

Welcome to our Interim Minister

Rev. James M. 'Skip' Macaulay

From Skip. . . My formative years were spent in active involvement in, and commitment to, the life of the church. However, in spite of suggestions at the time that I commit to a life in the church, I elected to pursue an environmental vocation that built on my extensive involvement in Scouting. My work experience includes life-long work in the church and community organizations, as well as twenty-five years serving technical and business clients.

However, this career became materialistic and ultimately led to a position with a company that conducted its business in ways that, while legal, seriously bothered my Christian ethical foundation. This experience led me to reexamine my life, and I recognized that I did not like the person I had become. Through prayer, the counsel of family, friends and pastors, and God's work in my life, I have come to recognize that Christian ministry is where I belong.

Most recently, I served the First Presbyterian Church of South Amboy, NJ as their Interim Pastor. FPCSA is a small downtown congregation that has struggled to reorient itself during this interim. I have worked with and developed the Session so that they are much more effective leaders, and I ordained almost half of the currently serving officers. We have worked through the interim process and the PNC has completed the CIF. Mission giving is up significantly.

Previously, I served as Pastor (solo) at Westminster Presbyterian Church, Middletown, NJ. I ministered to people deeply affected by terror, community stress and personal struggles helping them to find the hand of God. I led the congregation's first mission trips. We began a Youth Club (middle and high school). We improved Westminster's community visibility through a variety of new directions, such as a blessing of the animals service on the front lawn.

I served the Norriton Presbyterian Church, Fairview Village, PA as Temporary Supply Pastor. This congregation spent five months without any pastoral leadership. In this two/three month assignment, I provided pastoral focus, stability, consistency to knit together a foundation from which the longer term pastor to follow could redevelop and revitalize this congregation.

I served the Presbyterian Church at Bound Brook, NJ (BBPC) as an intern. My role was much like that of an Associate Pastor. .Of particular note, I worked with a small group of members of the congregation to envision, organize, recruit, train and commission a new Caring Ministry at BBPC.

Hurricane Floyd also had a major, unexpected impact on my ministry. BBPC served as a shelter with as many as 250 people living in the church for 10 days. I was directly involved in the shelter: caring for, feeding, sheltering and clothing the evacuees. I was part of the community-wide recovery efforts led by BBPC people.

In addition to pastoral work, I have served on the Committee for Preparation for Ministry in Monmouth Presbytery. I have worked with New Brunswick Theological Seminary in support of their supervised ministry program. And I am the Moderator of the Design Team for The Early Ministry Institute of the Synod of the Northeast