

The Reverend Lance Beizer

Fr. Beizer grew up in the Northwest Corner, in Canaan, the son of a State Trooper. He attended elementary school in Canaan and then graduated from the Hotchkiss School, class of '56, where he developed a life-long interest in both spiritual and ethical issues. He attended college at Brandeis University with a major in Sociology. A year of law school at Stanford University was followed by four years as a Naval officer—in Iceland and then Moffett Field, California. After a master's degree in English, Lance worked in Student Affairs at the University of California, San Diego, for several years, while returning to law school, at the University of San Diego, receiving his law degree in 1975.

After law school, Fr. Beizer embarked on a 25-year career with the Santa Clara County District Attorney's Office, during the last half of which,, rather than prosecution, he undertook the representation of children who were the victims of abuse and neglect, an activity that led upon his retirement in January 2002 to his entering seminary at the Church Divinity School of the Pacific (Episcopal), one of the member schools of the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley, California. Ordained as a priest in September 2005, Fr. Beizer served first at the Church of the Holy Spirit in Campbell, California, and then as Canon-vicar at Trinity Cathedral in San Jose.

Fr. Beizer and his wife Ann, who had lived in Massachusetts for some 30 years, and worked as Director of Academic Advising at Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI), were married in July of 2007 at the Hotchkiss Chapel. Their mutual love of New England, led to his return to the Northwest Corner after so many years away. They now live in a house in Canaan literally within sight of one his father had built many years before. While in California, in addition to filling several diocesan posts, Fr. Beizer served as chaplain of a Chapter of the International Order of St. Luke the Physician He also served on the board of a YMCA, County Council of Churches, and Child Abuse Council.

Retirement clearly doesn't come easy to either of the Beizers. Past president of Salisbury Rotary, Fr. Beizer is the current board president of the Housatonic Youth Service Bureau, and a trustee of the Douglas Library in Canaan. Ann is Rotary's Scholarship Chair and vice-chair of the Twenty-first Century Fund at the Housatonic Valley Regional High School. At St. John's Fr. Beizer assists the rector in the sacramental and pastoral life of the church, and conducts services on a regular schedule at the local retirement communities. Ann, who serves on the altar guild and as chalice bearer, and he very much enjoy being part of the life of both church and community, though, admittedly, they also thoroughly enjoy traveling, particularly by ship.