

2019-2021 RESIDENT MINISTRY PROGRAM



FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN
Ann Arbor | Michigan

RESIDENT MINISTRY AT TWENTY YEARS

One of the most distinctive and enduring features of First Presbyterian Church is the Resident Ministry Program, now entering its nineteenth year and launching our tenth cohort of Residents. Begun originally in 2001 to stimulate the growth of seminary graduates and to stem the outflow of talented, young pastors from the church, our Residency Program has transitioned into a center for pastoral and leadership development for the Presbyterian Church, multiplying the impact of our ministry far beyond Ann Arbor. And within First Pres, the experiential learning culture of the Residency has continually infused our own Ann Arbor community with a constant stream of gifted, energetic young pastors, fresh ideas for ministry and a spirit of continuous growth and adventure in both traditional and innovative forms of ministry.

As Andrew Frazier, Khayla Johnson and Amy Ruhf begin their Residency in August 2019, they carry on the tradition of excellence in Presbyterian ministry and leadership development that was begun in 2001 with the first ever cohort of Residents, one that included Revs. Sung Soo (Sam) Jun, Robert Woodruff and one of our featured preachers for our June 2019 RM Alumni Weekend, Nancy Benson-Nicole. Beyond Ann Arbor, First Pres Residents lead major congregations around the country: Rev. Jenny McDevitt at Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church in New York, Rev. Lindsay Conrad at First Presbyterian in Mankato, Minnesota, Rev. Brennan Blue at St. Luke Presbyterian, Minnetonka, Minnesota, Rev. Sara Wiles at Bethany Presbyterian in Tacoma, Washington and Rev. Matt Nickel at historic Jefferson Avenue Church in Detroit. Mark Brainerd at Preston Hollow in Dallas and Megan Gage-Finn in Minneapolis form the lives of major churches in our larger Presbyterian community. And former Residents shape the vital work of strong congregations in Cincinnati, Kansas City, Palm Beach, Albuquerque, Edwardsville, Illinois, Bloomfield Hills, Michigan, Bryan, Texas, Wilmington, Delaware, Charlottesville, Virginia and Charlotte, North Carolina.

The Lilly Endowment played a pivotal role in the start of our Residency Program, as it did with more than fifty other congregations across the country, providing the spark of an important idea in pastoral formation and congregational development, and much of the funding for our first sixteen years. In 2018 First Pres made the Residency Program our own and assumed the financial responsibility for the ministry. Program expenses are now supported by income from a designated endowment raised by thoughtful gifts and memorials from church members and friends—a visible testimony to our church's commitment to this unique teaching ministry. As of June 30, 2019 the Resident Ministry Endowment stood at \$4.65 million. Further gifts and pledges to advance and sustain this ministry will be gratefully accepted.

THE 2019-21 RESIDENTS

ANDREW FRAZIER

Andrew grew up an active young Presbyterian in Carrollton, Georgia. As the son of two singers, Andrew's childhood was filled with music: taking piano lessons, sitting in on his father's opera rehearsals, and singing in numerous state-wide choirs. After a particularly formative summer as a vocal major in the Georgia Governor's Honors Program, Andrew decided to pursue a piano performance degree at the University of Georgia (UGA). He quickly realized how much he missed singing, so he switched degree programs and earned his BMus in Voice Performance in 2009. Andrew spent the six years between college and seminary waiting tables, and he says of that time: "I learned about myself in ways I would not change, even though the lessons were often painful, and it was through those experiences that I was called back to the church and to seminary." Andrew became a member of Village Presbyterian Church in Prairie Village, Kansas in March of 2014 and spent the next year volunteering with the senior high youth group before enrolling in Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary in the fall of 2015. During his four years in Austin, he became interested in the intersection of faith, worship, music, the creative arts, lament, doubt, and hopelessness. Andrew feels particularly called to pastoral care and congregational life. His gifts of vulnerability, compassion, incarnational presence, and authenticity were affirmed during his CPE internship as a hospital chaplain, and it was through this work that he realized his desire to walk with people through the sorrows and joys of their lives. Andrew is excited to begin serving and learning from the First Pres community, particularly because of the significant transition period the church is currently in. Andrew says: "I believe we grow the most during transitions – times when we're invited to draw nearer to God and to one another – and I'm excited to grow in faith and love with the First Pres community."



REV. KHAYLA JOHNSON



I was born and raised in Charleston, South Carolina. I was born into a large family and raised in the Presbyterian tradition. I am the oldest of three children with a younger sister and a younger brother. My family means a lot to me, and they are a daily source of encouragement in my life. As far back as I can go within the family roots is to my great grandmother's parents. My great grandmother was the matriarch of the family and everyone knew that. She was born on a farm to a family in Charleston, South Carolina. She was one of seven children; one of her six siblings is still alive today. My great grandmother had fourteen children, most of whom live in the Charleston area, with the exception of three children and those who have passed away. Since there are so many members of the family in the area the family spends a lot of time together.

For as long as I can remember, my family has been a part of the Presbyterian faith tradition. At one point in my life I was worshiping in the same church as my great grandmother. She has since passed away, and I am still worshiping in that church. On any given Sunday you can see four generations of my relatives worshipping together. My family is a unique Christian family that understands the values of the faith tradition and teaches them to their children and grandchildren. I grew up in Saint James Presbyterian Church USA in Charleston, South Carolina. My mother and grandmother introduced me to church and helped nurture my relationship with God. When I was younger, I was always involved in the church, so I was taught a lot about who Christ is and what he did for us. My grandmother made sure that we went to church every Sunday and most days took us to Sunday school as well. As I grew older, I began to understand who Christ is to me and how much I loved him. This led me to Columbia Theological Seminary, where I graduated in May.

Before entering into seminary, I thought I was called to work in youth and young adult ministry. I knew how much relationships at that point in my life meant to me, and I knew I was wired to do that work well. I am still passionate about the need for the right person to do that work long term, especially in a time when we see a gap in the ages of those who attend church. After spending the last three years being pushed and learning about my leadership skills, I am beginning to see my ministry expand. I am

passionate about the work of social justice and advocating for those around me. I am passionate about the importance of teaching in the church and how that will help individuals deepen their relationships with God. God has called me to lead. God has called me to preach, teach, and build up communities. I am called to proclaim the Word of God in a variety of places.

My hobbies and interests include photography, drawing, and sports. Photography gives me a chance to capture authentic moments of people whether it's good or bad - seeing people in ways they don't see themselves and giving people these memories to look back on with friends and family. I enjoy spending time behind a camera, rather than being in front of one. I have used photography in seminary to create the We Are Columbia photo exhibit. Drawing takes me back to my child-like imagination of just drawing whatever I want and expressing myself. Sports are more like a stress reliever to run around and play like a kid enjoying the company of other people. I've spent my seminary career coaching six-year olds in soccer each week with the YMCA. In addition, I find these are ways to build relationships with a variety of people. I am interested in the ways we can express ourselves, instead of just sitting in a room talking.

REV. AMY RUHF

Rev. Amy Ruhf arrives in Ann Arbor by way of Messiah College, California University of Pennsylvania and Princeton Theological Seminary. After completing an undergraduate degree in sports medicine, Amy served as the athletic trainer for Huntingdon Valley, Pennsylvania, school district from 2008 to 2016. In that time, she provided medical care for 600 student athletes. At Princeton, she completed her Master of Divinity degree in May 2019. In 2016, Amy received a commission in the US Navy Chaplain Candidate Program at the rank of Ensign on April 20, 2016. She was promoted to the rank of LT- JG on April 20, 2018. Upon leaving Ann Arbor in two years, Amy will serve as a Navy Chaplain, wherever that might be.



She was ordained in her home church in Ambler, Pennsylvania on June 30 of this year. Prior to attending seminary, Amy served as a deacon, a small group leader, and a teacher and has been active in the music ministry of the church. She's organized successful fundraising events to benefit children with severe disabilities. While at Princeton, she completed a meaningful



Our new resident ministers show off their "FPC!"

program in Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) Residency at Robert Wood Johnson Hospital that prepared her well for the challenges of pastoral ministry. Amy enjoys anything that gets her outside: backpacking & hiking, running, playing softball and fly fishing. She's a reader, a singer and a hand bell player. Amy says "my greatest interest in ministry is relational living. I seek to live in healthy relationships with God, with other people, and with nature and seek to help others do the same."

2001-2019

RESIDENT MINISTER COHORTS

2001- 2003

Rev. Nancy Benson-Nicol
Rev. Sung Soo (Sam) Jun
Rev. Robert Woodruff



2003-2005

Rev. Mark Brainerd
Rev. Matthew Morse
Rev. Maggie Shreve



2005-2007

Rev. Amanda Adams Riley
Rev. Meghan Gage Finn
Rev. Andrew Parnell



2007-2009

Rev. Aaron Janklow
Rev. Deborah Knott Forger
Rev. Jana Reister



2009-2011

Rev. Jenny McDevitt
Rev. Sarah Wiles
Rev. Matthew Nickel



2011-2013

Rev. Brennan Pearson Blue
Rev. Evans McGowan
Rev. Mary Elizabeth
Prentice-Hyers



2013-2015

Rev. Lindsay Conrad
Rev. Kristin Riegel
Rev. Lal Rodawla



2015-2017

Rev. Emily Béghin
Rev. Daniel Ervin
Rev. Angela Ryo



2017-2019

Rev. Blair Buckley
Rev. Eric Koenig-Reinke
Rev. Dorothy Piatt



