**Pastoral staff bios**

**THE REV. DR. AGNES W. NORFLEET**

**PASTOR/ HEAD OF STAFF**

Referring to herself as a “prenatal Presbyterian,” the Rev. Dr. Agnes W. Norfleet, (who prefers to simply be called Agnes) grew up on the campus of Union Seminary where her father, an ordained minister, served as business manager, and her mother, a trained Christian educator, wrote children’s books and church school curriculum. A graduate of Davidson College, and Union Presbyterian Seminary, she earned a D. Min. in Bible and Preaching from Columbia Theological Seminary.

Ordained in 1987, she has previously served as Associate Pastor for Community Ministry at Central Presbyterian, Atlanta;  Pastor of North Decatur Presbyterian Church in Decatur, Ga., from 1992-2005, and Pastor of Shandon Presbyterian Church in Columbia, SC, from 2005-2012.

While preaching and administration are her primary roles at BMPC, she has a special interest in outreach and mission, and Christian education for all ages. A recognized preacher who seeks to proclaim the gospel with creativity and relevance, Agnes is also an accomplished teacher who engages with Biblical scholars and theologians, having 30 years of experience of journeying with others through joyful and difficult seasons of life.

She serves the wider Presbyterian Church (USA) as a Trustee of Union Presbyterian Seminary, is an associate editor of “Journal for Preachers,” a frequent guest preacher for denominational conferences, and is the author of numerous articles and published sermons. Agnes’ family includes her husband, Larry Arney, an architect who currently works with Project HOME, a Philadelphia non-profit organization working to alleviate homelessness; and two sons: James and Winston.

Agnes began her ministry with us in February 2013.

**THE REV. REBECCA KIRKPATRICK**

**ASSOCIATE PASTOR FOR ADULT EDUCATION & MISSION**

Rebecca grew up in Pittsburgh as a member of the East Liberty Presbyterian Church where her faith was shaped at an early age. It was here, where her parents have been active members for over 40 years, Rebecca began to understand the connection between faith and mission and where she first sensed a call to ministry. As a church youth, she traveled to Malawi and learned to value international ministry, especially mission done in partnership.

After graduation from George Washington University, and McCormick Theological Seminary, she was called to Sunnyside Presbyterian Church in South Bend, Indiana where she served as an associate pastor for ten years. In seminary, she met her husband, Joshua Yoder, also a theology student. Joshua holds a doctorate in New Testament studies from The University of Notre Dame.

Rebecca, Joshua and their son, Owen, served as mission co-workers with Presbyterian World Mission and The Evangelical Theological Seminary in Cairo, Egypt from 2013 - early 2015. While there, Rebecca instructed Masters of Divinity students in theological English, oversaw the development of online courses, offered resources for U.S. supporters and congregations, and hosted visiting groups engaging in mission partnerships.

Rebecca began her ministry with us in July 2015.

**THE RACHEL PEDERSEN**

**ASSOCIATE PASTOR FOR CHILDREN & FAMILY MINISTRY**

A cradle Presbyterian, Rachel was baptized in Newport News, Virginia, raised in Idaho, and has served the church in places as far as Ghana and South Africa. She was privileged to have served as a student minister at the Brick Presbyterian Church in New York City. Before arriving here, Rachel was an associate pastor at First Presbyterian Church in Bloomington, Indiana. She studied International Relations at Carleton College in Minnesota and completed her Master of Divinity at Princeton Theological Seminary.

Moving from a life-long passion to walk with children in their faith journey, she completed her certification as a Christian Educator in 2012. You might just see her out walking her standard poodle, Basil.

Rachel began her ministry with us in August 2014.

**THE REV. FRANKLYN C. POTTORFF**

**ASSOCIATE PASTOR FOR CONGREGATIONAL LIFE & STEWARDSHIP**

A native of the Midwest and child of the Church, Frank grew up curious to navigate the ways that faith and culture intersect. After matriculating at Franklin College in Indiana, where he studied editorial journalism and religion. He continued his education at the Divinity School of Wake Forest University. There, he cultivated his sense of call to ordained ministry and cemented his love for long conversations over good coffee about theology, history and politics, and the work and witness of the Reformed Tradition.

Following seminary and chaplaincy at a children’s hospital, Frank accepted a call to become the solo pastor of First Presbyterian Church in Mt. Sterling, Kentucky. Over the course of his five and a half years as pastor there, Frank leaned into his gifts to discover the joy of working to help God’s people discover the abundant life.

Frank is married to Abby, and their lives are enriched by their two small sons and their totally depraved Australian Shepherd.

He began his ministry with us in June 2017.

**BRIAN K. BALLARD**

**ASSOCIATE PASTOR FOR PASTORAL CARE AND SENIOR ADULTS**

Prior to entering Princeton Seminary, Brian spent six years in leadership roles in the non-profit sector. He was the Chief Operating Officer for The Evangelical Association for the Promotion of Education, an organization founded by Pastor Tony Campolo to establish schools and universities in developing countries. He later became the Director of Development at Haiti Partners, which helps Haitians change Haiti through education. It was during this time that Brian felt a profound sense of call to engage in God’s work.

While a chaplain intern at the University Medical Center of Princeton, Brian cared for the souls of senior adults and ministered to patients experiencing psychological crises. He recognized that his passion and talents lay in providing pastoral care and ministering to senior adults.

As a church intern at Brick Presbyterian Church in New York City, Brian is the first to be called back for a second year.

Brian loves hearing the stories of people of all ages but describes himself as an “old soul” who has a passion for working with older adults. He brings energy and a vision for inter-generational engagement that will serve the whole community of BMPC believers.

Brian met his wife Amy when she was a student at Eastern University. Amy is an English as a Second Language (ESL) teacher, and she and Brian live in Princeton with their cat Warrior Princess.

Brian began his ministry with us in June 2019.

**LEIGH DeVRIES**

**ASSOCIATE PASTOR FOR YOUTH AND THEIR FAMILIES**

Leigh DeVries grew up in Nashville, Tennessee, in a family with a long line of Presbyterian pastors. She attended Rhodes College in Memphis, majoring in religious studies with a minor in music. She served as a youth minister in Nashville, beginning her seminary education through the Center for Youth Ministry Training. Two years later, Leigh moved to Princeton, New Jersey, to attend Princeton Theological Seminary. She graduated with a Master of Divinity, an Master of Arts in Christian Education and Formation, and a certificate in Women, Theology and Gender. She currently serves as the Associate Director of an innovative community-based youth ministry in Bend, Oregon. Leigh will move to Bryn Mawr with her wife, Jenni Herold, and their dog Otis.

As a minister of the Gospel, Leigh seeks to cultivate spaces where all persons – especially young people – see themselves and one another as profoundly valued and unique expressions of their Creator. Leigh has an obvious passion for youth ministry and a gift for connecting with youth of all ages and backgrounds. Her experience in youth ministry in a large church has given her a host of ideas and experiences to bring to our youth programs at BMPC.

From Leigh’s statement of faith: “I believe in a God who is utterly with us, regardless of social status, nationality, religion or any signifier that separates us... Love is the what, the why, the how of who God is.”

Leah begins her ministry with us in July 2019.