



I greet you in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ! I am truly privileged to serve as your Senior Pastor following six years at South Roanoke Church.

As the Scripture letter writer said of another congregation long ago, "I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints..." (Ephesians 1:15). Having served in Southeastern Virginia for twenty-two of my thirty-five years of service, Cheryl and I have watched with interest the growth in ministry at Warwick Memorial, especially as you have been served by our friends in the ministry. I am deeply struck by the faithfulness and stewardship of this congregation, as evidenced not only by the beautiful Celebration Center but also by your active and vital mission outreach. I am truly inspired by your vision and commitment as God has led you.

I began to sense very early in my life (late teenage years) that I wanted to be a minister, especially as I experienced the community and ministry of my local church youth group in Jacksonville, Florida, and at Chamberlayne Heights Church in Richmond. It was there that I crossed paths with a junior high biology teacher who also sensed a growing call to the ministry. After attending Randolph-Macon College and Duke Divinity School, Cheryl and I shared our first appointments at separate 2-point charges in Sussex County. Since then I have served as pastor of four congregations (Good Hope, Chesapeake; Bethany, Hampton; Trinity, Poquoson; South Roanoke) and as Campus Minister (Tidewater Wesley Foundation at ODU, NSU, and Tidewater Community College). Cheryl has spent most of her ministry in Higher Education (Chaplain, Virginia Wesleyan College; Medical Education Coordinator at Eastern Virginia Medical School; Campus Minister at CNU). She also served a number of years on "Family Leave" for the arrival of our two children (Chris from El Salvador in 1984 and Salina from South Korea in 1988) and to help look after my Father, George, who lived with us in the parsonage at South Roanoke and at the Virginia Veterans Care Center prior to his death last January. She is looking forward to her service as Senior Pastor of Central Church in Hampton.

We are the proud grandparents of three: Chris and Jessica's son Gabe (almost 4), daughter Kaleya (1), and daughter Tori (born May 15). On April 21 Chris deployed with the 82nd Airborne Division (US Army—Fort Bragg, NC) that has recently assumed control of aviation operations at Kandahar Airfield in south Afghanistan as a part of the surge of troops ordered by President Obama. His tour of duty there as Aviation Operations Specialist is 12 months where his parents are hopeful that he will be safely assigned to the airport hanger watching over helicopter operations. Our daughter, Salina, is currently attending Virginia Western Community College and anticipates entering VCU (pre orthodontics) as a junior next year.

We are looking forward to meeting each of you and sharing together with our new Associate Pastor Jessie Squires and all the staff in the exciting ministry of Warwick Memorial!

Rev. Bill

