



# The James Island Presbyterian Church

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April 7, 2015

Dear Friends,

Our Interim Pastor Nominating Committee is thrilled to notify you that we have selected a candidate to serve our congregation! The Lord was certainly at work through this process and we feel that our selection is precisely what we need at this time.

Reverend Sam Martin comes to us from First Presbyterian Church in Hilton Head. A brief background on Sam and his family can be found on the reverse of this letter. Sam will begin working in the office this Monday, April 13<sup>th</sup> and will lead worship on April 19<sup>th</sup> for both the 8:30 and 11:00 a.m. services.

In order to help Sam get to know our congregation, we are in the process of updating our pictorial directory. If your picture is not currently in the directory, please contact Cameron Smith ([cameron@jamesislandpc.org](mailto:cameron@jamesislandpc.org)) to email a picture or arrange for her to take your picture. Also, please plan to attend our annual Picnic on the Farm at the Tumbleston Farm on Sunday, April 26<sup>th</sup>, from 4-7 p.m. where we will all have an informal opportunity to get to know Sam. Sign up to enjoy a great picnic with kayaks, hayrides, and time to relax under the oaks.

A special thanks to our committee members, Beth Robertson, James Meek, Stephanie Pritchett, Jane Corbin, Andy Fairey, and Cameron Smith for their tenacity in helping to find such a stellar candidate!

In Christ,

Melissa VandeWiel, Chair of the Interim Pastor Nominating Committee

# Welcome Reverend Sam Martin and Family

A South Carolina native, Sam has been in ministry since 1986 serving churches in the Western North Carolina and North Carolina Annual Conferences of the United Methodist Church. He has served in multiple church charges, established churches as a Solo Pastor, and Lead Pastor in a new Church Development in Cary, North Carolina. Sam served First Presbyterian Church as Minister for Youth and Families since 2006, prior to transferring into the Charleston Atlantic Presbytery as a Teaching Elder. Sam was installed as Associate Pastor for Mission, Youth and Families at First Presbyterian Church in August of 2009. Prior to joining First Presbyterian Church, Sam served as an Area Director for the Fellowship of Christian Athletes in eastern North Carolina providing leadership for twenty five Counties. Sam played collegiate baseball at Louisburg Junior College under the leadership of North Carolina Hall of Fame coach Russell Frazier. He was captain of the 1981 Hurricane team, leading them to a third place finish at the Junior College World Series in Grand Junction, Colorado. After signing a letter of intent with Clemson University he was drafted and signed a professional contract with the Cleveland Indians organization. After being released, he signed a free agent contract with the St. Louis Cardinals achieving the AAA level. His six year career ended in the spring of 1986.

Sam graduated from South Mecklenburg High School in Charlotte, North Carolina in 1979. He went on to earn the A.A.S. degree from Louisburg College, a B.A. from UNC-Asheville and a Master of Divinity degree from Duke University. Sam was born in 1961 in Columbia, South Carolina the third of four children to Frank and Betty Martin. He is married to his bride of 28 years, Amy Strong Martin who works as a Registered Nurse and is also from South Carolina. They have two children, Caleb 20, a sophomore Army Contract at the Citadel in Charleston, South Carolina. Amy Kate, 17, is a junior at Hilton Head High School and Co-Captain of the Varsity Lacrosse team there. Anyone who has met Sam has to be impressed by his very positive outlook, high energy, strong faith, and leadership abilities.

