

ONE MINISTRY BEGINS, ANOTHER STANDS THE TEST OF TIME ENTHUSIASM AND YOUTH CHARACTERIZE ASSOCIATE MINISTER'S STYLE AND MESSAGE AT NEW HORIZON

By Kenneth D. MacHarg

By all accounts, David McAdams is the right man for the job.

McAdams was recently appointed as the Associate Minister at New Horizon United Methodist Church in Southwest Ranches where he will work in a number of roles, especially with youth and young adults.

“He is young and enthusiastic,” said Kay Tompkins of Cooper City who is a member of the church. “I anticipate that he will be very involved with our youth. We need someone on staff who will be able to serve our young people.”

“Not only will he appeal to the youth, but he has an excellent singing voice and a background in music,” added Cheryl Hainline of Weston.

Reaching a younger generation through worship and service programs is McAdam’s goal as he takes on the responsibilities of his first official appointment. “The average age of the church’s membership is in the 40s and 50s,” he reported. “I want to work on bringing in more families who are in their 20s and 30s.”

McAdams, 28, who graduated from Asbury Theological Seminary in Wilmore, Kentucky, in late May, is already reaching out to his target population through a contemporary worship service every Saturday at 6 p.m. “We are using a lot of praise songs and a more contemporary approach,” he explained. “I want this worship and ministry to be focused through a vision from the Lord,” he said.

“David will have a wonderful opportunity to reach out to the younger generation,” said Rev. Larry Foley, New Horizon’s former Associate Pastor who now serves as Senior Pastor at the Dundee United Methodist Church in Dundee, Florida. “I’m 52 years old, and Larry is in his late 20’s which means he can take the Saturday night contemporary service to a new level and lead youth to a new commitment to the Lord.”

Before studying at the seminary, McAdams majored in Bible at Asbury College where he met his wife Kellie. She is an elementary school teacher and is looking for a job.

The young pastor will be serving in a variety of ways, including leading a Bible study each Wednesday evening starting in September and serving as a resource to the church’s youth pastors as they work with children and teenagers.

“One of my most important interests is missions and outreach,” McAdams said. He has participated in short-term mission trips to a Navajo reservation, Northern Ireland and Jamaica and wants to motivate church members to be involved in both local and

international ministries. "I want to help lead New Horizon members to know God's heart for God's world," he explained.

McAdams said that he sensed God's call to ministry when he was very young. "I knew that I would be in ministry, but I didn't know in what capacity," he said. Before attending seminary, he served short stints as the youth pastor at Sebring United Methodist Church in Sebring, Florida, his hometown, as well as at Poinciana United Methodist Church in Miami Springs and Lakeland United Methodist Church in Lakeland, Florida.

"Two years ago, while I was in seminary, the Lord confirmed that my call to preach was a true call," he reported. "Now I know that I am called to preach, teach and do mission."

McAdams, who describes himself as a fanatic Miami Dolphins fan, said that he is excited to be serving the nearly 1,000 members at New Horizon church. "It's a warm and loving and open place," he said. "It's also near the coast," he said, explaining that he likes both snow and water skiing.

For now, he is putting the skiing on hold while he develops plans for reaching the area's younger population which he describes as "middle class and diverse."

"We need to go knock on doors and tell people about our church and to welcome them here," he said.

New Horizon United Methodist Church is located at 5741 Flamingo Road in Southwest Ranches. Services are held on Saturday at 6 p.m. and Sunday at 8:30, 9:45 and 11:10 a.m. Sunday school classes are held for all ages at 9:45 a.m. and at 11:00 a.m. for adults.

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MINISTER'S STYLE AND MESSAGE AT NEW HORIZON, *South
Florida Sun-Sentinel*, July 12, 2002**