



# 10 Questions

with the newest member of our Clergy

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## The Rev. Deacon Gary Eichelberger

### **When you were a child, what did you want to be when you grew up?**

My mother likes to tell the story that, when I was about three years old, an adult asked me what I was going to be when I grew up. And I responded, "Gary." Turned out that I was right.

### **If you could invite four people, living or dead, to dinner, who would you invite?**

My wife (because I couldn't imagine having a dinner like this without her there), Fred Rogers, Desmond Tutu, and Hugh Lee Eichelberger, Sr. (my dad's father, whom I never got to meet). I would say Jesus - but, unfortunately, no one else at the table is an Aramaic speaker.

### **What makes you laugh?**

My wife, my children, my friends, and Wes Anderson movies. (I should probably admit that I also make myself laugh...a lot - for example, see the last sentence of my last answer. I just wish that others found me as funny as I do.)

### **What is your favorite movie?**

I love movies - so it would be difficult for me to name one. My favorite childhood movies were the original *Star Wars* trilogy

movies. Since then, my favorites include *Shawshank Redemption*, the *Lord of the Rings* trilogy, *Unforgiven*, *Rushmore*, and *The Straight Story*.

### **What is your favorite verse of the Bible?**

I John 3:16-18: "We know love by this, that he laid down his life for us - and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. How does God's love abide in anyone who has the world's goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help? Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action."

### **What was your first job?**

I grew up on a horse farm - so I did a lot of jobs on the farm growing up (feeding animals, bush-hogging, painting barns, repairing fences, cleaning stalls, etc.). However, my first job where I wasn't working for my parents was working as a bagboy at the Piggly Wiggly in Ninety Six.

### **What is your favorite food?**

Chips and queso at a Mexican restaurant.

### **What is one thing people would never guess about you?**

I have a deep - and, admittedly, irrational - love for the state of South Carolina, where I was born and have spent most of my life.

Perhaps one of the more peculiar examples of that affinity is the fact that, although all three of my children were born in other states (two in North Carolina and one in Tennessee), I made sure that all three of them were born over South Carolina soil.

### **What type of music do you most enjoy?**

I love a variety of music - but my favorite type of music is what can be described as alt-country, folk rock, or Americana - artists like John Prine, Wilco, Bob Dylan, Lucinda Williams, Steve Earle, Tift Merritt, Johnny Cash, James McMurtry, and Jason Isbell.

### **What is the best gift you have ever received?**

I have been the recipient of many extraordinary and undeserved gifts in my life - from the cosmic to the routine. However, one gift in particular comes to mind as I conclude this interview - the constant support and encouragement that my wife, Kacey, has offered to me throughout the ordination process - as we discerned together whether God was calling me to ordained ministry - and then transitioned our family from me being a lawyer to an ordained minister. In that, as in many other things, my cup runneth over.