

**The Pastor Nominating Committee
of First Presbyterian Church
introduces . . .**



Reverend Mindy Douglas

Statement of Faith

O God, you are our God –
Creator, Redeemer, and Holy Spirit.

In the beginning, your Spirit
moved over the face of the deep
and you brought forth light and life.
You created your people and all of
life out of love and in your image.
But we fell away from you, rejected
our Creator and separated our-
selves from you through sin. You
sent priests and prophets and kings
to call us back to you, but we did
not listen. By your grace, you
became incarnate – God with us –
Emmanuel - fully human, fully God.

In the life of Jesus, you walked
among us. You healed the sick and
the lame; you gave sight to the
blind; you fed the hungry; you ate
and drank with sinners, you taught
us to love you and to love our
neighbor.

Through Jesus Christ, you
became Mediator for us, the
Reconciler between you and your
goodness and the world and our
corruption. You redeemed all
people through his life, death, and
resurrection. Our sins are forgiven.
He is our Lord and Savior.

You work in history with your
people: You act through the Holy
Spirit in the world. The Holy Spirit is
one with you as the Father and as
the Son. Your being and your work
are united.

You make yourself known to us
through your Son, Jesus Christ,
who is the Word. You, as the Word,
became flesh in Jesus Christ. You
make yourself known to us through
your written Word which has been
passed down to us through
centuries of believers. I believe that
the Old and New Testament Canon
is the necessary and reliable
witness to Jesus Christ, your living
Word.

You have created us for life in
community: the Holy Spirit renews
the community of faith and unifies
all believers.

You have called us by name
through the waters of our baptism.
We are claimed, cleansed, washed,
and renewed for life with you. You
have given us the Eucharist so that
we might remember Christ's life
and death and experience Christ's
presence with us through the Holy

Spirit as we offer thanksgiving, celebrate Christ's victory over death, find unity as the body of Christ, and proclaim Christ's death until he comes again.

Through Christ you have given us the church, that Christ, as the head, and we, as the body, might serve your purpose in the world. We gather together first and foremost to worship you. We are equipped through the Holy Spirit to enter into the world and to proclaim the gospel, to strive for justice, to exercise compassion, to love our neighbor, and to work for peace.

Lord, in you is all my hope. In you is all my strength. From you flows joy. From you comes every good and perfect thing. From you I receive forgiveness, not because I am worthy of it but because you abound in mercy and grace. In you, I find perfect peace. To you belong all glory, all honor, all praise and all thanksgiving, now and forevermore. Amen.

Reverend Mindy Douglas

Comments from the Pastor Nominating Committee:

Mindy knows how to lead meaningful worship, advocate for social justice, and minister to individual members of the congregation. She has the spirit for mission and outreach we value and the readiness and experience to care for her congregation.

Kim Abels

I was most impressed with Mindy's personal faith journey and collaborative leadership style. She's a deeply faithful, action-oriented leader who inspires others to work together to advance the mission of the church.

Paul Baldasare

Mindy has a compelling faith journey. She stepped out in faith to plant and grow a church. She is welcoming of and committed to diversity in both the church and her personal friendships. She is deeply rooted in and committed to the PCUSA.

Vernon Neece

The members of the Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) are Paul Baldasare (Chair), Kim Abels, Luke Everett, Vernon Neece, Beth Stringfield, Phyllis Supple, and Heather Wallace.

Meet Mindy Douglas

Mindy is a pastor well-recognized for her work at the local church, presbytery, and PCUSA levels. As an organizing pastor, she “planted” Chapel in the Pines Presbyterian Church starting with a few followers, grew them into a thriving congregation of about 200 members, and led them to construct a beautiful new church building.

Education

2013-Present: Duke Divinity School, Doctor of Ministry, work in progress

1991-1995: Union Presbyterian Seminary, Master of Divinity with Honors

1993-1994: University of Glasgow, Scotland, Faculty of Divinity

1987-1991: Erskine College, BA in Biology, magna cum laude

Ministry experience

2006-Present: Organizing Pastor, Chapel in the Pines Presbyterian Church, Chatham County, NC

1999-2006: Associate Pastor, University Presbyterian Church, Chapel Hill, NC

1995-1999: Associate Pastor, First Presbyterian Church, Wilson, NC

1993-1994: Assistant Minister, The Old Parish Church, East Kilbride, Scotland

Service to the church and PCUSA

NEXT Church, Advisory Committee, 2013-Present

Lecturer, Sprunt Lecture Series, Union Presbyterian Seminary, May 2012

PCUSA: Committee on Theological Education, Executive Committee, 2012-Present;
Church Growth Committee, Chair, 218th General Assembly

Presbyterian Outlook Board, 2007-2011

Salem and New Hope Presbyteries: General Assembly Commissioner, Commission on Ministry, Council Member, Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations Task Force

Continuing education

NEXT Church Conferences

Montreat Worship and Music Conference

Geneva Consultation of Pastor-Theologians, Geneva, Switzerland, presented paper

The Presbyterian Mission Agency profiled Reverend Douglas in its "Women in Ministry" series. It highlighted her call as organizing pastor for a new church that in 6 years became a thriving congregation worshipping in a new building.

To read the profile, go to <http://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/all-women/mindy-douglas-adams/>.

NEXT Church, in which Reverend Douglas plays an active role, is a network of leaders across PCUSA who believe the church of the future will be more relational, more diverse, more collaborative, more hopeful, and more agile.

To read about the network, go to <http://nextchurch.net>.

In 2012, Reverend Douglas was the invited speaker for the Sprunt Lecture-ship, which brings outstanding speakers to Union Theological Seminary to discuss aspects of Christian thought and work. Her topic was "The Gospel in Our Time: Why Seminaries Have to Keep Doing What They've Always Done and Why They Have to Change."

To read the lecture, click the link at http://citppc.org/modules/info/?tac=2012_Sprunt_Lecture.

More Comments from the PNC

Mindy leads with both spiritual depth and organizational agility. She will empower our lay leaders to be spiritual leaders in the congregation as well as efficient, organized volunteers in ministry and church business.

Heather Wallace

As we were considering candidates, we were looking for a number of different skills, including preaching, community leadership, and Christian education. No one demonstrated abilities in each the way that Mindy did. In baseball, she would be called a "five-tool player." We are incredibly lucky to have her.

Luke Everett

Mindy cultivates within congregations a spirit of hospitality that welcomes the new, explores different ways of worshiping, and honors tradition. Her worship is welcoming and inclusive while feeling familiar.

Beth Stringfield

I am confident that Mindy will build on the legacy of Joe - sharing with us and our community her wisdom, empathy, spiritual depth, scholarship, and deep love for all God's children. We are truly blessed as a congregation to have her as our next Pastor and Head of Staff.

Phyllis Supple



Dear friends,

People will ask me today and in days to come, "What drew you to this place? What spirit and what vision did you find when you read of this church and first experienced the hopeful welcome of its people. What caused you to pause and pray and wonder what God was up to?" The short and easy answer is "the Holy Spirit." The longer and more complex answer has to do with the people who are already here - the PNC members who shared stories of this faith community, the faithful of this place I have known over the years, the pastors, staff, and members of this congregation who exhibit the love, peace, and grace of Christ in their lives, in their worship, in their care for one another and in their service to God's people in need.

When I began this journey with your PNC, I did not know where the Spirit would lead. What I learned along the way, as the process unfolded, was that the Holy Spirit is at work in this place, guiding and directing faithful and passionate people in the way of Christ. I also found the Spirit at work in me, drawing me to you, calling me to a new service with a new family of faith. First Presbyterian Church is a beacon of hope and grace in this world. It would be my honor and privilege to serve as your pastor as you continue to follow Christ and share God's unending love with the world.

With gratitude for God's surprising faith,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mindy". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.



Mindy presently lives in southern Chapel Hill with her son, Tyler, a high school junior, and her husband Tim (pictured with her above). They plan to move to Durham after Tyler graduates from high school.

Ministry to a congregation is in Mindy's blood. Her mother is a Presbyterian minister and her father is a church organist.

Mindy has many interests. She likes to watch and play basketball but is keeping the name of her favorite team a secret for now. She loves to read; her most recent books are *All the Light We Cannot See* and *Between the World and Me*. Mindy also loves music--of all kinds. She sings and plays the French Horn, guitar, and piano.

Being with friends and family is something she cherishes.

Final Comment from the PNC

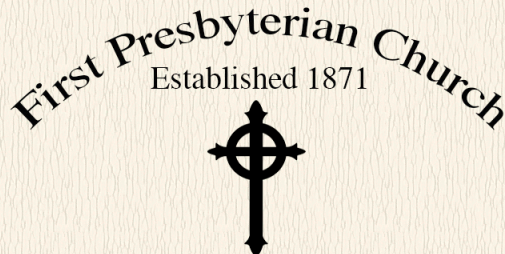
We were thrilled to have Mindy Douglas emerge as our unanimous choice for our next Pastor. She will be with FPC for worship on Sunday, May 1, 2016.

Choosing a Pastor

Over the past 14 months, the Pastor Nominating Committee has been in fellowship to discern who God would have us call as our next Pastor. We met over 70 times, most often on Sunday mornings but also on Wednesday evenings and Sunday afternoons. We first developed and posted our job description (the Ministry Information Form available on the FPC website). Next, we reviewed over 130 applications submitted to our committee. Our diverse applicant pool hailed from near and far and included those matched with us by the PCUSA call system, those who responded specifically (and often exclusively) to FPC's posting, and those referred to us by members or friends of the congregation.

As we considered applicants, we discussed sermons we'd listened to online and insights we gained by reading church websites and newsletters. We looked for pastors with spiritual foundations, talents, and life experiences that resonated with the FPC we know well and the FPC we see on the horizon. As we narrowed the field, we conducted ten interviews over Skype and honed our sense of who might best lead us forward as a downtown Durham church. As top candidates began to stand out, we worshiped in their churches and brought four to Durham to spend time in deeper conversation and mutual discernment. In our discussions, we grew confident that our seven voices echoed well the various perspectives, values, and needs of our larger congregation and community. We kept praying and called on the Spirit to lead us to the right person for FPC at this moment. We also felt the support of your prayers as we moved toward a decision.

And then—our choice became clear. We were thrilled to have a friend from down the road, Mindy Douglas, emerge as our unanimous choice for our next Pastor. We look forward to where she will lead us and to what great things God has in store for First Church Durham!



305 E. Main Street

Durham, North Carolina 27701

919-682-5511