



## Pastoral Candidate Biography

Hello! I am Rebecca Gresham-Kesner but you can call me Becca. I was born here in NJ and grew up in neighboring Ocean County. I have two brothers, one sister, and a gaggle of nieces and nephews. My mom is one of my heroes.

I graduated from Louisville Seminary in 2014 with a Master of Divinity and a Master of Arts in Spirituality from Bellarmine University the same year. My undergraduate work in Religious Studies was completed at Montclair State University here in NJ. I worked for a brief time in the film and video production industry prior to this adventure I call ministry.

My call to ministry has been an adventure; I never anticipated this would be my life and now I can't imagine it any other way. I am married to Paul and we have one daughter, Lilia. We also have three family pets Opal (we think she's a yellow lab), Sparkle and Paper Cut the cats. You can ask me about the Paper Cut's name when we meet! We will be coming to you from Mitchell, South Dakota home of the World's Only Corn Palace. I have spent an incredible amount of time in church basements working with youth groups and Sunday school kids. While I adore working with children of all ages, these days I find myself passionate about connecting all generations of the church so that we can all learn from one another. I was deeply moved by reading about Jesus' life and it has changed how I live. I can often be found immersed in a book or documentary about people of faith. I enjoy getting to know people's stories, so I tend to ask a lot of questions.

In my free time you can find me being creative. I enjoy doing crafts, making Italian food, writing, the arts (especially theatre) and cake decorating. Paul and I both like photography and take most of our family pictures, which makes it hard to find one with all of us in it! As a family we enjoy camping, going to the movies, playing with puppets, and game nights.



for Unto Us  
a Child  
is Born



## *Pastoral Candidate Biography – continued*

**Becca Trivia:** I drove a school bus for two years. I have an affinity for McDonald's diet coke that borders on unhealthy. This is Us is my current favorite show at least until the next season of Stranger Things is released on Netflix. I took a tie dye class this summer at Synod School.

Paul and I met in high school. He asked me to his Senior Prom, I said yes and here we are. Paul spent most of his childhood in Jersey City, before moving “down the shore”. He holds an AS in Film and Video Production. Paul loves being a dad. He is a technician by trade, meaning he fixes things, typically electronics. He drives all over for work and passes the miles listening to a variety of talk radio. In his free time you can find him playing guitar. Paul enjoys working on cars and hopes to one day restore a '57 Thunderbird. He tinkers with electronics and appliances, currently watches are his favorite thing to take apart and repair. He also makes his own bread.

**Paul Trivia:** He can identify cars by their taillights. He was likely named after Paul McCartney. He cannot watch enough of Forensic Files. He can make soft pretzels from scratch.

Lilia is in second grade. She enjoys Roblox, all things related to animals, and is a long time My Little Pony fan. She recently learned to ride a two-wheeler. She is very imaginative and loves to wear tie dye. Lilia has never met a thrill ride or roller coaster she didn't like.

**Lilia Trivia:** She would eat Mac and Cheese for every meal if she could. Her favorite youtuber is Dan TDM. Lilia will give you facts about animals, like a group of foxes is called an earth. Her favorite color is violet.

## Want to Know Even More?

## Come Hear Becca Preach!

### Sunday, December 10

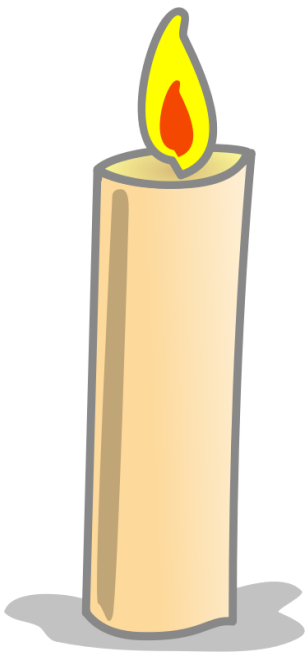
We will have a chance to hear our pastoral candidate preach on Sunday, December 10th. A congregational meeting will immediately follow worship and we will vote on acceptance of the candidate. If approved, Becca will begin her ministry with us January 8<sup>th</sup> with her first service on Sunday, January 14<sup>th</sup>.



## Urban Promise Christmas

Once again it is time to remember our little friends at Urban Promise. Jennifer Giordano, the Community Relations Director, has once again challenged Faith Church to collect gifts for middle school youth, both girls and boys. As always, all gifts for all ages are accepted.

**Please do not wrap the gifts.** Bring the gifts to church by **Sunday, December 10<sup>th</sup>** since we will deliver them on the 13<sup>th</sup>. The Mission Christmas Tree is in the Fellowship Room with ornaments that indicate age and gender. A list of ideas is under the tree. **Happy Shopping and Thank You from the Mission Committee!**



## Let's Turn On the Lights!

### Celebrate Christmas and Welcome Our New Pastor by Donating to a Lighting Fund!

We're asking for donations to get the lights back on in front of the church. This includes the two tall poles at the end of each driveway, several spotlights and – best of all – our sign!

The electrician's estimate is \$3,000 to fix everything. Currently, there's a short in the line so we need to replace the conduit from one entrance to the other and bring the wiring up to code. Any amount raised above \$3,000 will go toward future electrical fixes.

We are working with the contractor to get the work done before Christmas. We thank you for your generosity. Please make the check out to Faith Church with "Lights" in the memo.



## Christmas Eve Worship

Sunday, December 24

9:30 am Worship

7:00 pm Candlelight Communion Worship



*We had a great time with our Advent decorating. Many of the decorations were refreshed with new bows and new lights. We added a tree to the narthex and a pine garland was draped on the fence of the Children's Garden.*













## Thanksgiving Turkey Drive Thank You for the Donations!

Thanks for your generosity and giving spirit! The CCC received 175 Acme gift cards worth \$15 each so that families could purchase turkey or any other perishables for their Thanksgiving meal.

## Mat Workshops Begin Saturday, January 6

Join us every **Saturday from 10:00 to noon during January, February and March** for our annual mat workshops. We'll prepare plastic bags to be made into waterproof sleep mats for the homeless. This is easy to do and is suitable for all ages and skill levels. We will happily train you!

**Please note that we do not plan to collect bags this year.** Your past generosity has left us with tons of bags! See Bonnie Halle with any questions.



Adorable Sunday School Ornaments!

## Did You Miss a Sermon?

Did you miss a sermon or like one so much, you'd like to hear it again?

Our talented AV team loads the sermons to our web site.

Go to [www.faithchurch.org](http://www.faithchurch.org) and look for "Latest Sermons" at the bottom of the home page.





## Please Join the Fellowship Team!

Do you enjoy the coffee and refreshments after church each week? We have volunteers who set up, clean up, and bring treats for our fellowship time. **You can be part of the team** by signing up in the black notebook that is on the refreshment table. If you become one of the regulars, you will prepare fellowship less than once a month! Of course, training is provided!! You can also sign up to bring treats any week that's convenient for you. Sign up in the notebook, or contact the church office to help.



## New Prayer Request List

We're trying a new approach to prayers for our congregation, friends and family. A list of names and concerns (under general headings such as healing, hospitalized, blessings) will be printed in the bulletin each week. No medical details will be included. To have someone listed, please get their permission first then contact the church office.

## Church Bulletin Board

**Sundays in December:** Guest Pastor Janet Doyle will lead worship throughout the month.

**Sunday, December 10:** Pastoral Candidate Becca Gresham-Kesner will preach. There will be a congregational meeting immediately following worship to vote on the candidate.

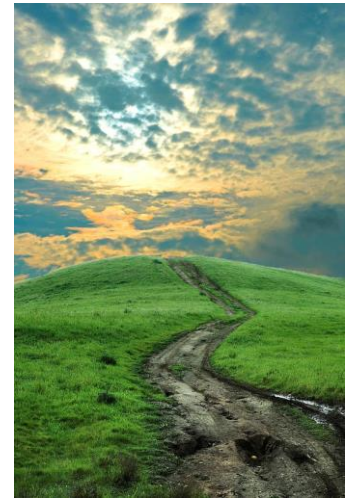
**Sunday, December 24:** We will have normal worship at 9:30 am and a candlelight communion worship at 7:00 pm.





## “Celebration of Life” Coming in January!

Sometime after New Year’s Day, we will be kicking off a new project at Faith. During the holidays, as you spend time with family and friends, think about how you celebrate life in this world and the spiritual path you followed to get here. Think also about favorite hymns and scripture and how you would like your life to be celebrated. Stay tuned for more detail.



## Advent Thoughts and Prayers

Are you feeling the pressure of the holiday? Buying gifts, attending parties, baking and entertaining and stressing out? **Remember that Jesus asks not for presents but for presence.** The greatest gift you can gift is to really be there for someone. Give your attention to others and give your devotion to Jesus. Your Christmas season will be blessed over and over.

Just as the world waited for the Messiah to be born, we wait for Him to come again. Here are some prayers for Advent:

- Ask God to open your eyes to Him and His handiwork even more.
- Ask God to reveal more of His truth, character and presence in your life.
- Prepare to be astonished by the work God is doing in and all around you during this season of waiting.





## Did You Know?

If you bank online, you can set up an **automatic payment** for your contribution to Faith Church. You'll never have to worry about forgetting your envelope!

## Pastoral Care Information

If you have any emergency pastoral needs before our new pastor arrives, you can contact **Reverend Lory Ryan** of Christ Presbyterian Church in Marlton at 609-413-6030. The Faith Church office will be open during its usual hours of 9 to 3 Monday through Thursday. The church office will be closed Christmas week.