

Student Commissioning Service May 2010

Yates Baptist Church has become a fertile field for the emergence and sustenance of young Baptist ministers. I don't know exactly when this happened. It could have happened when we called LeAnne Spruill following her graduation at Duke Divinity School. The fact that Yates Baptist Church calls young leaders, and in this case, a young female leader made the antennas go up over at Duke and revealed we are a safe and nurturing place for young females. It could've happened when Jeff Prince was developing relationships with students during his 10 year ministry at Yates. Or perhaps it was at the family table or in the living room when parents modeled faithfulness to the local church and demonstrated that giving of self to Christ through the local church is a meaningful way to carry out the Christian vocation. Then again, it could have been when a children's or youth teacher spent time with a young person and let them know the church is a place that loves and cares for the young. I don't know when this all began. I just know that many young people who grew up in this church or discovered this church later in life, are stepping out into a ministry experience this summer. Therefore,...

We are going to have a "Student Commissioning Service" on Sunday morning May 2 during our worship service. Young Christians will share where they are going, what they will be doing, and informing us how we can pray for them while they are away. We will offer our prayers and covenant to support them while they are in their field of service. Here are the young Christians we have invited to tell us their story. If you know of others please contact the church office ASAP.

Name	Home Church	School	Place of Ministry
Jack Bodenhamer	Commanche, Tx	Hardin-Simmons	Texas Baptists
Kim Bodenhamer	Commanche, Tx	Duke Div.	Baylor
Kyle Bauman	Edinburgh, Ind	Duke Div	Jefferson, NC
Jeanne Cross	Moulton, Ala	Duke Div.	Nepal
Sarah Gordon (Winshape)	Yates	UNC	Texas/Louisiana
Morgan Guyton	Yates	Duke Div.	Northern Virginia
Julia Johnson	Hurst, Texas	Duke Div.	West Jefferson, NC
Katie Medlin	Yates	ECU	Camp Mundo Vista
Amy Saunders	Yates	Wingate	Camp Mundo Vista
Ryan Saunders (Winshape)	Yates	Gardner-Webb	Texas/Louisiana
Richard Wood	Wilkesboro, NC	Campbell Div	Oxford

There are many things about Yates that make me proud. One of them is that we are a place that nurtures the young and helps them discern God's call for ministry. The future churches needs leaders, preachers, pastors, educators, prophets, worship leaders, missionaries theologians, and ministers focusing on students, children, and adults. Most of our current Christian ministers in America are above the age of 45, indicating we are heading toward a crisis of leadership. Churches like Yates are essential to the future vitality of the larger church movement. I want to thank every member of Yates Baptist Church for nurturing the call of young Christians with your prayers, dollars, and deeds. Every Samuel needs an Eli.