

## **Presbytery offers new Commissioned Pastor program**

The Presbytery of the Pines has developed a new Commissioned Pastor Program to prepare lay members of the Presbytery to preach, teach, and lead worship in the setting of a local congregation. There is a great need for Commissioned Pastors (CPs) in our Presbytery since only a small number of churches are able to call a full-time Minister of Word and Sacrament.

The CP Program will offer courses in Reformed Theology, Worship and Sacraments, Preaching, Polity, and Pastoral Care. These courses will be taught by various leaders of the Church. Some individuals will take all the courses offered, while others may only take a few.

Individuals seeking to become a CP should fill out an application, and will be interviewed to evaluate pastoral experience and education. A CP's ability to preach, teach, and lead worship may be seen as a gift of the Spirit developed through experience, practice and formal training. It is a unique call, and necessary for the health and vitality of the greater church.

If you are interested in participating in this program, please contact CP Program Director Rev. Julia Nance Farrell or the Presbytery Office for more information.

### **About Julia:**

Julia began her journey in ministry under the care of Pines Presbytery as a member of Dixie Presbyterian Church and then First Presbyterian Church of Shreveport. She was born in rural northwest Louisiana, and has always felt at home in the corn fields and open pastures of this area.

She has served Round Rock Presbyterian Church in Round Rock, Texas; First Presbyterian Church of Alexandria, Louisiana; and First Presbyterian Church of Shreveport, Louisiana. She is also a trained Spiritual Director.

Julia is married to Matt and has two young children. She and her husband raise beef cattle in Dixie, Louisiana. She currently serves as the pastor of the Plain Dealing Presbyterian Churches.