

Staff Spotlight – Caitlyn Zold

Jeremiah 29:11: God says, “I know the plans I have for you. They are plans for good and not for harm, to give you hope and a future.” Having a dedicated minister to work with students at Davidson College is a plus for our congregation as well as the college. Pastor Caitlyn Zold exudes care and excitement in her role at Davidson College Presbyterian Church.

Pastor Zold grew up in Hartsville, South Carolina, raised by her mom and surrounded by a large family of aunts, uncles, grandparents, and great-grandparents who would “trade off” picking her up at school and host family cookouts and get-togethers. Hartsville was a great place to grow



up—an easy day trip to the beach! She

actually met her future husband during this time – little did she know that they would be married some day! It was late high school when Pastor Zold first felt the call to ministry but was not able to pursue that call as a young woman in a Southern Baptist church. Having a Presbyterian family and encouragement from her grandfather, Pastor Zold enrolled at Presbyterian College in Clinton, South Carolina. This was the beginning of a religious and personal journey.

Four years at Presbyterian College was super formative – a place that was more inclusive in welcoming everyone to the table – where women could participate in ministerial leadership. After her sophomore year, she moved her membership to First

Presbyterian Church of Hartsville and began again to discern her call to ministry. That discernment journey led Pastor Zold to serving as Pastoral Assistant at UKirk South Carolina, where she realized her call was particularly to ministry with college students.



Six months after graduating from Union Seminary in Virginia, a call from

Pastor Henry the day before Thanksgiving led Pastor Zold to accept the position of Associate Pastor of Campus Ministry at DCPC, spending the majority of her time with Davidson College students. Pastor Zold says “The students are so open. They are trying to figure it out – what’s new – where their place is.” She finds it beautiful to walk beside them in their pursuit.



Caitlyn and her husband, Matthew, live in the Huntersville area. They like the small town feel of Davidson yet Charlotte is close by if you want more excitement. There are many interests that keep her busy outside of the church. Favorite things to do are reading and sitting on her front porch with a good book. The cart outside of the Davidson Bookstore draws her attention every time she walks by it – a chronic book buyer. Relaxation also comes from being an amateur baker.



The most favorite place to visit happens to be Savannah, Georgia. Her husband lived there for a year after college, and they later became engaged and were married there. Another favorite place was Mwandi in Zambia, which included a visit to Victoria Falls and working at a local school. There was incredible hospitality! In our interview, we realized that we had a mutual connection – while in Africa she observed cataract surgery – the surgeon just happened to be from Salisbury and a close friend of mine! We closed our interview with a humorous reflection – her husband, Matthew, teaches wine classes at Total Wine and some of our DCPC members enjoy his classes!

DCPC is so fortunate to have this pastoral position but also to have Pastor Zold in that role!

~written by Judy Grissom on behalf of the Membership Committee