

Biographical Statement
Rev. Jason W. Davenport

It has been wonderful to have been nurtured as a life-long Presbyterian. I was born the son of a Presbyterian minister and a public school teacher. My mother later became trained as a Certified Christian Educator in the PC(USA). The congregations I grew up in were filled with some of God's finest people who taught me in Sunday school, Bible school, and youth group, forming me within the Reformed tradition. My father served the following congregations and I was raised within these churches: Warrenton Presbyterian, Abbeville, SC; Long Creek Presbyterian, Kings Mountain, NC; Wallace Presbyterian, Wallace, NC; First Presbyterian, Forest City, NC; He is now pastor of West Avenue Presbyterian in Gastonia, NC. I grew up attending Montreat Youth Conference and Triennium and will be ever-thankful for those formative experiences.

I attended Wake Forest University and received a biology degree. At the time I was planning on attending medical school. However, around the time I graduated with my undergraduate degree I received the following call: "Go to seminary and find a way to serve me now." Within two weeks I had been approached about becoming the youth director at Clemmons Presbyterian Church, a PC(USA) congregation just outside of Winston-Salem. I was hired for that position and served there throughout my time in seminary. I felt strongly that God called me to that position and therefore called me to remain in the Winston-Salem area. The Wake Forest University Divinity School provided a nearby theological education and provided the Presbyterian polity and reformed theology I would need to serve in the PC(USA).

Upon graduation from seminary in 2006, I received a call to pastor the Edgewood Presbyterian Church of Sanford, NC. This proved to be a great fit and God worked among us in wonderful ways. That congregation has experienced many forms of revitalization over the last four years. My first call has been a faith-building and educational experience. I am deeply thankful to God for this opportunity.

I have been active in both the Winston-Salem and Sanford communities and feel that our congregations should be connected and involved in helping share Christ's love with all people. Food pantries, clothing closets, and educational tutoring programs are among my passions.

My wife, Angela, and I were married in 2001. Angela is a Speech/Language Pathologist and has worked in the public schools. She is a blessing in many, many ways, and has been a great pastor's spouse. She, too, is a child of the ministry. Her father is a pastor, currently serving Central Wesleyan Church in Thomasville, NC. We have a vivacious 20-month old, Nathaniel, who brings many smiles to our faces every day.

I enjoy keeping up with my Wake Forest Demon Deacons on the football field and basketball court. I like making the yard bloom and have become especially fond of roses and lilies. Learning how to parent has been a challenge and a blessing.

Statement of Faith
Rev. Jason W. Davenport

I believe in God, who created and who actively moves within creation to support and encourage God's people. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, who came to earth to be our redemption from all that is in conflict with God. Jesus is the self-revelation of God, the greatest and clearest disclosure we have of God's nature and teaching. Jesus is our Lord—the one to whom we declare our allegiance, the one we follow and serve—and our Savior—the one who was perfect, yet took the punishment for our sin so that we can experience eternal life with God. I believe that Jesus Christ died and was raised by the power of God to new life. I believe that the Holy Spirit moved in the hearts and minds of the Biblical authors to produce an authoritative witness to God's action throughout history. I believe that through the Holy Spirit God is with us, speaking to us when we pray, guiding us to serve and glorify God in all that we do. I believe that the church is the special gathering of God's people, called to worship and to serve, to remind one another of God's action and grace and to respond to what God has done and is doing through joyful service to others in God's name. As Christ's church, we are to support one another, serve one another, and we are to always look outward, sharing the Good News and physical support with those in need. I believe that all of God's people are ministers, called to study scripture and to pray on a regular basis, and called to share God's love with one another in tangible ways. God calls us to be generous, to give what we have for the betterment of ourselves and for the support of those who do not have enough to thrive. God has equipped people with many gifts and talents that are to be used to build God's kingdom.