

COMMENTS FROM
THE PASTOR NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Clay's ministry speaks to all ages, young and old. His strong preaching and teaching skills along with his love of missions and community service make him a perfect fit for Rivermont. His ability to build relationships, his compassion and incredible sense of humor will enable him to impact many lives.

I just love Clay's energy, vision, creativity, compassion and his love for the Lord. His intelligence combined with his love for his fellow man makes him special.

Clay is energetic, warm hearted, highly interested in people, humorous yet genuine, and very approachable. He projects a positive attitude that demonstrates his love for church ministry and for helping the church to realize its purpose as the body of Christ.

Clay has a joyful spirit and speaks from the heart. His passion for ministry, his compassion are evident in all he does along with his high energy and creativity.

I love his deep passion for ministry and mission and his creative energy. He has a wonderful sense of humor and an innate ability to get along with people of all ages.

It has been a joy to get to know Clay and his family. He has a wonderful sense of humor and is incredibly kind and enduring. He is scholarly but approachable and is talented in so many ways.

As a young pastor, Clay is a genuine people person and places a high priority on pastoral care. The basis of his belief system is best expressed by these statements: "In Jesus' life we see God requires compassion, love, justice and sacrifices. In His death we know He repaired the relationship between humankind and God. In His resurrection we believe Jesus conquered sin and washed the world with everlasting love."

Laura Reid
Ruth Ann Honeycutt
Lisa Honkonen
Dick Phillips
Beth Simson
Steve Russell
John Guthrie, Chair

RIVERMONT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

The Pastor Nominating Committee
is honored to report to the congregation
its selection of

THE REVEREND CLAYTON ALLAN THOMAS
to the position of Senior Pastor and Head of Staff



CONGREGATIONAL MEETING
MARCH 17TH, 2013

The Thomas Family

Clay Thomas, originally from Greenville, South Carolina graduated from Clemson University with a BS degree in Forest Resources. In 2005 he earned a Masters in Divinity from Columbia Theological Seminary where he was the recipient of several prestigious awards for his scholastic merits and leadership qualities.

He is currently pursuing a Doctorate of Ministry from Duke Divinity School in Christian Leadership.

For the past six years Clay has served as Associate Pastor of First Presbyterian Church in Sarasota, Florida, a 1100 member church. He has provided leadership in worship, missions and pastoral care. He founded the Sarasota Interfaith Alliance and serves on the Sarasota Ministerial Board. Clay works closely with Florida's farm workers.

Prior to seminary, Clay worked as a drug and alcohol counselor in Sitka, Alaska and as a youth director in Charleston, South Carolina. He served as a chaplain for a diagnostic prison in Jackson, Georgia and he also sold medical supplies in the Carolinas.



“In my ministry, I seek to guide congregations to reclaim their identity as holy, meaning ‘set apart’ from the world. The holy church is not self righteous or judgmental; rather, we are to be the hands and feet of Christ in the world. Our calling then, is to be Christ-like and fashion a church that serves as a model of the beloved community.”

Reverend Tricia Dillon Thomas is married to Clay. They have three children: Mason is ten years old, Fields is six and Well-spring is two. Tricia is from Columbia, South Carolina and is also a graduate of Columbian Theological Seminary. She is currently serving at Peace Presbyterian in Lakewood Ranch Florida as Pastor for Youth and Families. This summer she will serve as co-director at Montreat Youth Conference Center in Montreat, North Carolina.

Tricia's hobbies are photography and knitting.

Clay is a hunter and triathlete.

Together they enjoy camping, running,
hearing their children laugh
and sitting on the porch.

**Fields, Wells and Mason are excited about living
where there are mountains and forests.**

