

Greetings from Rev. John Barnes



John was a Roswell, Georgia, teenager attending a Bible study in the basement of another teen's home, when he first asked Jesus into his life. He had gone to church all his life, but never realized, until then, the significance of actually saying the words "I am Yours." At that point he claimed the Christian faith for himself.

At the University of Georgia, John was involved in InterVarsity Christian Fellowship, led Bible studies and helped organize "large group" meetings. After graduating from UGA with a BA in history, he spent a summer in the Philippines working as a short-term missionary. After that stint overseas, he attended Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary in Boston. But after volunteering at a church and having the opportunity to preach, he felt that was the area God was calling him to and he, subsequently, pursued local church ministry.

After graduation in 1987, John was ordained in 1988 as a United Methodist deacon and in 1990 as an elder. Still interested in the dynamics of preaching, he pursued doctoral coursework in homiletics at Gordon-Conwell-Charlotte.

John married the former Catherine Sellers of Charlotte, North Carolina, and they have three children: Will, Katie, and Jack. Will, a financial manager and small business owner, loves living on "the edge" which is obvious by his Skydive Key West business. Katie, who lives in Marietta with her husband Ben (CDC chemist), is a small business consultant/website designer and equestrian dressage trainer. Jack, a recent Emory University graduate, works as an IT security analyst for Ernst Young (EY) and lives in Sandy Springs.

Catherine is a diabetes researcher working part time for Emory University School of Medicine. As a family they love traveling together; recent adventures include the Galapagos Islands and Turkey.

The Barnes family has served churches in Cartersville, Avondale Estates, Lawrenceville, Thomaston and, for the past 8 years, in Thomson. They are excited to now be at Fayetteville First UMC.