

OUR NEW CO-PASTORS

On April 18, 2010, First United Presbyterian Church celebrated the installation of Co-Pastors, Revs. Jan and Philip Butin. The Butin's come to FUPC with a history of service in a number of positions within the Presbyterian Church.

They moved to Fayetteville from San Francisco where Rev. Dr. Philip Butin served as President and Professor of Theology at San Francisco Theological Seminary, and where Rev. Jan Butin was an active volunteer leader for the seminary and Redwoods Presbytery.

Jan was raised in a Lutheran family in Sioux City, Iowa. She graduated from the University of Iowa with a degree in Journalism and Spanish in 1977, and served as Parish Worker for Zion Lutheran Church in Iowa City. Phil grew up in Wichita, Kansas, in the Episcopal Church. In 1970 (at age 15), he and his older brother rode bicycles from Wichita through Northwest Arkansas and back, visiting the University of Arkansas. He began ministry as a youth director for Eastminster Presbyterian Church of Wichita. He received an undergraduate degree in Philosophy in 1977 from Wheaton College. After graduation, he became Director of Educational and Youth Ministries for St. Andrew Presbyterian Church in Iowa City, including a focus on campus ministry to the university. Jan and Phil met during ecumenical activities in Iowa City; they were married in 1981. Moving to California, the Butin's graduated together from Fuller Theological Seminary in Pasadena in 1986, each with a Masters of Divinity degree. While there, they were Co-Ministers to Youth for the San Marino Community Presbyterian Church. Upon graduation, the couple moved to North Carolina so Pastor Phil could pursue a doctoral degree in Christian Theology and Worship at Duke University. Pastor Jan was Minister to Youth at First Presbyterian Church in Raleigh until an opportunity arose in November 1987 for them to be ordained as Co-Pastors of the nearby Oxford and Nutbush Presbyterian Churches. They led the Oxford congregation in building an ongoing partnership with a local African American PCUSA congregation. Rev. Dr. Phil Butin completed his Ph.D. in 1991.

Two years later, they followed God's call to pastoral ministry in Albuquerque, where Pastor Jan served first as Parish Associate, then as Associate Pastor at Covenant Presbyterian Church, concentrating on visitation and pastoral care, family support and deacon ministry, and creative worship and education. Phil was Pastor of Shepherd of the Valley Presbyterian Church, a growing multicultural congregation with an emphasis on reaching out with the love and grace of God to all. He was co-founder of the statewide Ecumenical Institute for Ministry, which provides theological education for lay leaders from a variety of mainline Protestant denominations and the Roman Catholic Church. After serving in New Mexico for nine years, Pastor Phil accepted the offer to be seminary president and professor in 2002. Over the years, both have served the greater church extensively at presbytery, synod, and General Assembly levels.

With their children, Matthew and Kristen, in college, a door opened for the Butins' return to pastoral ministry together. The FUPC congregation is delighted to have the Revs. Butin co-pastoring our church, and we look forward to exciting and meaningful days ahead as, together, we strive to follow our mission statement: "called to be a light on the hill, we boldly proclaim and serve Christ, the hope of our changing world."