

Pastor Mike Hoffman, formerly a Vicar at Good Shepherd, was asked by Pastor David to reflect on the importance of internship. Pastor Mike had previously served as a priest in the Catholic Church. He and his wife Jan are currently living in Thomasville, North Carolina.

I share these comments on the value in my internship at Good Shepherd:

It was a time that I felt very affirmed in my ministry and provided me with many opportunities to engage in the different aspects of ministry; preaching, teaching, pastoral care, and administration.

Because there is such a diversity of ages to people to work with at Good Shepherd it provided me a time to come back to ministry and feel so positive and passionate about the decision to once again engage in ordained ministry. I know I had already developed a pastoral style and had experience in ministry but none the less the internship was a most valuable time of learning.

I also sensed that it was a valuable time for the people at Good Shepherd to minister to me and to Jan. We both have very fond memories of our time we spent there.

The internship at Good Shepherd strengthen my confidence and provided a sure foundation for my call to Grace Lutheran here in Thomasville. I am now into my 6th. year. The setting in small church is different but the pastoral needs are just as real.

I believe an internship is a valuable outreach for a church because is gives the faith community a role in the development of future ministers.

Peace,
Mike Hoffman
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