



FAITH | presbyterian
church

**ASSISTANT PASTOR FOR FAMILIES,
YOUTH, AND CHILDREN**

CHURCH INFORMATION PACKET - 2024

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Hi, there.

It's nice to meet you.

Dear Assistant Pastoral Candidate,

The Faith Presbyterian Church family extends our warmest welcome to you and your family. Thank you for your interest! We are delighted to share how God has been at work in the life of our church.

We have been a witness to the faithfulness of our God through our previous Associate Pastor, Steven Brooks. Reverend Brooks diligently served our congregation as Pastor to Families, Youth and Children from 2009 through November 2023 when he and his family moved to follow a call as Associate Pastor at Seven Rivers Church plant in The Villages, Wildwood, Florida. In light of this, we are actively seeking the man that the Lord has chosen to fill this role.

We hope this packet will help you learn more about the mission and ministries of Faith Presbyterian Church. Please be encouraged to know that we are praying for you and your family as we depend on God's wisdom and guidance in every decision.

If you would like to refer an applicant, communicate your interest in applying, or request additional information about Faith's Assistant/Associate Pastor search, please email the committee at pastorsearch@faithpcachurch.org. While we are dependent on God's Timing, for full consideration please submit your application by April 1st. Lord willing, our goal is to complete the interview process and fill the role no later than June 30, 2024.

To God be the glory,

Faith Assistant Pastor Search Committee

Jeremy Anthony	Brandy Ferris	James Mustard
Stephanie Atkinson	Paul Haag	Brandon Nelms
Lilly Atkinson	Sean Hessenthaler	Nathan Parker
Mary Rachel Danner	Boyce Hunt	Kate Rasmussen
Hope Eason	Meredith Irwin	Philip Weinrich

VISION AND MISSION

We exist to make a kingdom impact for Jesus Christ in the world through the power of the Gospel, for the glory of God.

WELCOME

Opening up our church and lives to all people

We will strive to welcome well so that our guests and members can be exposed to the life-changing power of the Gospel. We will equip our members to welcome outsiders into their lives. Our facilities will assist our welcome.

Rom. 15:1-7; Phil. 2:4-11; 2 Cor. 5:15; John 13:34; Luke 24:33-35

WORSHIP

Fulfilling the highest purpose for which we were created

We will strive to be a church that worships the triune God in spirit and truth. Our worship services will aim to proclaim truth, awaken hearts, and empower obedience by the Gospel seven days a week.

John 4:21-26; Luke 24:27-32; Acts 2:41-42; Rom. 12:1-2

WALK

Living out the church's calling to make disciples of Jesus Christ

We will strive to create an environment in which all may grow incrementally in their walk with the Lord. This includes encouraging widespread participation in Gospel community groups, training Christians for the work of ministry, and developing fully mature disciples of Jesus Christ. The end goal of a mature Christian walk is to love God and our neighbor as ourselves.

Matt. 28:18-20; Col. 1:28-29; 1 Thess. 2:12; 1 Peter 1:22-23; 1 John 3:16-18

WITNESS


Growing the church through pioneering outreach and sending mature followers across the globe to reach the world for Christ

We will strive to consistently engage in local evangelism and global missions. Finally, the Ministry Associates Program (MAP) will train the next generation of Gospel workers with a view to saturating the church with equipped servants of Christ.


Acts 1:8-11; John 15:16; 2 Tim. 2:1-2; Eph. 4:11-16



FAITH MILESTONES

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- 1977: The church begins as a Bible study at the home of Terry Mercer, our founding pastor.
 - 1978: The church increases in number and begins Sunday services in the lounge of the Howard Johnson's on the Atlanta Highway.
 - 1981: Faith is particularized and both a session and diaconate are ordained/installed.
 - 1981: The congregation moves to a local Seventh Day Adventist church building, where they met for over five years.
 - 1982: Faith forms a missions committee. Over the years Faith has raised up and supported many missionaries.
 - 1986: Faith PCA meets in the auditorium at Athens Academy, a nearby private school.
 - 1988: Faith PCA moves to its current location.
 - 1988: Westminster Christian Academy is formed as an independent entity, and Faith welcomes them to use our new facility. The school grows and eventually purchases 40 acres in Oconee County in the early 90s to locate its permanent campus.
 - 1991: Bob McAndrew is called as an Associate Pastor.
 - 1992: Faith's session asks the Presbytery to intervene in a leadership crisis during which many leaders and members left the church.
 - 1993: Senior Pastor resigns.
 - 1994: Bob McAndrew is called to serve as Senior Pastor.
 - 1997: Kevin Burrell is called to serve as Associate Pastor. In 2004, Kevin Burrell resigns to serve as Pastor of Youth and Family Ministries at St. Paul's Presbyterian Church (Orlando, Florida). Currently Pastor of Connections at StoneBridge Church Community (Charlotte, NC).
 - 1998: Start of work with church in Merida, Mexico with whom we have had an ongoing relationship for 25 years.

FAITH MILESTONES

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- 1999: Mother's Morning Out (MMO) is founded.
 - 2000: Second Sunday morning service launches to accommodate growth.
 - 2006: Colin Ravenhill installed as Associate Pastor of Youth. In 2008, Colin Ravenhill resigns to serve as Assistant Pastor of Outreach at Memorial Presbyterian Church in St. Louis.
 - 2009: Steven Brooks installed as Associate Pastor of Students and Children.
 - 2010: Annual Faith Fall Festival Outreach Event begins.
 - 2013: Faith members David and Lisa Fish and their four children move to the mission field in Uganda. The Fish Family joins the list of other homegrown missionaries (Mixons, Emigs, Turks, Norris, Weinrich) Faith has sent to be witnesses for Christ to the world.
 - 2013 - 2014: Substantial revenue surpluses allow Faith to give special financial support to domestic and foreign ministries and make significant capital improvements to church facilities.
 - 2017: Faith begins offering free ESL Classes to reach internationals, immigrants, and foreign students in our community.
 - 2018: Completion of the Faith Fellowship Plaza & Playground.
 - 2018: Senior Pastor Bob McAndrew announces his resignation to the congregation, effective September 2019.
 - 2020: Faith extends a call to Faith Presbyterian Church's third Senior Pastor, Nathan Parker.
 - 2021: Faith began offering Christianity Explored evangelistic outreach class.
 - 2023: Faith began renovation on the sanctuary wing of the facilities.
 - 2023: Steven Brooks resigns to serve as Associate Pastor at Seven Rivers Church plant in The Villages, Wildwood, Florida.

CHURCH MINISTRIES

Faith PCA has a wide range of ministries to teach and build up our congregation. Faith also offers many outreach activities that engage our community with the gospel of Christ. The list and descriptions below are far from comprehensive. Instead, we briefly highlight a few examples of programs and ministries that are either foundational to our church or are unique. We are glad to provide you with more information about these and all the other programs at Faith.

11 community groups
engaging roughly
50% of the congregation

Gospel Community Groups: Community Groups are a foundational part of our church's ministry where participants grow in their understanding of God's grace, establish gospel-based communities, and reach out to others who do not know Christ.

Outreach: Faith partners with a number of community organizations through volunteering, awareness, and financial support. Our church hosts several care teams for local foster families. The Outreach Committee also manages a grant fund available for members to apply for funding to support their own outreach efforts.

12 community organizations
as ministry partners

\$1M
donated to
missionaries in
the last decade

Missions: Since its inception, Faith has been characterized by a strong commitment to missions. About six of our own members/families have become long-term missionaries with many others participating in short-term efforts with our partners in Mexico, Uganda, and Nicaragua. Faith currently provides financial support to 15 missionaries.

Evangelism: Faith offers a free 5-week course called Christianity Explored that gives attendees time and space to consider the big questions of life and to explore the life of the person at the heart of the Christian faith - Jesus Christ.

80+ people
participated in
Christianity
Explored

16
countries
represented

English as a Second Language (ESL): We started offering ESL classes in 2017, and have been amazed at how God has truly brought the nations to our door. We have now grown to 80 registered students. We take care of their immediate need to strengthen English skills, while establishing relationships and catering to their spiritual and emotional needs as well.

CHURCH MINISTRIES

95% students
at Faith serve in
various ministries
of the church

Intergenerational Family Ministry: Faith seeks to help children and students serve in the ministries of the church along side other church members. Students volunteer on the worship team, welcome team, outreach events, missions committee, communion prep team, Vacation Bible School, Pray for Me, children's church and children's Sunday school.

Family Retreat: Faith has an annual family retreat at Ridge Haven, NC on the first weekend in October. As families gather for worship, teaching and recreation, the retreat has been an indispensable way to build community.

100+
individuals
attend

300+ attendees
in 2023
with over **75**
volunteers

Fall Festival: This initiative was started in 2008 as a way to open our doors to our immediate neighbors, and has quickly grown to our largest single outreach event. Children, students, and adults of all ages enjoy live music, games, prizes, hot dogs, refreshments, cake walk, photo booth, and more, all free of charge.

Vacation Bible School: Faith is highly regarded for our annual VBS for ages 4 – 5th grade. Our building transforms into an immersive experience where roughly 175 children come for a week-long adventure learning about Jesus.

30% of families
attending
do not attend church

110
children
enrolled

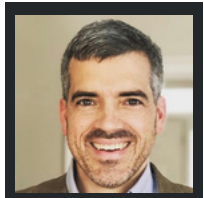
Mother's Morning Out: MMO provides care for newborns through age 5 during the school year on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:00 a.m. to noon. Teachers provide a loving and faith-based environment for learning and play, including story time, table activities, music, arts and crafts, free-play and outdoor play.

Children's Sunday School: Each week, over 65 children pre-k through 5th grades participate in age appropriate Sunday School classes. Children learn monthly Scripture memory, catechisms and Bible stories.

65 children
pre-K-5th
grade

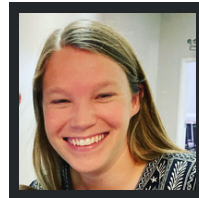


STAFF AND LEADERSHIP



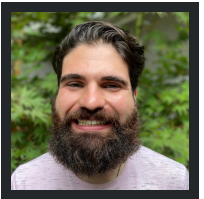
NATHAN PARKER

Senior Pastor
706-224-4539
nathanp@faithpcachurch.org



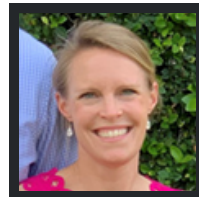
ANNA JARRETT

Administrative Assistant
706-769-8315
annaj@faithpcachurch.org



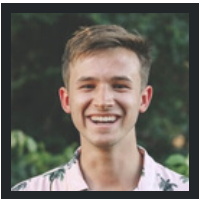
JACOB SMITH

Ministry Associate
706-980-3880
jacobs@faithpcachurch.org



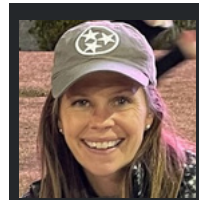
AMANDA PAINTER

Financial Secretary
706-769-8315
amandap@faithpcachurch.org



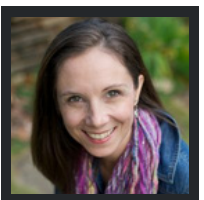
PAUL WHALEY

Worship Leader
229-726-9138
paulw@faithpcachurch.org



JULIA DOBISH

Director of Mothers' Morning Out
703-732-7643
juliad@faithpcachurch.org



STEPHANIE ATKINSON

Children & Student Ministry Coord.
706-850-6630
stephaniea@faithpcachurch.org

RULING ELDERS

Bill Booth, Mark Dobish, Stan Edwards,
Bradford Gilliam, Boyce Hunt, Ed Lane,
Brandon Nelms, Fritz Schaeffer

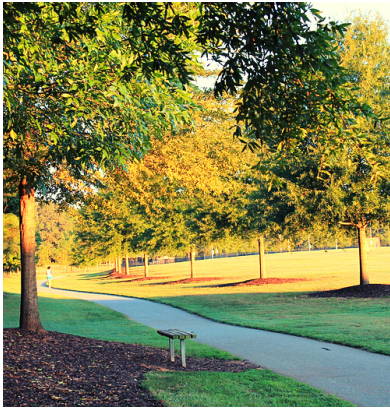
DEACONS

Jay Hankins, Alec Hicks, Tim Hoover,
Mac Jones, Chris Milner, Nathan Pettigrew,
Matt Wyatt



REGION PROFILE

Faith Presbyterian Church is located in Oconee County, which is about 65 miles northeast of Atlanta, and has a population of about 35,000. Oconee County is in the Athens-Clarke County Metropolitan Area. Athens, which has a population of about 130,000.



Our area is nationally recognized for its college and youth sports, music, food, and art, and is one of the best places to retire. Oconee's public school system has been ranked first in the state for two consecutive years, has a 92% graduation rate, and some of the highest SAT and AP scores and participation rates in the state.



Oconee is also home to several private schools that challenge students to meet and exceed the highest of expectations. Find information on our K-12 schools at the following links: Oconee County Public Schools, Westminster Christian Academy, Athens Academy, and Prince Avenue Christian School. Oconee County also has an active home schooling community with many home school co-ops.

Oconee County is privileged to have several institutions of higher education within and near our borders, including University of Georgia, University of North Georgia-Oconee Campus, Athens Technical College, Lanier Technical College-Barrow Campus, and the Athens College of Ministry.



Homes in Oconee County in communities like Watkinsville, Bishop and Bogart typically list from the mid-\$150,000s to \$600,000. You'd expect to find 3-5 bedrooms and up to 4 baths covering 1,100 to 3,000+ square feet. Subdivisions like Pebble Creek, Townside, and Whitlow Creek have homes with features like hardwood flooring, fireplace, recessed lighting, open floor plans, updated kitchens and baths, and high ceilings. There is an active market of existing and new homes. In 2017, the average price of existing homes was \$306,021 and of new homes was \$365,465.

SEARCH COMMITTEE

JEREMY ANTHONY

My Wife, Katie, and I moved to Watkinsville and joined Faith PCA in 2015. We have two children—Julia (12) and James (7mos). In the church, I serve as a deacon and occasionally teach Sunday school. Katie serves part time as a pianist and we both enjoy being part of a Gospel Community Group. During the week I work as an endocrinologist. We enjoy family, running and time spent outdoors. I am serving as Chairperson for the Pastor Search Committee.

STEPHANIE ATKINSON

My husband Brian and I moved to Athens and joined Faith PCA in 2008. We have three children—Lilly (17), Bailey (14) and Andrew (9). I have had the blessing of serving our church community as the Children's and Student Ministry Coordinator for the past three years. Brian and I co-lead a Gospel Community Group. I enjoy working as a private practice counselor for women, children and families and Academic Life Coach. One of my favorite things to do is help people learn about Jesus, about who He created them to be, and about how His grace helps us walk together well in this life.

LILLY ATKINSON

I am a junior at Westminster Christian Academy. Since becoming a member of Faith in 2018, I have enjoyed serving as a children's Sunday school helper, participating with missions trips to Uganda and Mexico, working childcare, leading a middle school small group and being on the high school student leadership team. I enjoy teaching piano, playing tennis and reading good books.

MARY RACHEL DANNER

My husband Marshall and I began attending Faith in 2021 while we were students at the University of Georgia. After graduation, we decided to remain in Athens due in large part to our love for Faith and the community we have here. I am currently a second grade teacher at Westminster Christian Academy. I have been serving as a student ministry volunteer for the past three years and work primarily with high school girls. I love the opportunity I have as a student ministry volunteer to encourage and walk alongside students in these formative years of their lives.

HOPE EASON

I moved to Athens in 2006 and have been attending faith since 2009. I work part time as a 5th grade teacher at Old School Co-Op (which meets at Faith) and as a pharmacy technician at Oconee Drugs Pharmacy. I volunteer with students of all ages via Sunday School and Children's Church teacher and a youth leader. I recently took over the role as ESL Director and lead Faith's Hopeful ministry, a ministry for those with Mental Illness and their families. I am a cancer survivor and love to take naps.

BRANDY FERRIS

My husband Keith and I began attending Faith PCA in 2010. We have two children—Abigail (17) and Anderson (14). I've had the honor of serving Faith in several different roles over the years. Currently, I serve as the Nursery Volunteer Coordinator and offer various behind-the-scenes assistance for the Middle and High School Youth Groups. Another hat that I wear is that of a homeschool mom. I am blessed to teach my own children as well as others at the Compass Community Homeschool Co-Op in Athens, GA.

PAUL HAAG

I am currently a junior in high school and am homeschooled. I became a member of Faith in 2019. I have had the opportunity to serve the church playing the bass guitar on the worship team and serving as a middle school youth small group leader. Some of my favorite things to do are reading, working, making and listening to music, and playing frisbee.

SEARCH COMMITTEE

SEAN HESSENTHALER

I have been attending Faith PCA since 2003. My wife Melissa and I have two children: Noah (15) and Sadie (14). I have the privilege of serving our church through volunteering to manage our IT and as an audio/video ministry volunteer. I also serve as a volunteer coordinator and liaison to our local faith-based food pantry, Area Churches Together Serving. I currently work in the educational technology field. Our family enjoys camping and visiting National Parks.

BOYCE HUNT

As a “retired” military family, we moved to the Athens area in 2017 and joined Faith PCA shortly thereafter. My wife Grace and I learned to love the Church and have a heart for encouraging young families in their faith and commitment to Christ. We have four children: Wade (18), Elec, (17), Lucy (14), and David (8). I have enjoyed serving as a Deacon and with men’s ministry and am currently serving as an Elder. Grace and I also love serving as co-leaders of a Gospel Community Group. I work as an airline pilot and pilot instructor.

MEREDITH IRWIN

My husband Chris and I have attended at Faith for over 20 years. We have two children: Norah (16) and Luke (12). We started our time at Faith helping with high school ministry. We have been richly blessed by the gospel community groups we have attended at Faith. I have taught 2s and 3s Sunday school, worked alongside the deaconate to help women in need, and participated in missions trips to Uganda and Mexico. Before having children, I worked as a Pediatric Nurse Practitioner.

JAMES MUSTARD

I am a Junior at North Oconee High School. I love to play soccer, ultimate frisbee, hanging out with my friends, and working. For work I ref basketball and soccer, lifeguard at a local pool, and work logistics at Caterpillar. I have attended Faith since birth. I have served on mission trips and vbs. I am always ready to laugh and have a good time in a way that honors God.

BRANDON NELMS

My wife and I have been members of Faith since moving to Oconee County in 2016. We have three sons: Jack (14), Peter (12), and Charlie (9). We have been involved in several ministries through the church, but have particularly enjoyed children’s Sunday School. I serve as an Elder and co-host a Gospel Community Group. Outside of church, I work as an optometrist. On most evenings and weekends you can find our family at a soccer field watching one of the boys play.

NATHAN PARKER

My family moved to Watkinsville in November 2019 for me to serve as the senior pastor of Faith. Prior to that, I served as the pastor of Pinelands Presbyterian Church in Miami, FL. My wife Nicole and I have three children: Mikey (10), Mac (8), and Marigold (5). Nicole says she wants her ashes scattered in the church parking lot. Suffice it to say, we love the people of Faith! I teach classes for RTS-Atlanta a couple times each year, and my favorite musician Phil Keaggy.

KATE RASMUSSEN

I am a junior at Westminster Christian Academy. My family has been attending Faith for over 5 years. I enjoy serving with Children’s Church, Children’s Sunday School, and VBS. In the high school student ministry, I serve on the student leadership team. I enjoy running cross country and playing soccer for my school.

PHILIP WEINRICH

My family began attending faith over 20 years ago. We raised our three children, Sarah, Paul and Lauren, at Faith. I have served as a student ministry leader for almost all of the years we have been attending. I enjoy playing ultimate frisbee, listening to good music, and spending time with people.

JOB DESCRIPTION:

ASST. PASTOR FAMILIES, YOUTH AND CHILDREN

This pastor will be hired with a view to transitioning to Associate within two years.

Reports to: Senior Pastor with Session oversight

Classification: Full-time (salaried)

Purpose Statement

Under supervision of the Senior Pastor and with oversight from the Session, the Assistant/Associate Pastor to Families, Youth and Children will make a Kingdom impact for Jesus Christ by focusing his ministry on children and their families. He will oversee the Children and Youth ministry teams, as well as other ministry teams as needs dictate. One special area of focus will be to develop ministry teams composed of laity and staff to do the work of ministry (Eph. 4:11-12). He will work in close conjunction with our Children and Student Ministry Coordinator.

Pastoral Responsibilities

Preach approximately 6X per year

Administer the Lord's Supper

Baptisms

Weddings

Funerals

Visitations

Education/Experience

The Assistant/Associate Pastor to Families, Youth and Children must have completed an M.Div. (or equivalent) and be ordained or ordain-able in the PCA.

Travel

Regular travel in the local area is required for this position. This will include frequent meetings with people as well as infrequent travel to presbytery and General Assembly.

Skills and Attributes

- A strong profession of Christian faith and support for Faith's mission are required. The first priorities for this position are a growing love for God, the Gospel, God's Word, prayer, the Body of Christ, the Reformed theological tradition, and increasingly exhibiting the fruit of the Spirit. Also necessary are:
- A humble, loving, and teachable spirit
- A desire to serve God's people joyfully
- Must relate well to youth, including small children through high school and be knowledgeable of current cultural pressures youth are facing
- Counseling skills suitable to working with youth and their families
- Strong leadership skills including public speaking, organizing youth and family activities, and strategic planning related to youth programs
- Strong oral, written, and interpersonal communication skills as related to youth as well as adults
- Self-motivated and able to function independently with minimal supervision while understanding the necessity for communicating and coordinating work efforts with other staff and ministers
- Desire and ability to equip youth to grow in and share their faith in Christ
- Ability to thrive in a fast-paced environment with an upbeat, flexible, and positive attitude

Other Duties

Please note that this job description is not designed to cover or contain an exhaustive listing of all the activities, duties, responsibilities and activities which may change as ministry needs dictate.

HOW TO APPLY

If you would like to apply for Faith's Assistant Pastor position, please complete the steps below. While we will accept applications until the position is filled, for full consideration, please submit your application by **April 1, 2024**.

1. Send an email to pastorsearch@faithpcachurch.org with your resume, a cover letter, and MDF.

2. Complete the Screening Questions [by clicking here](#).

You can also view this full job posting online [on our website](#) and at the [PCA job board](#).

For more information about our church, activities, staff, ministries, or services, you can check out more about us on our website or the following resources:



FACEBOOK

@FaithWatkinsville

Photos, articles, announcements, and events



SOUNDCLOUD

@faithpresbyterianchurch

Sermon audio



YOUTUBE

Faith Presbyterian Church

Program and ministry video highlights



SPOTIFY

@faithpcachurch

Worship playlists