

## GETTING TO KNOW...

June 2017 Edition

### **CALEB SUYDAM began serving Streator Park Presbyterian Church in May 2017**

Pastor Caleb Suydam grew up in the small town of Farmington, Illinois, graduating from Farmington High School, Spoon River College, and Northern Illinois University, with a B.A. in Political Science. In 2010, after many years of feeling a call to ministry, Caleb enrolled at the University of Dubuque Theological Seminary, where he earned his Master of Divinity degree. After graduating in 2013 he served as a chaplain intern at St. Luke's - Unity Point Medical Center in Sioux City, Iowa. He and his wife, Jennifer were married in August, 2013. Caleb was ordained as a Teaching Elder (pastor) in January 2014 and began serving as pastor of Central Presbyterian Church in Nevada, Iowa.

Caleb is a lifelong Presbyterian, serving as a Trustee and a member of the Session at First Presbyterian Church in Farmington, Illinois before going to seminary. He also had the distinct pleasure of serving as a pastoral intern at First Presbyterian Church in Dubuque, Iowa, in the summer of 2011 and throughout the 2012-2013 academic year.

In his experience throughout the church, Caleb has learned that the relationships formed between people are of critical importance to living a life in Christ. Caleb looks forward to becoming a part of the community at Park Church, and is excited to help nurture the sense of community here as well as throughout Streator.

Caleb's wife Jenny, also a pastor in the PCUSA, received her BA in the Study of World Religions, and a Music Minor from the University of Northern Iowa. She graduated with a Master of Divinity in 2012 from the University of Dubuque Theological Seminary. She has served as solo pastor in Greene and Rudd, Iowa, and as campus minister in Ames, Iowa. Jenny, also a life-long Presbyterian, grew up in Mason City, Iowa. Jenny enjoys reading, photography, music, and has recently taken up cross stitch as another hobby. Caleb likes the outdoors, movies, live theater, and reading.

### **R. JOEL STEVENOR began serving Waltham Presbyterian Church in June 2017**

I was born in Canton, IL and raised in Peoria, IL. I graduated from Ridgewoods High School in Peoria. I graduated from Western Illinois University in Macomb with a BA in Theater. I spent 25 years as a professional actor and concert artist until God made clear my call to seminary. I attended Eden Theological Seminary in St Louis and graduated with an MDiv in 1999. My first call was to Overland Presbyterian Church in Overland,

MO where I was solo pastor for six years. When that church merged with another congregation, I helped them with the merger, then because I felt they needed a new pastor for both congregations, I accepted a call to Mt Zion Presbyterian Church in Mt. Zion, IL. I served the church in Mt. Zion for 10 years. I felt God was calling me again to a different congregation, so I made the decision to go to First Presbyterian Church in Huron, OH. However, after being away for 2 years, I realized the truth of "you can take the boy out of Illinois but you can't take the Illinois out of the boy." I am so excited my prayers were answered through Waltham Presbyterian Church.

My wife Jane and I have three children and one grandchild: Rachael, 30, who lives in Seattle with her husband Dan and our grandson Atticus, 7; Sam, who is 26 and lives in St. Louis, and Rosalyn, 23 in St. Louis and is completing her MFA in creative writing at University of Missouri St Louis. Our fur babies include long-haired miniature dachshunds.