

Good Morning, my name is Stacey Johnson and I am the chairperson of Staff Parish Relations here at Arnold Mills. 3 Sundays ago, Pastor Arlene read to you a letter from me reiterating the news of our upcoming Pastoral change. If you recall, I said that we will keep the faith as the Bishop and Church Conference work hard to once again find our church another amazing Pastor.

On February 3rd, 2022, our District Superintendent the Rev. Dr. David Calhoun consulted with our SPRC concerning Arnold Mills UMC's next pastoral appointment. It is my joy to announce that Bishop Devadhar intends to appoint the Rev. Heather Bailes Baker as the next pastor of the Arnold Mills UMC effective July 1st. This appointment is subject to fulfilling all the requirements needed for a successful transition by the pastor and the respective churches affected by the appointment.

SPRC had the pleasure of meeting Rev Heather via Zoom on Thursday evening. She will be coming to us from Cape Cod, specifically the UMC Osterville where she has been presiding for the past 6 years. During her 18 years in ministry, she has extensive leadership in her local church communities, church conference as well as the Seacoast District itself. Heather attended seminary on the West Coast and was first appointed to the UMC in Hanford, CA in 2003. In 2008 Heather and her spouse Sam moved to New England where she presided over several churches since. They have 2 children ages 13 and 11 and this family of 4 will be moving into our parsonage this coming July 1st! I think it is safe to assume this will be their first 4th of July where a parade goes right by their home! What a great welcome it will be! I will let Reverend Heather share more with us when she gets here as I do not want to steal her thunder!

Once again, our prayers have been answered and our church will continue to be the strong Amazing Arnold Mills we have always been with yet another exceptional leader. This news allows us to focus on the here and now, focus on listening to the teachings of Pastor Arlene and our journey with God. As mentioned, Reverend Arlene Tully will continue to serve as our pastor until June 30, 2022. All appointments will be finalized at the 2022 Annual Conference Session of the New England Conference. Transitions are hard for all, please keep Rev Tully, Rev Bailes Baker, her family, our parishioners as well as those of Osterville UMC and all churches experiencing transition in your daily prayers.