

Charles Daugharthy

Many Sundays have led up to this Sunday for me. I finally get to read my Sermon in front of all of you. Now that I am writing this, I thought that it would be easier. But there is a lot more to it than you think I am going to take my best swing at this because it isn't the easiest.

I know a lot of you all have been looking forward to this for weeks now. I have had several conversations with many of you about how I should do this. And Guy if you have the Gorilla mask, now is a good time. And, Dale before you ask, I am wearing a Yankees shirt underneath these dress clothes. I can't thank any of you enough for your support in helping me do this. Each of you are examples of god's love and god's care for one another. Most everyone of you have helped me in some sort of way throughout my life. The willingness in which all of you want to help make me feel like I can always come to you if something were to happen again.

I have spent just about all my life at St. John's. I have so many great memories that come to mind while I look back on this place.. Like the time during Father Armstrong's sermon I jumped out of the pew and ran for the window shouting back to my dad that I couldn't see the train! And you can always find evidence of my sister and I back in the pew we have always sat in.

Many lessons about faith and how to be a compassionate person have been learned. Lessons on how to treat your fellow neighbor with kindness.. I have gotten to know many of you throughout the years. And many of you have known me since I was a kid. It's hard to imagine how much I have grown up here. But while I was growing up, the church was growing too. Many new faces have come and gone but, St. Johns has always had the same appeal to me since I was a kid. I get to see many of the same faces each Sunday, while at the same time I get to see some new faces. I have always admired how close of a family we have been here at St. Johns. Most of all I admire how no matter how much the St. Johns family grows, we still remain close. I see many of you outside of church and everyone's reaction is always the same. It's that warm compassion that I have learned to show towards people, that the St. Johns people always show toward me. St. Johns has become more than just a place to worship in the last 18 years of my life. Its become more of a home. I love it here and I love the people here.

My plans are to graduate this coming Wednesday in the top 100 in my class of more than 600 kids. I will move to Farmville August 18th and start attending Longwood University and I will major in accounting and business administration. While staying at Longwood on the weekends, I will attend Johns Memorial Episcopal Church, which is right next to Longwood. Mom wants me to send a picture while I am in church so I can prove I went. I hope to graduate from Longwood in 2015. My home and my heart is still in Chester though. I plan on coming back and visiting every chance I have. So this is certainly not a good bye to St. Johns. When I graduate I plan to live somewhere in Virginia. But, I hope that I can live right here in Chester.

This is my moment to really thank you all for everything you have shared with me over these years. Thank you all for the opportunities. Thank you for the kindness. Thank you for the fun and the amusement. But most of all thank you for the memories that I will hold with me forever.