

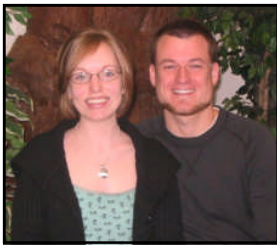
McPherNotes

March 12, 2009

SPECIAL
EDITION

Over the past several months, various leadership groups within the church—delegates, reserve delegates, Pastor’s Cabinet, Great Plains Conference Superintendent, Worship Arts Council—have been engaged with me in conversation and prayer regarding the appointment of a full-time associate pastor as well as a half-time worship arts director. Your

Board of Administration approved the process in December, and the Society approved the 2009 budget which accommodated for both additions to the staff. I am pleased to announce the hiring of these individuals and look forward to more formal opportunities to introduce them and their families to the broader church family in the coming weeks. — Pastor Deborah Somerville



Associate Pastor (full-time)

**Rev. Dallas and Jerilyn
Burgeson**

Start Date: March 23, 2009

Dallas sensed the calling to pastoral ministry at the age of 17. He pursued that calling and enrolled at Central Christian College where he was a 2004 summa cum laude graduate with a bachelor’s degree in ministry. He is currently enrolled in a master’s program in theological studies through Fuller Theological Seminary. Dallas served as associate pastor to the Wichita Northwest Free Methodist Church for two years, and as assistant to the pastor of the Emporia Hope Community [Free Methodist] Church before entering the master’s program.

Dallas will continue his on-line (and occasional on-site) course work while serving in the full-time position as associate pastor. General responsibilities among us will include the development and oversight of a comprehensive discipleship curriculum, as well as training and deployment for cell groups, outreach efforts, and front door ministries. In addition, he will provide membership training cycles and assist occasionally with preaching as well as pastoral care. Because of his gifting in worship and music, he will also assist in this area when called upon.

Dallas and Jerilyn will add significantly to the life and health of the McPherson FMC and community. He states: *“I believe that discipleship is something that undergirds my thinking and approach to every aspect of ministry. Teaching, training, and encouraging are all ways of serving that I have found to be most rewarding for me and most helpful for others....my ultimate desire has always been to go deeper in the faith and to talk about things that will make a real impact in human lives. Theology, philosophy, human experience, and spiritual experience are the things that fascinate me and drive me to apply the fruit I find in them to life and people with real struggles and real dreams.”*



Worship Arts (half-time)

Rebekah and Jason Neighbors
Merris Aubrey (5), Owen John (21 months)

Start Date: April 13, 2009

Rebekah is currently Minister of Worship Arts at the Waterloo Church of the Nazarene in Edmond, Oklahoma. She is a 2005 summa cum laude graduate of Southern Nazarene University where she earned a bachelor’s degree in English. Her musical training and experience span almost two decades, from childhood through her college and post-college career when, as a college senior, she became an intern at a Nazarene church in Oklahoma City.

Over the past six years Rebekah has obtained a wide range of experience in worship arts. She directs a sanctuary choir as well as a contemporary praise team. She plans and leads Sunday worship that incorporates both classic hymnody as well as current compositions. Writing and compiling dramatic readings and dramas for inclusion in weekly and seasonal productions is a part of her professional repertoire.

Along with excellent musical abilities, Rebekah also possesses strong organizational and people skills. She recruits and organizes groups and ensembles, and creates all the visual elements required for worship, such as video, still images, song lyrics, and platform décor. In addition, she works closely with technical crews to provide optimal sound and lighting to enhance the worship experience.

All of the experience mentioned above will serve Rebekah well as she begins her half-time assignment at the McPherson FMC. *“My goal as a worship leader and director of worship arts is to guide God’s people toward more fully understanding their lives through His eyes—in their relationships with Him, with each other, and with a seeking world. Music and the arts have the ability to open up that direct line to the heart of God. As subjective an experience as worship is, I hope to bring an understanding that worship is how we live our lives during the week, and then how we come together to celebrate and praise God for what He is doing.”*

Transition Teams

Pastor Deb has asked two transition teams to serve both families as they anticipate and enter into the rhythms of the church and community. They will act as liaisons with the families to assist with communication, care and assimilation. Feel free to contact any of them if you have questions or suggestions.

Burgeson Transition Team

- Linda Kenney
- Bob Green
- Shirley Esau

Neighbors Transition Team

- Don and Margie Mason
- Barb Claassen

Looking Ahead

Sunday, March 22

We will introduce Dallas and Jerilyn during the morning worship service and give them opportunity to share a few words.

Palm Sunday, April 5 — Name Tag Sunday

The Neighbors Family will join us on the platform for a brief introduction and greeting. Following that service, both the Burgesons and the Neighbors will be our guests at a **reception** immediately following the service.

Once both families decide upon and settle into their new residences, we will announce ways in which we can all participate in housewarmings to further welcome them into the community.