



THE FOUNTAIN

FEBRUARY 2022

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MEMBERS, FAMILY & FRIENDS, WE WARMLY WELCOME

Rev. Dr. Brandi Casto-Waters



Born in a small town in West Virginia, every Sunday my two younger sisters and I sat with our grandparents on the back row of Concord Baptist Church. During my middle school years, my family moved to Greenville, SC, where the first person I met invited me to go to church with her. I've been Presbyterian ever since.

I graduated from Presbyterian College in Clinton, SC, where I majored in Religion and Sociology. The lessons I learned there inspired me to live by the school's motto, "While We Live, We Serve." After graduation from PC, I entered Columbia Seminary where my internships exposed me to the worlds of the church, the urban poor, and the clinical community of Hospice. I loved my time at Columbia for many reasons, but the most important one is that there I met my husband, Andy.

After we graduated, we spent the summer serving as PC(USA) missionaries in Sitka, Alaska before returning to Greenville to serve as Co-Associate Pastors at John Knox Presbyterian Church. While at John Knox, our daughters Ella and Lucy were born within seventeen months of each other. When I answered the call to be a stay at home mom, Andy answered the call to serve a Lutheran (ELCA) congregation.

In 2006, I began serving as the Pastor of First Presbyterian Church in Greer, SC. For over twelve and half years we worshiped, studied, and served together. The church supported me in my Doctor of Ministry work but more importantly, they supported our children. From the day we arrived, Sunday School Teachers, Basketball Coaches, Youth Leaders, Ushers, Confirmation Sponsors, Elders, Deacons — in some way all the people (as in, "here is the church, here is the steeple, open the doors and here's all the people") loved, supported and taught the children — ours included — the stories of our faith. They took them to sacred places like Montreat, Thornwell, and Camp Fellowship where they learned how to pray and how to serve.

"Her sermons, grounded in the word of God and tailored to the specific hopes, dreams, and life circumstances of her congregation, have gained Brandi a reputation throughout the PCUSA as one who has mastered the art. Sunday after Sunday, for nearly two decades, she has instructed and inspired her congregations. Her ability to draw eager listeners, both devoted Presbyterians and others — including the unchurched — has established Brandi, among her peers, as an utterly unique talent."

"I've learned that there are three big areas of ministry that most of us look for in a pastor: a strong preacher, a loving pastoral care-giver, and a wise administrator. Some pastors are really good at one of these, occasionally someone is strong in two out of three, but Brandi is one of a very rare few who excels in all three areas!"

In 2019, God called our family to Southwest Florida. While I served as Pastor at Faith Presbyterian Church, Andy served as an Interim Pastor in two different congregations, and Ella and Lucy graduated from High School. Ella is now a Freshman at Presbyterian College. Go Blue Hose! And we are all excited about this new season of service alongside all of you.

Friends, I have found your PNC to be kind, generous, and thoughtful. God has used their honesty about your struggles and their excitement about your future to lead me to join you. I am grateful for this call. Deeply grateful to be able to move together into the future that God has planned for us, for surely it is a future with hope.

— Brandi

IN THE MIDDLE OF OUR CHURCH IS A CROSS, IN THE MIDDLE OF THAT CROSS IS A FOUNTAIN, SPRINGING TO ETERNAL LIFE. THE MINISTRY OF OUR CHURCH IS TO SHARE THIS LIVING WATER WITH EACH OTHER AND WITH ALL THE WORLD

Her Statement of Faith

I believe in the one Triune God who is the creator, redeemer and sustainer of all things, seen and unseen. I believe that God created the world good and makes everyone equally in God's image. Created in God's image, we are chosen to live in covenant with God and serve as stewards of all the gifts of creation. But we rebel against our creator and we do not live in ways that honor the image of God in our neighbors or ourselves. We are captive to the bonds of sin.

But God's love is like a mother gathering her brood under her wing, like a father who runs to welcome the prodigal home. God's love endures forever. In love, God sent God's only son, Jesus Christ, fully God and fully human, into the world, not to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him. Jesus came preaching liberation to the captives, healing the sick, welcoming outsiders, and proclaiming the coming of the Kingdom of God. Through his death and resurrection, Jesus defeated death and broke forever the power of sin, affirming once and for all that there is nothing in life or in death that can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

I believe that the power and presence of the Holy Spirit justifies us by grace through faith that we might live as Christ taught us. The Spirit moves among us and in us, revealing to us God's presence, while guiding us to discern God's will for our lives. Commissioned by Christ and empowered by the Spirit, the church is the representation of the body of Christ on earth.

I believe the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments to be the unique and authoritative witness to Jesus Christ in the Church universal, and God's Word to us. The sacraments of baptism and the Lord's Supper are visible signs of God's invisible grace. Through faithful proclamation of the word and administration of the sacraments, the covenant community bears witness to the Good News that Christ has died, Christ is risen, and Christ will come again.

“Brandi is a pastor who will put on a tool belt and swing a hammer alongside you at a Habitat build; she is a pastor who will listen to your hopes and fears and pray with and for you; she is a pastor who will laugh with you while standing in a cement bucket brigade; she is a pastor who will encourage you to engage in relational mission experiences; and she is a pastor who will encourage you to dream dreams and imagine all God might have in store for you.”

The Casto-Waters Family



Andy grew up in Athens, GA. After graduating from Wofford College, Andy served as a Young Adult Volunteer (YAV) in Cuffley, Hertfordshire, England, just north of London. It was there that he sensed a call to ordained ministry, and earned degrees from Columbia Theological Seminary and Union Presbyterian Seminary.

He has served in a number of ministry settings, including youth and education roles, campus ministry, and as a part time supply pastor. Most recently, he has served churches that have been in various states of transition, providing stable leadership while helping those churches explore what God is doing in their midst and how God is calling them to minister faithfully in the future.

Ella is 19 and a freshman at Presbyterian College. She is an active member of her sorority, Alpha Delta Pi, and the Student Government Association. She is proud to be a lifelong Presbyterian and an ordained elder.

Lucy is 18 and a senior in high school. She is Captain of the Cross Country and Track Teams. This fall she plans on attending college in South Carolina.

Relatively STRAIGHTFORWARD

My husband will tell you, I am what you might call “directionally challenged.” What appears to be a relatively straightforward route can, for me, end up being more like an outward bound experience. But somehow, I always manage to get where I’m going, eventually. I think faith is a lot like that.

My Hebrew professor used to use the phrase “relatively straightforward” so frequently in regard to translation exercises that we had it emblazoned on t-shirts for our class. Of course, translating ancient Hebrew was easy enough for him after years of study and practice, but for we seminarians, there were a few misunderstandings, odd constructions, and awkward phrases produced along the way. I think faith is a lot like that.

Prior to covid and seasons of transition at Reid Memorial, we moved from Sunday to Sunday, month to month, with general ease. Point B usually followed obediently behind Point A without taking any detours and we all got used to a relatively straightforward and somewhat predictable path. But then...one after the other, roadblocks, U-turns, potholes, signs pointing in conflicting directions entered in to disrupt the carefully ordered progression, and we had to stop and pray and discern the way before us. I think faith is a lot like that.

Soon, our Senior Pastor, Rev. Dr. Brandi Casto-Waters, will enter our lives and become a person we will look to for direction and guidance. A person whom we will expect to have all the answers and a plan for Reid Memorial that will run like clockwork (admit it, that is your secret hope). But before we put too much pressure on her to smooth out every bump and fill in every hole, let's remember to have patience and grace while she figures out the roadmap of Reid Memorial and gets her bearings, because every transition sounds “relatively straightforward” on paper, that is until your first day in the office, first Sunday behind the pulpit. Then everything becomes oh-so-real and there are seemingly a thousand names to remember, a slew of “quirks” that every church has and you need to learn, a few doubts and a few joys, a few catch your breath moments that weren't predicted. I think faith is a lot like that.

So, no, our path may not be relatively straightforward. It may come with surprises and innovations and even some uncomfortable moments of adjustment, but that is what faith is like, after all. And one thing is certain, as long as we are all following the same voice who has called us to be his disciples, we'll also all be going in the right direction.

Blessings,
REV. NADINE

RMPC Missions

When I first came to Reid Memorial, I began to work with the Missions Committee. I found a wonderful, caring group of members who desired to be of service to God and the world. Only problem was, there were a lot of irons in the fire and not a lot of focus. We wanted to help everybody, and this is a fine thought, but difficult to achieve in a meaningful way. So, slowly, we looked at the list of agencies and benevolences, and realized some of them were not familiar to anyone any more, their champions had passed on or moved away or the organizations themselves had changed. We realized that only a few blocks away from the sanctuary doors, there is a mission field that needs our energy and attention. We recognized that establishing real relationships beyond the checkbook with our newly identified mission partners would bring us all to a better place and so we met with directors and volunteers, went to see projects underway, and got to know each other on deeper levels. I even began to notice that our own church initials R-M-P-C spelled out our mission goals as well:

Reinforcing individual worth

Meeting basic needs

Preparing for a better future

Carrying forth the Gospel message

While many of our current partners serve our neighbors in the Harrisburg area (Turn Back the Block, Augusta Locally Grown, RISEAugusta, Masters Soup Kitchen, GAP Ministries), we also reach beyond the city boundaries to assist with theological education, care for children and their families at Thornwell, support for PC(USA) missionaries in the field, and international medical and construction missions in Haiti and Guatemala, and into every situation, local, regional, or global our members carry God's Word and message of hope with them.

As we are looking at new partners, we are also looking for new “champions” within the church who will keep up with mission opportunities for our members and help us develop cross-support with other committees so we have an integrated approach and outreach. If you are interested in learning more, please speak with Elder Pam Snowdy or Pastor Nadine!

-JOY MAPLE
Director of Christian Education

HEAR THE Good News!

What a time we had proclaiming the birth of our Savior this past Christmastide! As a personal note, it was such an honor to share in music making with the people of this worshiping community. The level of dedication from all involved and the support from the congregation truly made for a magical season. Thank you.

All choirs, (Children's, Chancel, and Master's Ringers Bell Choir) are looking for new folks to join us! The Children's Choir meets every Wednesday at 4:45pm-5:45pm. The Chancel Choir meets every Wednesday at 7:00pm-9:00pm. And the Master's Ringers Bell Choir meets Sundays at 6:00pm-7:15pm. Now is the perfect time to jump on board as we begin to learn music for the coming Lenten season, Holy Week services, and of course Resurrection Sunday!

We turn our attention now to the cross as Lent draws nigh. I am reminded of a conversation I had many years ago with a church staff member, the minister, and myself. The discussion centered around the "sad music" we were singing in services in the weeks leading up to Easter. This particular listener was struggling with the overall tenor of the liturgical season. They also commented on the somber nature of the sermons as the scripture readings seemed to be rather dark.

I will never forget the minister's response which must be prefaced with a little explanation about him. He had a very specific way of speaking and routine in not only delivering his sermons, but in conducting worship services. He would incorporate different prayers that would not change, different symbolic gestures, and they would all have very deep meanings that would always point the worshipers in the congregation to Christ. One such custom would happen at the conclusion of his sermon. No matter his subject, no matter the worship setting (wedding/funeral/weekly service) he would always announce, "Hear the good news, yet while we were sinners, Jesus died for us. . .". He was a true example of a gospel preacher. Never did he let the opportunity pass without sharing this good news.

This minister's response to the laments over the sober nature of Lent was the gospel. While it truly is a contemplative time of self-examination and reflection on the suffering of Christ, it is the path, the journey we must walk down to arrive at our salvation at the foot of the cross.

Beneath the cross of Jesus, I fain would take my stand, the shadow of a mighty rock within a weary land. A home within the wilderness a rest upon the way, from the burning of the noontide heat, and the burden of the day.

My charge to us as a congregation moving through this coming Lent is that our song not lose its fervor. That we might sing as mightily our songs of Christ's suffering, as we sing Christ is alive, who once was dead. As Christians, we are many things, followers of the way, students of the great Rabbi, disciples of the Nazarene, celebrants of the empty tomb. We are an Easter people. As the hymn writer William James wrote, "Easter people, raise your voices, sounds of heaven in earth should ring!"

This Lenten season, whether from the choir loft or the pew, let's follow in the footsteps of the earliest recorded Christians and sing out our faith together, proclaiming this great gospel message!

Hear the good news. . .

-S.C. TOE
Director of Music



Snowed In

Planning for a Winter Retreat in the Southeast that includes skiing often comes with a whole slew of fears and anxiety for this Youth Director: *Will there be snow to ski? Will it be too warm? Will our lodging be spacious enough for our people? Will there be enough food? What is our rain plan?* Taking all these into account, I plan accordingly with games, extra blankets, an extra air mattress and snacks, but January 2022 came with a whole new challenge for us. Heading up to North Carolina on Saturday, January 18th was a beautiful day, high in the late 40's. Our bunkhouse was perfectly equipped and beautifully laid out in a picturesque place—the middle of a Christmas tree farm. Throwing on all our ski clothes and heading to Beech Mountain with 14 youth that were excited and ready to learn to ski was amazing. After getting their boots, ski, and poles, the leaders helped them put on their gear, reminded the youth of “remember pizza to stop; ice cream cone to go” and they were on their way. Gathering back together at 9pm that night after hours of skiing, our youth were excited for the whole next day of skiing, but there were rumors of snow. In a ten-minute stop at the grocery store, I gather supplies for two meals that would serve in case of emergency or could be donated to the food pantry once home. We could have snow, we thought, or maybe it'll just be rain.

We awoke Sunday morning to a winter wonderland on the Christmas tree farm. By the time the snow stopped that night we had over 12 inches of snow, and our plans of the day suddenly changed. Our youth embraced the change—live in the moment, play in the snow, get to know your neighbor, play a new card game, relax, and don't worry....maybe we'll ski tomorrow. As we gathered for devotions that night, our youth had only positives to share about their day (despite missing skiing). Our youth were aware and commented about being safe and cozy. Several were made aware that they needed this time to pause, relax, and reflect. We loved watching the youth be kids again playing in the snow—wrestling, doing summersaults, launching snowballs, making snowmen, and sledding down massive hills. It was a beautiful thing to be able to just enjoy a moment of living in God's snow globe. I was reminded that as much as we prepare, we must also be flexible and be fully present in the moment.

-HANNAH NORRIS
Director of Youth Ministries



LABOR of love

2021 was an important year for Reid Memorial facilities and grounds. Last year more activities and events and life have come back into the church. The Administrative Committee has been working hard to get caught up and maintain the facilities and grounds for the congregation. We hope you will notice some of the improvements and updates that are being made around Reid Memorial campus.

Early in the summer the Alan Fuqua Center received a facelift. The youth meeting spaces were freshened up with new paint, updated furniture and rugs. The steps and porches were painted as well. The shutters on the AFC are currently being repaired and repainted and rehung. This project is almost complete. The shrubs and landscaping were cut back and cleaned up.

Also this summer the landscaping surrounding the church was trimmed back and cleaned up. Shrubs and trees were pruned and removed to expose our beautiful building. The maintenance of our trees and shrubs were necessary to keep our gutters clean from leaves and debris. It was an important project for the maintenance of our roof and building.

Speaking of our beautiful building and the stone and brick, the building was pressure washed at the same time as our gutters were cleaned. And our brick and stone now look brand new. The difference is amazing!

The trim on 84 windows around the front and side of the building have been receiving a cleaning, priming and painting. The paint was peeling, and they were beginning to get dry and rot. These are details you may not notice as you come and go, but now if you look closer you will see the dramatic difference this project is making in the aesthetics of our building. And more importantly the longevity and maintenance of our windows and trim.

We are currently undertaking large and very necessary roofing projects. Unfortunately, all of Reid Memorial's roofs need to be replaced and repaired. Many of our roofs have aged out and can no longer be repaired. Our sanctuary will be the first roof to be replaced. The low- slope roofs will be completely replaced, and the slate tile will be repaired. We are patiently waiting on roofing materials to be shipped and received before this work can begin. The office and gym roofs are in need of immediate repair as well and that work is being completed as materials become available.

We have completed several projects that are important to the function of our facilities. A pump under the sanctuary and one in the MDO were replaced, broken/corroded pipe to the boiler was replaced, cooling tower water controller was replaced and the treatment system is being maintained monthly, belts and filters and fans in our over 30+ HVAC units have been serviced and maintained, the HVAC units on the office roof were repaired and the chiller received necessary repairs. Thanks to Jim McKnight many of our doors have been fixed and lights have been replaced throughout the facilities. Joy Berry, Donna Steiner and Jim McKnight have also been essential in organizing the many closets and storage spaces.

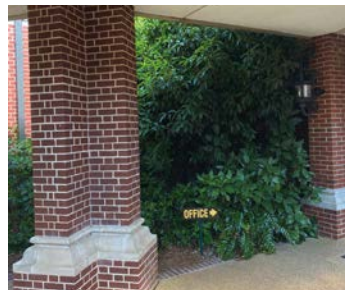
The Administrative Committee and all the volunteers will continue to maintain and improve Reid Memorial's buildings and grounds into the new year. There is still a substantial amount of work to do. We hope you will feel the love and see the hard work everyone is putting in so that you may continue to gather and worship together at Reid Memorial Presbyterian Church.

-RACHEL STONE
Church Administrator

before



after



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REID MEMORIAL MOTHER'S DAY OUT PRESCHOOL *Growing at Reid*

The Reid MDO and Preschool program successfully navigated another year of difficult and unexpected challenges in 2021. Perhaps most importantly, the program was able to remain open safely for most of the spring 2021 session and for all of the fall 2021 session, allowing us to continue serving the children and parents who rely on the program.

As of the start of 2022, the Reid MDO and Preschool was serving 105 children ages 3 months to 4 years, an increase of over 16 percent from a year ago. The program offers five MDO classes and three Preschool classrooms, served by 16 staff members.

From January 2021 to the start of the fall 2021 session in August, the program hired nine new staff members. The program's board and leadership emphasized additional training in 2021, including professional development and curriculum training, CPR and First Aid certification, and team-building sessions.

The Reid MDO-Preschool board and leadership are excited about the continued growth and future of this program, which will celebrate 50 years of service at Reid in 2022. The MDO-Preschool board continues to work with the Session to refine and clarify the vision of the program and to strengthen the relationship between the program and the church for years to come.

The current board members are Amanda Mills (Chair), Anna Allgood, Amanda Bennett, Amy Bowers, Joy Maple, Laurie Vera, and Patrick Wells. Anna Sanders serves as Director.

-ANNA SANDERS
MDO Director

**Registration for the 2022-2023 school year is in full swing! Go to the Reid Memorial MDO/Preschool page on our church website for information on how to register or call the Director, Anna Sanders at (706) 737-4414.*



DO YOU HEAR *What I hear?*

For this year and last, we've spent time with Reid Memorial's middle schoolers focusing on harnessing and training our senses in our search to know God better. Last year, we engaged our sense of sight. This year, we're energizing and activating our sense of hearing. Join us for a moment, would you?

Together, let's take a moment to listen:

Start by making yourself quiet. (This is holy work.)

Identify the sounds you hear.

Breathe in. (Slowly now, no need to rush.)

Slowly sort the sounds out and perhaps name them.

Breathe out. (Again, take your time.)

Consider what you heard... Nature? Traffic? Music? Speech? (Hold that sound, that thought.)

How did your mind respond?

Were feelings or memories stirred?

Did what you were hearing impact your body? Breathing? Posture?

Might some of what you heard point casually or even directly to the Almighty?

Often rushed, true listening is an action that takes time and deliberate attention. If you note the pauses above, you'll see once source of our gratitude for having a year to devote to this experience with the young people our congregation shares. Our goal is to listen actively for God and to explore the influence and importance of sounds he created and his people harness into industry and motion and conversation and (yes!) music. In class, we're reading scripture, listening to sacred and secular music, training our sense of hearing and cultivating the art of true listening. We're comparing songs of women, songs of men, exploring scripture for God's intention for and feelings about music. And, we're talking about it. We're considering, specifically, God's gift of music and its impact on us. Is it easier to hear God now? Can we recognize God in what we hear? Each week we're covering a theme, digging into the Word for background or orientation and then practicing Ausculto Divina, the art of divine listening.

Would you like to wonder with us: how might God's earthly kingdom be impacted by Reid's young people as they grow into faithful servants who are able to listen well?

-ANGEL YOUNG

** This is Angel's second year serving as Middle School Youth Sunday school teacher, and we are so thankful for her depth of scriptural knowledge, her creativity and her heart for middle schoolers and Jesus.*

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UPCOMING EVENTS

LENT SCHEDULE 2022

- March 2** Ash Wednesday Service | 6:30 p.m.
March 9, 16, 23, 30 Midweek Lenten Services | 6:30 p.m.
April 6 No midweek service (Masters Week)
April 10 Palm Sunday Service beginning on the AFC lawn | 10:15 a.m.
April 14 Maundy Thursday Service | 6:30 p.m.
April 15 Combined Good Friday Service
April 17 Easter Service with Holy Communion



Mark your calendars for June 7 – 10, 2022 from 9:30 until Noon at Reid Memorial Presbyterian Church as Food Truck Party Vacation Bible School invites children of all ages to get on a roll with God. A parade of food trucks rolls into the neighborhood for the summer's biggest party!

This VBS invites children to pray as Jesus teaches us in Matthew 6:11; "Give us this day our daily bread." These words serve as a reminder that everything we have comes from God.

The kids will learn from the food truck's Top Chef along with DJ Skillet about the Daily Specials which are lines from the well-loved prayer that teaches us to turn to God to meet all of our needs. We hope you will make plans to attend.