



ROBERT FUQUAY

Rob Fuquay was appointed the fifth Senior Pastor of St. Luke's United Methodist Church in its 58-year history on September 1, 2011.

He previously served as Senior Pastor of Williamson's Chapel United Methodist Church in Mooresville, NC, a church with 2000 members and an average attendance of 1200. Prior to that appointment in 2008, Rob served at Long's Chapel UMC, Lake Junaluska, NC; associate pastor, Matthews UMC, Charlotte, NC; and Long's-Cruso UM churches in Canton, NC.

He graduated from Pfeiffer University in 1984 with a B.A. in Religion, and from Emory University, Candler School of Theology in 1987 with an M.Div. He is a Duke basketball fan, but offers that he is also a huge fan of the Cincinnati Reds.

The attributes that best describe Rob as a pastor are strong preaching, leadership development and visioning. During his time as associate pastor at Matthews UMC, a 3000-member church, he led the building committee in a two-phase relocation, a \$4 million project that included a capital campaign. He has had similar experiences in other congregations, participating in the building of a new sanctuary and children's building, as well as building renovation. At Williamson's Chapel, Rob undertook an in-depth visioning process which resulted in the launch of a new off-site ministry.

During Rob's tenure, Williamson's Chapel UMC experienced rapid growth due, in part, to its location as a growing bedroom community of Charlotte, NC. His previous church tripled in size under his leadership. He stays connected to congregations through teaching classes and participating in fellowship activities, and enjoys working in a collegial, fun atmosphere. While Rob has admitted to having a silly side, he takes worship and preaching very seriously, spending the first hours of his day focusing on those tasks.

Most importantly, Rob expressed a deep desire to lead a church like St. Luke's where more progressive views are embraced and encouraged. "My top priority for a church I serve is to have a desire to positively impact its community. This means a church with members who care about the needs of all those around them and who want to connect others to the body of Christ. That often requires innovation and being willing to try new things – so a church with a daring spirit is very appealing to me. I also desire a church that welcomes everyone and allows God to work with them where they are. As I study Jesus I see someone who sought to show grace to all people . . . and I want to be a part of a church that models that. I want to serve a church that cares about reaching beyond its own community and impacting the world with hope."

Rob's wife, Susan, is the daughter of United Methodist Bishop Richard Wilke, who wrote the Disciple Bible Study series. Her sister, Sarah, is the Executive Director of *The Upper Room*. Rob and Susan have three daughters: Julie, Sarah and Anna. Julie entered Kansas State University as a freshman in the fall of 2011, while Sarah and Anna enrolled at North Central High School where Sarah plays violin and Anna plays soccer.