

Biographical Statement
Susan H.E. Lewis
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Although I spent most of my childhood in Raleigh, NC as part of the White Memorial Presbyterian congregation, I was born in San Antonio, Texas and baptized in a United Methodist church that my parents were attending during my father's medical residency. Confirmation and youth group at White Memorial were large influences in my life and faith formation.

When I went to Davidson College, I became interested in psychology and religious studies. I realized that I wanted to be able to incorporate faith and spirituality in a knowledgeable way into whatever clinical setting I might find myself. I also became interested in ministry and wanted to be able to do the reverse. I wanted to be able to incorporate psychology in a knowledgeable way into whatever ministry setting I might find myself. My psychology advisor suggested that I go to seminary and look into the field of Pastoral Counseling. I was grateful to find a dual degree program offered by Union Presbyterian Seminary and Virginia Commonwealth University in which I could earn both my Masters of Divinity and Masters of Social Work. I graduated from this program in 2005, after which Dan and I, having been married the year before, moved to Charlotte where I was ordained to the validated ministry of pastoral counseling as a Staff Therapist at the Presbyterian Samaritan Counseling Center. While I built my client load and gained my licensure as a Licensed Clinical Social Worker, I also served part-time for two years at First Presbyterian Church of Charlotte as the Child and Family Outreach Coordinator. During this time, Dan and I lived in the manse at Walkersville Presbyterian Church, where he was a solo pastor. Our daughter Elizabeth was soon born in 2008.

After four years in this setting, Dan was called to be the solo pastor at First Presbyterian Church of Statesboro, GA where we spent eight wonderful years. Our daughter Elizabeth grew into an eight-year-old, our son Jeffrey was born in 2014, and I built a private-practice as a psychotherapist while serving as a Minister at Large in the Savannah Presbytery.

Now it is time for our family's next chapter as we settle into life in Wilmington. We are very excited for Dan to be serving at First Presbyterian of Wilmington and I am already enjoying my work at the Community Counseling Center (formerly the Presbyterian Counseling Center) as a therapist on staff. I also look forward to serving my church, presbytery, and denomination as I have in the past.