churches, leading to the establishment of fourteen new missions and parishes in the diocese. These including negotiation and purchase of a former Baptist church to serve the diocese's first unyoked Spanish-speaking mission. Victoria wrote, directed and edited a video on church planting that has been used in other dioceses and provinces and she has taught church planting courses at Episcopal seminaries and at national conferences.

In 2006, Victoria was recruited by Bishop James Stanton to join the staff of the Diocese of Dallas, serving as Canon for Church Planting and Congregational Development. She also serving as acting Canon to the Ordinary. She has served six times as a delegate to General Convention.

In 2016, Victoria accepted a call as rector of Church of the Redeemer in Irving, Texas, where she currently serves, relearning and re-experiencing both the joys and occasional challenges of full-time parish ministry. She also currently serves on the diocesan Standing Committee.

Victoria walks, swims, kayaks and (too) seldom discards her (too many) books. She enjoys gardening and both domestic and foreign travel, having been to much of Europe, Israel, Russia (where she and David adopted their daughter Elizabeth), South Korea, the Caribbean and Central America.