

Story of Faith: Brad Philips

As a child my family attended Rock Chapel United Methodist church so I had a baseline of faith and knowledge of the story of Jesus from a young age. I also attended Redan First Baptist Church youth group in my early teen years and I did get saved at this point in my life but was never baptized. My grandparents were Presbyterian and attended Panthersville Presbyterian, later Midway Presbyterian and I had on occasion attended church with them. Natalie Hinton and I met when we were juniors in high school. Natalie had grown up in FPC of Covington and I started attending church with her and her family; Harry, Tricia, Stephanie, and Jessica very soon after she and I started dating. Natalie and I were married in the church on August 3, 2002 by Rev. Billy Wade. I typically worked on Sundays and attended church a few times a year in addition to Easter and Christmas Eve. My scientific education had led me to question the truth of the Bible and the miracles of Jesus. I could still believe on one level and be a Christian and at the same time question the scientific validity of the raising of the dead. In early 2019 I was at a point in my life where my life felt empty. I didn't have any enjoyment from my job working with animals even though this had been a lifelong dream of mine. I had let my hobbies lapse and I just didn't feel connected with anyone including Natalie and the rest of my family. I prayed to God from the back pew at FPC Covington for God to help me. Then exactly 3 days later I had a profound spiritual experience where I know in my heart that God was present with me one day at work. From that point forward I have been working to improve my relationship with God and to become a better Christian. I was baptized by Rev. Steven Barnes on his last Sunday at FPC Covington on 02/02/2020. This was an outward sign of an inward change that had already occurred. God has continued to show up in my life through his grace and mercy and even through answered prayers. Rev. Neely Rentz Lane's sermons have been just what I needed to hear on more than one occasion. Her joining our church has been yet another gift from God. Then, one Saturday in June I said a prayer aloud, "Speak Lord, for your servant is listening". Just a few hours later I had an e-mail from Rev. Kimmy Briggs asking me to serve the church as part of the technology committee with Dan and Philip. I have never felt closer to God, to our church, to my family and to my fellow man. I truly have an abundant life with Jesus Christ as my personal savior. As I draw closer to God, he draws me closer to him.