

Bio Ratcliff - BIO

My name is William "Will" Ratcliff. I am originally from McComb, MS where I attended J.J. White Memorial Presbyterian Church. My parents still live and attend J.J. White Memorial Presbyterian Church in McComb. I graduated from McComb High School where I was actively involved in the school's marching band. Growing up I enjoyed camping and riding bikes and playing music both the saxophone and guitar.

When I was sixteen I was diagnosed with a brain tumor that was removed with surgery followed by radiation treatments which I did all while I was still going to school. This experience helped me grow spiritually and showed what the community of Christ can and should look like. I am in complete remission now and have been for almost seventeen years. This experience showed me at very early age that life is a very precious gift and that each day I have is not to be taken for granted.

I attended the University of Southern Mississippi and graduated in 2007 with a bachelor's degree in Business and Marketing. After receiving my degree, I pursued many different careers most of them in sales. After some time, I realized that the world of business wasn't the place I was meant to be, and it was evident to me that God was and is still calling me to a life of ministry, specifically ministry as a pastor.

After some searching, consideration, and prayer, in August of 2010 I decided that the new journey to which God was calling me on was to begin at Columbia Theological Seminary in Atlanta, GA. While at Columbia I did pulpit supply and went on school sponsored preaching trips. I spent one summer at the Grand Canyon with A Christian Ministry in the National Parks (ACMNP) as part of group who held services on the rim of the canyon at sunset and on Sunday mornings. I did an internship at Waverly Road Presbyterian Church in Kingsport, TN where I learned a lot about relationship building as part of the work of being a pastor. I took part in a Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) internship at Northside Hospital in Atlanta and was witness to more human tragedy that I like to think about. Through these experiences I was able to develop skills and hone my own talents for preaching and pastoral care. These experiences also helped to affirm my sense of call to ministry.

It was also in seminary where I met my wife Bonnie, who I've been married to now for just over two and a half years. I graduated seminary in 2014, and a year later, Bonnie and I were married. Shortly after, The Pastoral Nominating Committee of Tarkio Presbyterian Church contacted me about the call as their next full-time pastor. Bonnie and I came to Tarkio and I met with the PNC. After hearing the members of the committee talk about their church, its history, and all the mission work they did in their community. I felt the Holy Spirit speaking to me as I heard them talk about the church and knew that this was the place God wanted me to be.

In August of 2015, after much time in prayer, discernment and contemplation, Bonnie and I decided to follow God's call and move to Tarkio so that I could be their student pastor at Tarkio Presbyterian Church. Since coming here in 2015 and serving as TPC's student pastor I have felt more and more God's calling in this place. While leading worship, engaging with scripture daily, being involved in committee and session meetings, and building relationships with people inside and outside of the church, I have felt more and more the presence of God in my ministry here. I am a member of the Tarkio Ministerial Alliance, Mule Barn Guild, Food Pantry Board, and Rotary Club where I faithfully represent the Tarkio Church and look for ways to share the love with God with others. It has been a joy and privilege to serve this church as their student pastor while completing my ordination requirements.