

**ASSOCIATE PASTOR OF STUDENT AND FAMILY MINISTRIES**  
**First Presbyterian Church of Thomasville, Georgia**  
**Position Description**

**Purpose**

*To build relationships that make disciples of Jesus Christ among students (6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> graders), their friends, and families, developing volunteer leaders, relevant environments, programs, and mission. The AP of Student and Family Ministries will model life-on-life ministry to students and will coach parents and volunteer leaders to do the same.*

**Qualifications**

- Proven commitment to know and follow Jesus Christ inwardly and outwardly.
- Committed to the personal study of Scripture, prayer, and worship.
- Walks as an Ambassador for Jesus Christ at ALL times and in ALL places – understanding that students are very observant, both in church gatherings and in public places.
- Experienced in ministering to students, demonstrating a heartfelt love for students, a desire for them to grasp and live the gospel of Jesus, and the necessary relational skills to communicate that good news.
- Leads effectively as a “player-coach.”
- Experienced in building and leading teams, recruiting and equipping volunteers, planning and organizing a model for year-round ministry.
- Enjoys working with and developing a relationship with students.
- Has a sense of humor.
- Knows how to be approachable.
- Completed a Master of Divinity degree or on course for completion within one year.

**Accountability**

- Reports to Senior Pastor, working in conjunction with the Student Ministry Committee.

**Relationships**

- Relates to students as friend, teacher, counselor, and mentor.
- Relates to parents as encourager, equipper, and counselor.
- Relates to volunteers as leader, equipper, and encourager.
- Responds to leadership of the Senior Pastor and the Session.
- Functions well as a “team player” and fellow member of the FPC Thomasville leadership team.
- Participates regularly in the overall life of the church.

## Responsibilities

- *Create and Lead Student Ministry Activities:* Plan, develop, administer, and promote student ministry weekly gatherings and yearly events in collaboration with volunteer student teachers and advisors; creating new student programs, maintaining or changing existing programs, and developing plans and activities for mission and service. Includes consistent presence at regular student ministry activities (weekly meetings, retreats, conferences, trips, events, etc.).
- *Cultivate Student Relationships:* Seek out students through “time on their turf,” and model the same for leaders. Meet students where they are spiritually, emotionally, and developmentally. Create plans for building relationships with FPC students, their friends, and students from the wider middle/high school community. Attend public events, and schedule personal visits. Find creative ways to engage FPC students and unchurched students.
- *Communicate Proactively:* Maintain regular, weekly communications with all FPC students, volunteer teachers, and leaders--using email, texting, social media (i.e., Facebook, Instagram), and the church website as major vehicles.
- *Support Families:* Partner with parents of students to provide support, encouragement, and insight into the lives of their children and the particular challenges they face.
- *Encourage Parent/Student Discipleship:* Develop strategies, implement systems, and identify resources to equip parents to disciple their families and integrate them in the life of the church, including working with the Senior Pastor to promote corporate worship on Sundays.
- *Preaching and Worship:* The Associate Pastor will serve as a right-hand to the Senior Pastor and shall assist in carrying out pastoral roles within worship services. This includes: preaching on a semi regular basis (every 4-6 weeks), weekly duties leading the congregation in worship, and administering the Sacraments.
- *Provide Pastoral Care and Counseling:* Provide pastoral care to the FPC community, including counseling students and families in crisis and, when necessary, referring to the Senior Pastor or private counselor.
- *Develop Volunteer Leadership:* Creating and maintains a practice of developing leaders for the student ministry at FPC Thomasville, including inviting, equipping, placing, encouraging, and long-term development. Volunteers may include both adults and students.
- *FPC Thomasville Leadership Team:* Function well as a fellow member of the FPC Thomasville Leadership Team, attending regular staff meetings, committee meetings, and leadership retreats.
- *Clerical Work:* Responsible for own clerical work.
- *Additional Duties:* Other pastoral duties, including visitation of members, may be assigned by the Senior Pastor and the Session. Additional duties will not prevent the Associate Pastor of Student and Family Ministries from spending at least 80% of his/her time directly involved in student and family ministry.

## Evaluation

- The Associate Pastor of Student and Family Ministries will be reviewed on an annual basis by the Senior Pastor. The Senior Pastor and the Session will annually review the adequacy of compensation.

**Contact Person:** Brian Jackson, Search Committee Chairman  
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