

New Digs for a New Church

Mindy Douglas, '95

This December, Chapel in the Pines Presbyterian Church will be moving into its new building in Chatham County, NC. The church was chartered in 2008, and organizing pastor Mindy Douglas (M.Div. '95) began working with the charter mem-

bers in 2006. The energy-efficient building has wooden pegs instead of nails; exposed beams that blend with the woods outside; and a wing with offices, classrooms, and a kitchen. Outside, the church is working on a memorial garden and a community garden, where members of the church and community can grow vegetables for the "Take and Eat" food pantry or for themselves.

As exciting as the new site is, it's not the best part of serving Chapel in the Pines. Mindy said being in a new church is full of opportunities and challenges. "You have so many people who come into the congregation, who join the church excited," she said, "and they don't have years of tradition saying, 'We've always done it this way.'" When the church first formed, they worshiped in a seafood restaurant for a year before moving to an elementary school. The unusual settings let the congregation focus on "creative and invitational and welcoming" worship, and that beginning made Chapel in the Pines the inclusive and affirming community that it still is. "The people who come to worship in a seafood restaurant or in a school are coming to worship there because they believe in the mission and the vision of the congregation," Mindy said, and they come to serve rather than be served. The "foundational building blocks" Mindy learned at Union now let her "maintain the integrity of the gospel no matter where we're worshiping or in what context," whether it's a seafood restaurant, a school, or a brand-new building.

Mindy Douglas will be one of our Sprunt lecturers on May 7-9, 2012.



Vital Stats

Mindy Douglas

Basics: M.Div. '95. Son, Tyler, is 12.

Path: Mindy went from First Presbyterian, in Wilson, NC, to being Presbyterian Campus Minister at UNC and a pastor at University Presbyterian Church in Chapel Hill before she was called to be an organizing pastor.

Fun facts: She will choose being with friends and family over anything else, loves to travel, is a big UNC basketball fan, has never figured out how to wear a neck scarf without looking silly, and doesn't let a day pass without eating a bit of dark chocolate.

Book recommendation: *God Is Not a Christian: And Other Provocations*, by Desmond Tutu .

Pre-worship ritual: Gum-chewing.

Links: Chapel in the Pines: <http://citppc.org/modules/info/>

Blog: <http://mindy-adams.livejournal.com/3040.html>

Twitter feed: <http://twitter.com/#!/mindyadams>