



## Isaac Gbenga Olajide

Greetings to all in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. My name is Isaac Gbenga Olajide and I was born into an Anglican/Episcopalian family in Southwest Nigeria. My father, Joshua Olajide, was a Patron of St. Peter's Anglican Church, a role he diligently fulfilled for over 50 years till his passing into glory in 2014. Even my late mother, Princess Emily Olajide, was not just an outstanding member of the church. My mother was active in the Women Ministry throughout her lifetime.

Having a strong foundation in Christ was important in my life. Since I only spent my elementary school years with my biological parents, the rest of my childhood life was with different family members. I am proud to say that each of these experiences has brought me even closer to God. After I graduated from the Pharmacy School, I did volunteer jobs including holding community health fair with other health care professionals. I was also the Secretary of Rotary Club of Badagry in Nigeria between 1990 and 1991. I moved to the United States in late 1991 and in 1995, I got married to my darling wife, Janet Olajide, at Saint Paul Episcopal Church in Brookline Massachusetts. Thank God, the marriage is blessed with three beautiful children, Emily, Esther,

and Emmanuel. I need to mention that my wife's parents are both Ministers of God in the Anglican Community.

I also need to say that my association with Christ Episcopal Church in Columbia was divinely orchestrated. When my wife and I were going through pre-marriage counseling sessions in Boston, the officiating Rector asked where my wife and I planned to settle down after the wedding and we mentioned Columbia. The Rector told us that he will make recommendation after all the counseling sessions were completed of a home church where we can grow, enjoy, and serve God. At the last pre-marriage counseling session, the Rector did tell us about an Episcopal Church in Columbia, the Rector went on by sharing the good news about the great people of God here at Christ Episcopal Church in Columbia. Since then, I have been an active member of this great congregation.

Professionally, I'm a registered pharmacist and licensed in both the State of Maryland and the State of Florida. For over 10 years, I worked as a staff Pharmacist with Rite-Aid Corporation and later became a Pharmacy manager. In 2002, I established my own Retail Pharmacy operation in Baltimore, Maryland. Both my wife and I serve in various volunteer capacities in the community. Currently, I am an active volunteer with the State of Maryland Dept of Health and Mental Hygiene as a Pharmacist Volunteer for the Emergency Respond Team on bioterrorism immediately after(911) September 11th, 2001 (now called Maryland Emergency preparedness). I am currently serving on the board of NAPPSA, a professional organization supporting pharmacist. Particularly in this church, I have had the opportunity to serve in various capacities. In 2014, I was a volunteer member of the LOC for the Tour of Light tour in Howard County by the Children of Uganda Organization. I served as a vestry member from 2012 to 2015 during the time of Father Ginnever as the Rector. I am currently an Usher and have been in this role for 12 years. I also served as a member of the discerning committee for Parish Administrator at different times.

Above all, it gives me great joy and spiritual fulfillment to be of service to the Lord. Psalm 84 verse 10 says "better is one day in your courts than a thousand elsewhere; I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God". In this church, I have served in Usher capacity and volunteer wherever else I am needed. As an Usher, my spiritual eyes have opened and my heart drawn even more closely to God. Ushering has made me to appreciate the Sacrifice that Christ made to ensure our comfort. The opportunity to render a helping hand to all people and to be of service of God is an honor. I am excited at each opportunity I get to serve God. If I am given the opportunity to serve in the Vestry, I will approach the job with vigor, passion, diligence, sensitivity, and team player attitude without wavering. In conclusion, I'm honored and humbled for the nomination, and I will continue to serve our God with zeal all the days of my life.

Thanks for reading and God bless you!