



The Chapel in the Pines Pastor Nominating Committee is pleased to introduce...



## Reverend Andrew S. Taylor-Troutman

Reverend Andrew Taylor-Troutman (pictured with his wife, Reverend Ginny Taylor-Troutman) is a graduate of Union Presbyterian Seminary where he earned a Master of Divinity degree in 2009. He received a Master of Arts in Religious Studies from the University of Virginia in 2011.

For the past seven years, Andrew has served as Minister of Word and Sacrament at New Dublin Presbyterian Church in Dublin, Virginia. Prior to his first ordained call at New Dublin, Andrew has served as Assistant Coordinator of Undergraduate Ministries, English teacher, and Director of Youth Ministry.

Andrew is an accomplished writer and storyteller. He is a candidate for a Master of Arts in Writing at Lenoir-Rhyne University and has written three books: 1) *Take My Hand: A Theological Memoir*, a collection of stories and sermons from his first year at New Dublin Presbyterian Church; 2) *Parables of Parenthood*, a Bible study of certain parables of the New Testament illustrated with anecdotes from his son's first year; and 3) A novel, *Earning Innocence*, about relationships and redemption for those who seek to build relationships and who have been redeemed. In addition, Andrew has written numerous articles and book reviews for various publications.

At the regional and national level, Andrew is involved with NEXT Church, a network of leaders across the Presbyterian Church (USA) who believe the church of the future will be more relational, more diverse, more collaborative, more hopeful, and more agile. He has presented workshops at NEXT National Conferences (2012 and 2013) and has served on Planning Committees for NEXT Regional Conferences (2011 and 2014.) Andrew served as Chair of the Presbytery of the Peaks Committee on Preparation for Ministry (2011-2015). In addition, he has led retreats and served as a speaker and facilitator in numerous organizations in the Dublin area.

## **Education**

2003	Bachelor of Arts in History, Lenoir-Rhyne University
2009	Master of Divinity, Union Presbyterian Seminary
2011	Master of Arts in Scriptural Interpretation, University of Virginia
2016	Graduate Certificate in Narrative Healthcare, Lenoir-Rhyne University
Current	Master of Arts in Writing, Lenoir-Rhyne University (Candidate)

## **Professional Experience**

2003-2005	Directory of Youth Ministry Jamestown Presbyterian Church, Jamestown, NC
2008-2009	English Teacher Armstrong High School, Richmond, VA
2009-2010	Assistant Coordinator of Undergraduate Ministries Westminster Presbyterian Church, Charlottesville, VA
2010-present	Minister of Word and Sacrament New Dublin Presbyterian Church, Dublin, VA
2012-present	Adjunct Faculty Department of Religion and Philosophy New River Community College New River Community College

# The Taylor-Troutmans



Hello, hello! We are the Taylor-Troutmans and here is the most recent picture of us on top of Buffalo Mountain near our current home in southwestern Virginia. What draws us to this photo is that we can see the Tar Heel State behind us. We are so excited to come down the mountain and live in Chapel Hill!

A little about us: Andrew and Ginny both are originally from North Carolina. Andrew grew up in Raleigh. His father is a Moravian pastor and he attended Lenoir-Rhyne College to practice the religion of baseball. Ginny is from Lexington and is indeed partial to that style of BBQ. Upon meeting Andrew, she easily converted him to the faith of her alma mater, UNC. They met shortly before attending Union Presbyterian Seminary together.

While Andrew has served as pastor of the oldest Presbyterian Church west of the continental divide, Ginny has served as the Presbyterian campus minister at Virginia Tech, loving her calling but not necessarily the Hokie football. Andrew and Ginny have been building their own home team: Sam, born in October of 2012, and Asa, in October of 2015. They expect their daughter Sadie Anna, named after Andrew's mother, to join them in November of this year. Here are recent photos of the boys:



### **About Andrew's Statement of Faith**

One of the things contained in each of the 185 Personal Information Forms we received was a Statement of Faith. Unfortunately, these statements were rarely enlightening, and failed to tell us anything unique about the faith of the candidate. They were standard Presbyterian fare that would be familiar to anyone who had read a few selections of the Book of Confessions. Only Andrew's Statement of Faith, and one or two others, were original, thoughtful, and very personal. We encourage you to read (or listen to) the statement, because it tells you in Andrew's own words, much better than we can, what his faith means to him. *Paul Harrell*

## Statement of Faith

I believe in the Word, which was before there was, and by which all that is has come to be.

The Word authors, by lordly art, the expanding galaxies of unimaginable size. The same Word wrote Planet Earth as a punctuation mark in all the billions of cosmos pages. Yet the Earth was written on the fabric as a semi-colon; for I believe the Word continued the story by revealing the Creator to the created, first, in the composition of nature and, second, to a tribe in a desert place. The Word spoke in their ears and wrote upon their hearts to tell the story of liberation from oppressive voices, that all of humankind would be inscribed by the stroke of Love.

Yet humans loved their creations and their compositions more than their Creator and the Word.

So we were given the greatest gift: the creative Word descended into the cosmos and was made low in order to serve in flesh for us. The Word is Jesus Christ, our Judge. Our lives are measured against the wondrous verbs his life spoke: he took, he blessed, he broke, he gave; he looked, he heard, he healed, he forgave; he withdrew to solitary places perhaps to hear in his mind the mythic song of Creation's seventh sunrise; and yet he always came back to teach those with ears to hear how to change and return home. Once again, Jesus shall come, this time to remain in love.

I believe that, though we are hell bent, the only One heaven sent passed through the boundless dark. Nailed to an instrument of torture, Christ's lips, where wisdom itself resides, was heard to emit this cry: My God, my God! Why have you forsaken me? I know the world spins on. I know there is unspeakable suffering, which is unfair, unjust, and unexplained. I know how the burden of absence grows as I pay the daily debt I owe to lost loves, my grief for women and men and children who no longer breathe.

Yet I believe that, on the morning of Christ's resurrection, the tomb was empty. Death is not the final word. This is our hope unfurled against the swaddling bands of darkness. In our sacred stories, we may choir the proper praise.

And so, in every language, the Word calls us to speak and serve with all of our energy, imagination, intelligence, and love. I believe in a living poem known as the Church. The Author pours the Word into us by the Comforter, who can draw wonder from even the smallest sighs and groans, who is with us wherever we go, and who makes us what we are called to be, by bringing our words, actions, and lives together for the common good. The Church is a poem of people of all ages, admittedly in imperfect rhythm and unequal rhyme, but called by water and Word, fed on bread and wine, and serves as the body of believers until the end of time. Christ alone as our Head for, if anything holy and bright should pass through the night, it is by grace alone.

There shall come the grace when all are finally forever, redeemed by the Maker of all things new, who shall dry every tear. And the final word shall be Life.

Andrew S. Taylor-Troutman

To listen to Andrew: [http://newdublinpres.org/audio/I\\_Believe.mp3](http://newdublinpres.org/audio/I_Believe.mp3)

## Notes from your Pastor Nomination Committee (PNC)

The main thing I was searching for in our new pastor was the ability to preach a meaningful, engaging sermon. He delivers the perfect combination with an explanation of the text, brought to life with personal references and humor. *Lynne Hoerter*

Andrew is known and respected by many in the denomination. He will represent us well in all aspects of his work. His call comes as a gift which we are humbled and blessed to receive. *Monty Brekke*

Andrew struck us all as a very relational pastor. He takes the time to get to know people and give back to them. When we met with his wife and him to share a meal, he asked each of us to tell him how we came to Chapel in the Pines. He was interested in our stories, asked questions and clearly from subsequent meetings did not forget what we had told him. Another great example is his weekly habit of writing notes to up to 10 people. They are sent snail mail, a habit many people have foregone. I believe when someone receives such a missive, it is very meaningful that the sender spent the time to write something out and not just zip off an email. I am sure he will provide wonderful pastoral care to our congregation. *Marcia Ladd*

I love Andrew's spirit, his creativity, and sense of wonder! He sees the extraordinary, or wonder, in the most ordinary circumstances. When he walked into our sanctuary, one could almost see the wheels turning as he looked up and out into the trees surrounding our church with a big smile on his face. Later, he shared his hope of doing a sermon series on trees in the Bible. The last line of the hymn, "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling" is "lost in wonder, love, and praise." This line reminds me of Andrew and his ministry- and it is my hope for our church. *Amanda Briggs*

On reading Andrew's PIF I was struck by many things. One that really stood out is how he engaged youth in his church in Dublin. As many youth had stopped attending church and youth group after confirmation, Andrew started a mentoring program that matched youth with adult volunteers. This very successful program has brought youth back into worship and helped the adults live into their baptismal vows. Andrew thinks outside the box. *Pat Chappell*

During our tour at the church we took a walk through the Remembrance Garden and ended at the Ebenezer. Andrew reminded us of the hymn verse that names the Ebenezer and we sang that verse and prayed together. It was a shared moment of Grace.



“Here I raise my Ebenezer; hither by thy help I’m come;  
and I hope, by thy good pleasure, safely to arrive at home.  
Jesus sought me when a stranger, wandering from the fold of God;  
he, to rescue me from danger, interposed his precious blood.”

“Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing”  
Hymn 475, Glory to God

## A letter to the Chapel in the Pines Congregation

Dear Chapel in the Pines,

Hello, hello! I am excited and honored and most of all *grateful* to have been called to serve among you. Upon visiting your sanctuary, I felt like Jacob having awoken from a dream and realized beyond a shadow of a doubt that surely, the Lord is in this place. Many congregations use words like “welcome, worship, witness” and yet I have already glimpsed how y’all embody those callings! From the way everyone who walks through the doors is welcomed to how the fellowship hall is opened to the community, you love your neighbors as yourselves. From the amazing music ministry to the prayers written upon the wooden pegs that hold the rafters of the beautiful sanctuary, you love the Lord with heart, soul, mind, and strength. And with every kindness offered into Chatham County and beyond, you meet Christ among those in need. My family and I are so thankful for the call to walk alongside you and join hands.

So I would share a passage from the Letter to the Ephesians as a blessing for us as we begin our ministry together: *I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the God of glory, would give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know God, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may come to know the hope of your calling.* This is a special kind of “heart knowledge” that is both grace given and grace received. As we take our first steps into what I believe will be a long, faithful journey, may the eyes of our hearts be open to see one another in faith and in hope and in love. May it be so.

In grace and gratitude,

Andrew

## **A Word About Our PNC Process**

The PNC has met nearly every week since our first meeting on April 19. We have reviewed 183 PIFs, listened to scores of sermons, and traveled to home churches and neutral pulpits. We have debated qualities of various candidates and prayed over them. We have interviewed via Skype and in person. We have toured candidates through the church and shared meals with them as well.

We have made friends along the way and said goodbye to most of them. We have learned what it means to be the Church and to be Presbyterian in a whole new way. We have learned about how other churches do things and some ways that we may do things better here at CitP. We have been ambassadors for CitP and have felt sinful pride, as well as uncomfortable anxiety, in this role. We have learned about each other, mostly how we could work together for this Holy task, how we can trust God, and how our failings as humans could derail the entire process. We have learned to lean into the Holy Spirit and listen, to discern the will of God for our church. Today we stand unified in our endorsement of our nominee for the next pastor and head of staff for Chapel in the Pines Presbyterian Church.

Each of the members of the PNC brings unique gifts and contributes in essential ways. Without any one of us, the committee and our work would not have been what it has become. The committee members are Amanda Briggs (corresponding secretary), Marcia Ladd (recording secretary), Monte Brekke, Paul Harrell, Lynne Hoerter, and me.

On behalf of the PNC, I thank you, the members of Chapel in the Pines, for the opportunity for service and growth that this experience has given us.

Pat Chappell  
Chair

## **Welcome Home**

The Taylor-Troutmans currently live on a gravel road leading to New Dublin Presbyterian Church and manse. Their two-year old son, Asa, was napping on their way to visit Chapel in the Pines. As the car turned onto the Great Ridge Parkway gravel, Asa awoke from his nap and said, "Home." Welcome home, Asa, Sam, and Sadie Anna. Welcome home, Ginny and Andrew. Welcome. Home.



Chapel in the Pines Presbyterian Church (PCUSA)

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