

Saint Giles Presbyterian Church
5101 Oak Park Road
Raleigh, NC 27612
(919) 787-4790
office@saintgiles.org

August 19th, 2020

I am delighted to be invited to serve St. Giles in this transitional moment. I've only been in Raleigh for a year, so you give me a longed-for community. I hope that my gift to you will be stability and continuity as you live through a pastoral transition in the already disruptive era of the pandemic.

Pastors and churches jumped into virtual life in the first two weeks of March. It was an amazing feat: nothing prepared us for the challenge. We all thought it would be over in a few months. Here we are in August and many say we will live virtually until next Spring.

It is a daunting time. And yet, the people of God have ancient muscles with which to face the challenges. Our story is one of hope and resilience born of our faith in God, embodied in Jesus the Christ. My greatest task is to encourage this congregation to live into that hope.

In the next month, I want to listen and learn about St. Giles. In the first two weeks I will meet one-on-one with each staff person and member of Session. I will pour through (sometimes boring) documents like Session minutes, annual reports and budgets. I want to quickly understand both your structures and your dreams.

You may see little changes to the website and worship bulletins. I've been watching pastoral colleagues create worship via podcast, FaceBook, You-Tube and Zoom. We'll continue the podcast form of worship, tweak it here and there, and ask for your ideas and feedback. St. Giles has a dream team of musicians. I'm looking forward to working with them.

Emmie Brown has been a quickly responsive, and smart administrator. I was a bit amused to discover she was a "double preachers' kid." I now know that her knowledge of congregational life is simply part of her DNA!

I will be busy but never too busy to receive a phone call and an invitation to meet you personally – face to face (or mask to mask) in your backyard, or by a phone call or Zoom. After I meet with leaders and staff, my next priority is to meet with people who need a pastoral visit/conversation out of deep need -- grief, illness, fear or just plain loneliness. It is never a bother and always a heartfelt pleasure to do so.

I will be in the office on Mondays and Wednesdays. You can reach me through email, Rebecca@saintgiles.org or on my cellphone: 970-819-9929. To schedule a pastoral call, please contact Emmie at the church office. She's managing my calendar.

Blessings,

Rev. Rebecca Kuiken

Training at Kirk of Kildaire Presbyterian Church

The Kirk of Kildaire Justice and Equality Taskforce would like to invite you to attend a fascinating and informative training presented by the Racial Equity Institute, <https://www.racialequityinstitute.com>.

This virtual presentation will enlighten and inspire you with stories and data regarding racial inequity in today's society. This training comes highly recommended by church and community leaders. We hope it will be a springboard for us to learn ways to grow and respond to racial inequities.

The training will take place on Saturday, August 29 from 9:00am-12:00noon (with 3 breaks included) via ZOOM, and there is a non-refundable cost of \$25 per person. There is an online payment option on the Kirk giving page www.kirkofkildaire.org under "Ways To Give", "Online Giving and Registrations/Other Payments and Registrations" OR you can mail a check made out to the Kirk of Kildaire with REI noted on the memo line.

Once you have paid you can register and secure your spot here. <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10Co84AA4AF2DA1F58-kirk>

Helping Hand Mission Needs Your Help!

The Helping Hand Mission could use a little help! With everything going on lately, Helping Hand is in need of nonperishable food and has requested canned goods, especially anything with protein. They said their feeding of the neighborhood has increased significantly.

Please bring any donations to the church office on Monday afternoon (the 24th), or contact Karen Patterson. She can swing by and pick up items from your house Tuesday the 25th or Wednesday the 26th.

Church Sanctuary Available for Meditation

If you would like to visit the church sanctuary for quiet prayer and meditation, please contact the church office. We will schedule a time for it to be available for you, and provide you with a list of guidelines to ensure safety for you and all others at Saint Giles.

If you need assistance with shopping or other errands, or can assist with these needs, please contact Emmie (office@saintgiles.org).