

JULY 9, 2018

Meet Rev. Shane Page

DAVIDSON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH | PO BOX 718, 233 S. MAIN STREET | DAVIDSON, NC 28036

Welcome, Shane!

Rev. Shane Page is officially in his office at Davidson United Methodist Church and we thought it might be helpful to ask him a few general questions in order to get to know him and his family a little better.

Shane's first weekend in worship will be Saturday and Sunday, July 14/15.

A reception will be held after each service, so be sure to stop by and introduce yourself.



Tell us about yourself. How did you meet Christie?

I met Christie the summer before my first semester at Duke Divinity School. We both signed up for an initiative offered by the Divinity School called Project Bri(ddd)ge, the mission of which was to foster relationships between University students and the impoverished neighborhoods of Durham. We became fast friends that summer, continued our strictly platonic relationship through the first academic year, and kept in casual touch during our field internships the following summer.

When classes resumed in the fall of our second year, we began dating. In January, I proposed to her at the Old Well on UNC's campus, ensuring the Tar Heels would hold a fond place in her heart, and we married in May, 2002.

What kinds of things do your children, Jordan (12) and Davis (9) like to do?

My children love free play. Jordan is the artist of the family; she loves anything involving music, singing, art, fashion, or drama.

Davis loves the outdoors, Lego sets, Transformers, Spider-Man, Batman, Star Wars, or any activity - pretend or otherwise - involving explosions!

What was your very first thought when Bishop Leeland told you of your assignment to DUMC?

My first thought when hearing the news was, "Are you sure?" Then I saw visions of Jody Seymour, my pastor when I attended First UMC in Gastonia, and James Howell, my colleague at Myers Park, saying in very slow cadences, "Don't let us down!"

Since then, I have vacillated between unmitigated excitement and paralyzing fear. All of which is to say, I am honored to be here!

What do you see as the most difficult part of transitioning to a larger church? How can staff and members help you in your transition?

The most difficult part of transitioning to a larger church is feeling the weight of expectations. The most important thing I will need from the staff and the membership is patience (I will make mistakes) and their friendship. Reach out; let's get to know each other. We clergy know that, although we might speak with the

tongues of angels or have enough faith to move mountains, without love - which only comes through relationships - our preaching will be a noisy gong or a tinkling bell.

How would you describe your preaching style?

I suppose my preaching style is more on the didactic side, the teaching side. Nothing fires me up more than an interesting theological idea, or a wrinkle in the biblical text that makes me think, "Aha!" I do believe the point of all preaching is about one thing: God.

And yes, I know I talk too fast, but I have improved!

How do you come up with your sermons?

One of my passions is biblical literacy. Researchers have suggested that we live in a time when knowledge of the Bible among most US churchgoers is as low as it was when the Jesus movement first spread into the non-Jewish world. I see that as an incredible opportunity.

Instead of on topics, I often preach on certain books of the Bible. Let's go through John, for instance, or Ecclesiastes, or James. Let's really dig in and get a feel for the texture of these verses and the general contours of the theology at work behind them. Sure, every once in a while I'll pick a topic (a Methodist belief or practice, for example), but mostly I try sticking with the biblical text itself and let our "topics" emerge from there.

So, why do you wear that white clergy collar?

I wear the collar for many reasons. Here are a few: (1) The collar is the traditional uniform of the pastor. Doctors have uniforms. Soldiers have uniforms. Police officers have uniforms. A uniform says something, tells a story. The collar says, "I am about the work of God." (2) Simplicity. In Matthew 6, Jesus calls us to eschew our concerns about what we will wear. The collar allows me to keep it simple. I know what I'll wear each day. Plus, I'm colorblind. The black helps. (3) I tell people I wear the collar more for my sake than for the church's sake. The collar keeps me honest. I have bad days standing in the grocery line or idling in traffic like anyone else. The collar keeps me grounded as a public witness and ambassador of Jesus at all times. You want me to wear it!

I know it's odd and a little quirky, but the day will come when people will blink when they see me wearing *casual* clothes!