

Stacy Nowell
Associate Pastor



Information Packet

Letter of Introduction From the Associate Pastor Search Committee

Stacy Nowell
Candidate for Associate Pastor
at Harrisonburg Baptist Church



Stacy & husband Luke

The Associate Pastor Search Committee is proud to introduce you to Stacy Nowell as the candidate for the Associate Pastor position at HBC. Per the constitution, we are bringing a single candidate forward for your consideration to fill the vacancy created by the retirement of Reverend T. W. Johnson.

Stacy and her husband Luke reside in Dalton, Georgia. She has experience in chaplaincy, and with both youth and single adult ministry. Additionally, Stacy has experience in senior adult ministry having served as a volunteer chaplain providing pastoral care to residents at Lutheran Towers Senior Housing in Atlanta. (For more detailed information about her ministry experience see her attached biographical sketch).

Stacy excelled in her education, graduating from McAfee School of Theology in 2006 with a Master of Divinity degree earning a 3.99 Grade Point Average. At McAfee she served as a council member and then chairperson of the Student Advisory Council. She was elected and served as president of the 2006 graduating class. In 2006, Stacy received the Baptist Women in Ministry's Addie Davis Award, given annually to a female seminarian for outstanding leadership in preaching. She also received the McAfee School of Theology's Community Ministry Award given annually by the McAfee faculty to a graduating student "who by the nature of their calling...have ministered to the community of faith at McAfee." Stacy has earned five units of Clinical Pastoral Education at levels I and II, awarded by the Care and Counseling Center of Georgia.

She is approximately the same age T.W. was when he was called to HBC. She was born in 1980 – T.W. started at HBC when he was 30 years old.

Stacy has many gifts and abilities and will provide organizational, leadership, and execution skills, which complement very well HBC ministry team's skills. She is fundamentally committed to the person of Jesus Christ and is committed to loving and serving God's people, both those inside and those outside the church's walls.

We look forward to you getting to know Stacy and her husband Luke in their scheduled upcoming visit to HBC.

Stacy Nowell Bio


Stacy grew up in the Midwest. She has lived in a number of states across the Midwest and the Southeast, but calls Wichita, Kansas, where her parents and siblings still live, "home." Though her family did not attend church regularly, Stacy accepted Christ in her teens and subsequently sensed a call to ministry while in high school. In obedience to that call, though still not certain what shape it would take, she went to college at Baylor University in Waco, TX. Stacy pursued a B.A. in Religion, and while in Waco, she was very involved in her local church's college ministry, taking an active role in its leadership. Through her educational and ministry experiences, Stacy's sense of call to ministry was further refined, and she elected to go to seminary at McAfee School of Theology at Mercer University in Atlanta.

While at McAfee, Stacy served as the Graduate Students and Young Singles minister at First Baptist Church in Decatur, GA. She was ordained by First Baptist Decatur February 27, 2005. Most significantly, while at McAfee, Stacy met her future husband, Luke Nowell, whom Stacy describes as, "a wonderful companion and friend whose many gifts include intelligence, compassion and a servant spirit."

Following seminary graduation and during the year of their engagement, Stacy began a year-long chaplaincy residency at an Atlanta hospital to further hone her pastoral care skills. At the same time, Luke began a two-year pastoral residency at First Baptist Church of Dalton, GA, where Bill Wilson currently serves as pastor. During Luke's second year, after the two married and Stacy moved to Dalton, Stacy stepped in to serve as interim youth minister to the 100+ youth ministry. Since that time, while seeking church ministry placement, Stacy has been a substitute teacher to students in Pre-K through 12th grades, and she serves as the weekend chaplain at Dalton's hospital. She and Luke are thrilled at the prospect of serving at Harrisonburg Baptist Church -- Stacy as Associate Pastor and Luke as an active church member.

Stacy and Luke have been married for two years, and though they do not have children yet, they are the proud parents of a feisty but lovable cat named Oliver. Stacy enjoys reading, crafting, hiking, listening to music, talking with her husband, and playing with Oliver. Luke enjoys reading, particularly historical works, following Kentucky basketball, cooking, hiking, and watching movies. Luke's sense of ministerial call is leading him toward religious education, to teach at either the college or seminary level. His "next steps" will be to pursue a doctoral degree in either Theology or Church History. The two are looking forward to the prospective opportunity to share life and ministry with the congregation of HBC.

Now three fun facts to know about Stacy: At the age of 16 Stacy drove over 100+ mph on the German autobahn with her family in tow and in terror. (No, the 100+ mph is not a misprint.) Second, her first car was a 1978 Corvette, which her father bought "totaled." She and her father rebuilt the Corvette together. (Jack, Mike, Annette, and Jimmy have promised to monitor carefully Stacy's need for speed.) And finally, Stacy "claims" to be expert enough in Guitar Hero that she can not only outplay her husband, but also hold her own with any of our youth who want to take her on. (Actually, the ministry team made up this challenge—not Stacy.)



Letter of Reference
From William G. Wilson, Pastor
First Baptist Church, Dalton, GA

Dear Harrisonburg Baptist Church,

It is my distinct pleasure to write you a letter of introduction for Stacy and Luke Nowell. The providential manner in which God has led you to one another is nothing less than an inspiration to all of us who have had the privilege of being even a small part of this story. I have known and loved your church for many years. As a fellow pastor of your neighbors at Waynesboro's First Baptist Church, I knew, respected, and deeply appreciated your great church, its ministers, and ministries. As a colleague and friend of Jack Mercer, I have been impressed with his vision and passion for ministry. As the senior pastor of Stacy Nowell and her husband, Luke, during their time at First Baptist in Dalton, GA, I was blessed to work alongside one of the finest young ministers I have ever known. Now, for Stacy to have the opportunity to join the staff of your church, I am blessed, humbled and inspired by God's timing and call. I celebrate your potential call to her with great enthusiasm and expectation.

I told your pastor that as the Chair of the Board of Visitors at McAfee Theological Seminary in Atlanta, I have met numerous seminary graduates across several years. Stacy is, quite possibly, the most uniquely gifted and promising graduate I have had the opportunity to know well. She is supremely gifted in multiple areas. Her ministry among us in our church was far above our expectations, and our congregation fell in love with her and Luke alike, as I know you will. Luke is a gifted scholar and minister whose intellect and insights will be used by God in tremendous ways. You are going to have a chance to see why some of us feel the future of our Baptist tradition is bright. Stacy and Luke Nowell will help you believe that God is rising up a new generation of gifted and talented young clergy to lead us into the future with energy, wisdom and passion.

Please know that the Nowells leave behind a large contingent of fans and prayer partners when they cross the border of Georgia to come to the Shenandoah Valley. We believe in them and in what they represent. We believe they will learn much from you and your creative and imaginative ministries in the years ahead. We believe you will come to see them as a special gift from God for this season in the life of your congregation. I can honestly say that you, and they, are fortunate to have found one another. I will pray daily for you and for the work God has in mind for you to do together.

In the spirit of our God who continues to surprise us with His grace and provisions, I am sincerely yours in Him,

William G. Wilson, Pastor
First Baptist Church, Dalton, GA



ASSOCIATE PASTOR CANDIDATE SCHEDULE

Sunday, April 26th

Announcement of Stacy Nowell as candidate for Associate Pastor accompanied by information packet.

Monday, April 27th

Associate Pastor Candidate information packet distributed by email.

Wednesday, April 29th

Associate Pastor Candidate information packet sent out with newsletter.

Sunday, May 3rd

A church-wide informational meeting at 7 PM conducted by the Associate Pastor Search Committee in the fellowship hall.

Friday, May 8th

Stacy and Luke arrive for the weekend. They will visit with church members at Relay For Life that evening sometime between 6-8 PM.

Saturday, May 9th

Reception in the fellowship hall from 4 to 5 PM. Question and answer session open to all congregational members and attenders from 5 to 6:30 PM.

Sunday, May 10th

Stacy will preach in both the 9 and 11:10 AM services. Following lunch Luke and Stacy will fly back to Dalton, GA.

Wednesday, May 13th

A meeting in the fellowship hall at 6 PM for congregational feedback on candidate.

Sunday, May 17th

Vote on candidate in both 9 and 11:10 services. 75% majority needed for call.