

Faith Presbyterian Church, Blue Ridge GA

Ministry Opportunity for Pastor or Lay Person

Faith Presbyterian Church chartered by Cherokee Presbytery in 2004 is located in Blue Ridge GA, and draws participants from Fannin County as well as several of the surrounding counties in Georgia and from neighboring communities in North Carolina and Tennessee.

Faith is an active and engaged congregation that looks to express its lively faith in Jesus Christ in every aspect of its shared life – in worship, fellowship, learning, mission and service. In every facet of its activity the congregation seeks to live out and give expression to its declaration, *“At Faith, all are always welcome!”*

The life of the congregation is nurtured by and expressed in well-prepared, thoughtful, engaging and passionate weekly Services of Worship; a number of active small groups for learning and mutual support; an adult choir of around twenty members; significant hands-on engagement with a number of local, regional, national and international mission projects; a Shepherd Group program for the care of members and friends; and an active presence on social media. In each of these areas there is significant and active participation by members and friends.

The congregation has seen, and continues to see, increasing growth in the number of people who participate actively in the life and mission of the congregation (See Table 1 below). This growth and the desire to best equip the congregation for its expanding future mission led to a decision in 2016 to purchase land and develop a plan for the construction of its very first church building. The construction of this new building is currently ongoing on a prominent site adjacent to the main Highway 515 just to the east of the city of Blue Ridge. (The anticipated completion date of this project is the first quarter of 2020). Members and friends of the congregation pledged over \$950,000 toward the new building which we view as a base of operations for our mission and outreach in the community. In 2018 the congregation was awarded a \$50,000 grant in support of the new building from the Sam and Helen R. Walton Award through the Presbyterian Mission Agency and has secured mortgage financing through The Presbyterian Investment and Loan Program.

The congregation is seeking to anticipate the future opportunities and challenges arising from its growth and hopes. These increasing needs are most obvious in the areas of pastoral care, program development, and community outreach.

It is the desire of the Session to be faithful stewards and plan for the evolving future needs in church and community so that the church can continue to minister effectively with, for and alongside this growing congregation, in all that the church currently does and might choose to do in the future.

The Session of Faith Presbyterian Church is, therefore, looking to identify and appoint a Pastor or Lay person familiar with, and in sympathy with, the witness of the Presbyterian Church (USA), and our congregation, who has the balance of relevant education and background, and range of gifts, skills and experience, to partner with the congregation and our Pastor, Dr. Jim Simpson, to help our church maintain, strengthen and develop its ongoing mission and ministry.

The Session is seeking to identify and appoint a person with gifts for leadership in ministry and service who can bring and use their own skills and experience in certain defined aspects of the life of the congregation to which such a person would bring and offer the most experience or greatest skills. The specific responsibilities and the title of this position, and all relevant terms and conditions, including compensation, will be negotiated with a candidate in the light of the needs and hopes of the congregation, and the person's background, experience and gifts.

If you would like to hear more about this possibility for focused and creative ministry or if you can see yourself aligning your gifts, skills and passions for ministry in partnership within this growing, welcoming and forward-looking congregation please contact our Pastor, Jim Simpson.

Jim.Simpson@tds.net or (706) 374-5912

Faith Presbyterian Church is currently located at 56 Mountain in Blue Ridge GA 30513. The church's mailing address is: Faith Presbyterian Church PO Box 2668 Blue Ridge GA 30513

Faith is a member congregation of Cherokee Presbytery. Joel Alvis, the Stated Clerk/Mission Coordinator and the relevant Ministry Team of Cherokee Presbytery are aware of this initiative and stand ready to give any needed advice and guidance in defining this appointment.

The church website: <https://faithpresbyterianusa.org/> The 2018 Annual Report of the Congregation can be found at: <https://faithpresbyterianusa.org/annual-report>

Other Contacts from Faith Presbyterian Church

Frances Young Clerk of Session femyoung26@aol.com (407) 325-3334

Chuck Huckleberry, Personnel Committee, Chair chuckleberry3@gmail.com (404) 985-0840

Table 1: Faith Presbyterian Church: Membership and Worship Attendance

Year	Membership	Worship Attendance
2012	59	41
2013	72	59
2014	90	68
2015	108	76
2016	110	77
2017	118	79
2018	135	90
2019 (to 9/15)	159	109