

# WINFREE MEMORIAL BAPTIST CHURCH

August 28, 2005

3:00 p.m.

**Welcome!** **Dr. Tom McCann**

**Recommendation from the Ordination Council** **Dr. Mike Weaver**

**Prelude** *Great is Thy Faithfulness* **arr. Rice**  
Jennifer Williams

**Invocation** **Elizabeth Bartley**

**Call To Worship (based on Psalm 84)** **Cynthia Davis**

Let us say clearly why we have gathered here today:

**We have entered this space to worship God! With the Psalmist, we declare: How lovely is Your sanctuary, O Lord; it satisfies a deep longing within us to enter Your courts. We flock to Your dwelling place as sparrows wing homeward to a nest. We gather-in to sing Your praise!**

Blessed are those who dwell in Your house, O Lord; they are ever praising You.

**Better is one day in Your courts than a thousand elsewhere; better to be a doorkeeper in the house of God than to be an honored guest in the dwellings of wickedness.**

And with what over-arching attitude do we come to this special place?

**We come with grateful hearts filled to overflowing! We are grateful for the treasure of salvation; grateful for the gift and the task of grace; grateful for God's ministers, living and deceased, whose faithfulness among us has helped to bring us to this hour; grateful for men and women who still heed God's call to minister as priests and prophets, speaking comfort and challenge, confronting us always with the power and the promise of Good News; grateful for the certain knowledge that our God is the Author of the Future, and that with God all things are possible!**

No good thing does the Lord withhold from those who walk uprightly. O Lord, blessed are those who put their trust in You.

**We do trust the Lord, and today we re-commit ourselves to walk humbly in His ways. O Lord of hosts, hear our prayer: look with favor upon the faces of those who have come to worship You.**

Let us now worship the Lord, the Almighty, in grateful and glad adoration!

**Hymn 14** *Praise to the Lord, the Almighty* **Neander**

**Scripture Readings for Today** **Elizabeth Evans**

Old Testament Lesson: Jeremiah 1: 4-10

New Testament Lesson: John 15:4-5, 8-10, 12-16

Leader: This is the Word of God for the people of God.

People: **Thanks be to God!**

**Sermon** **The Choice Was God's!** **Rev. Anna Kate Ellerman**

## Music Response

### *Shine on Us*

Smith

Susan Ellis, Meredith Paul, Shirley Stover  
Billye Yeager, accompanist

*Lord, let the light of Your face shine on us . . . let Your grace fall on us . . .  
let Your love come over us, that we may be saved, that we may have life to  
find our way in the darkest night . . . let Your light shine on us.*

## The Charge to the Ordination Candidate

Rev. Michelle Myers

## The Ordination Covenant

Dr. Weaver

**Leader:** In the Gospel of John, Jesus said, "You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last."  
Abby, do you trust that you are truly called by God and the Church to the life and work of ministry in the name of Jesus Christ?

**Candidate: I do.**

**Leader:** In 1 Peter, ministers are exhorted to tend the flock of God committed to their care, not for selfish gain, but eagerly, not by domineering over those in their charge, but by example. Will you endeavor to care for the people of God: nourishing, teaching, and encouraging them; guiding the life of the congregation; counseling the troubled; declaring God's forgiveness of sin; and proclaiming victory over death?

**Candidate: By the grace of God, I will.**

**Leader:** Scripture teaches that the Church was devoted to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Will you seek faithfully to fulfill your calling among the people committed to your care, by preaching and teaching the Word of God and leading God's people in worship and in prayer?

**Candidate: By the grace of God, I will.**

**Leader:** The apostle Paul proclaims the Church to be one body with many members, exhorting pastors to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ until all come to unity of faith. Will you seek to live and work in unity with all Christians, helping them discover their God-given gifts and place in the Body of Christ, witnessing to the visible unity of the Church and leading the Church in fulfilling its ministry of reconciliation?

**Candidate: By the grace of God, I will.**

**Leader:** As Paul exhorted Timothy, "Continue in what you have learned and firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it," will you endeavor to conduct yourself so that your life is shaped by Jesus Christ, who took the form of a servant for our sake, and will you be faithful in prayer, in the reading and study of the Holy Scriptures, and with the help of the Holy Spirit continually rekindle the gift of God that is in you?

**Candidate: By the grace of God, I will.**

**Leader:** May God, who has given you the will to do these things, give you grace to perform them. Abby, know that the God who has called you is faithful and will not fail you.

**Leader:** (to the congregation) You have heard the promises of our sister. How do you respond?

**People: It is our belief that - from first to last - the coming of this day has been the work of God! God has called Abby to become an ordained minister of the Gospel and has empowered us as a congregation to engage in this solemn, joyous act of ordination.**

**Leader:** Do you covenant to pray for Abby, to listen to her, to encourage and support her as a sister in Christ and as a minister of the Gospel?



Friends and Family,

Thank you for gathering here today as the Body of Christ to worship and offer your prayerful support to me as I seek to respond to the call God has placed upon my life. Your gathering here from so many areas of my life bears witness to how our lives are truly spun by a masterful Artist who faithfully supplies us with people and places that draw us to Christ. The faithfulness of our God is truly great, and I pray that today you may be renewed in your knowledge of that God and strengthened in your own call as one who has been named as Christ's own. I could not be who I am without your presence in my life, and ask that you continue to uphold me with godly support as I move to complete my last year at Duke Divinity School and begin service as Ministerial Associate at First Baptist Church in Danville, Virginia. With the Apostle Paul, I offer my prayers for you:

*"I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge – that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God."* Ephesians 3:17-19

Grace and Peace,  
Abby

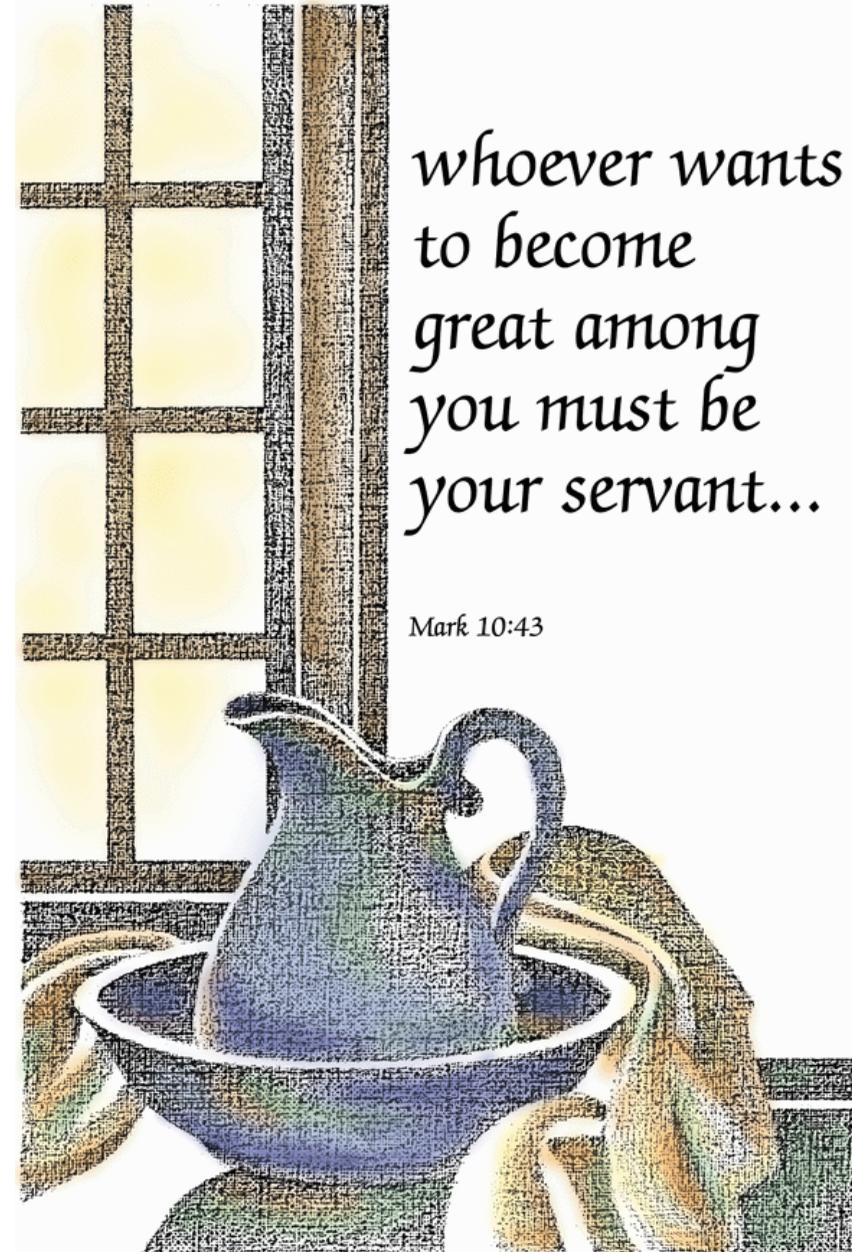
#### Members of the Ordination Council

*Cynthia Davis* ~ deacon and member, Winfree Memorial Baptist Church  
*Rev. Anna Kate Ellerman* ~former Minister to Students, First Baptist Winchester; ThM student, Duke Divinity School  
*Rev. Jim George* ~ Project Ministries and Disaster Relief Coordinator, Virginia Baptist Resource Center  
*Rev. Dr. Tom McCann* ~ Senior Pastor, Winfree Memorial Baptist Church  
*Rev. Michelle Myers* ~ former Baptist Campus Minister at the University of Virginia; currently resides in Valdese, NC  
*Rev. Dr. John Tadlock* ~ Church, Ministers, and Family Wellness Facilitator, Virginia Baptist Resource Center  
*Rev. Clay Thornton* ~ Senior Pastor, Tomahawk Baptist Church, Midlothian, VA  
*Rev. Dr. Mike Weaver* ~ Associate Pastor, Winfree Memorial Baptist Church

#### Other Worship Leaders

*Elizabeth Bartley* ~ Master of Divinity student, Baptist Theological Seminary at Richmond; Interim Baptist Campus Minister, University of Virginia  
*Elizabeth Evans* ~ Master of Divinity student, Duke Divinity School; candidate for ordination in Baptist Church  
*Jennifer Williams* ~ Master of Divinity student, Duke Divinity School; candidate for ordination in United Methodist Church.

*Following the worship service everyone is invited to join Abby for refreshments downstairs.*



whoever wants  
to become  
great among  
you must be  
your servant...

Mark 10:43