Biographical Sketch – John R. Davis

John Davis has been ordained as a teaching elder for fourteen years but he was not always a pastor. Prior to seminary and parish ministry John tended bar, painted houses, played guitar and sang in a band, waited tables, and went door-to-door for an environmental lobbying organization.

Born, raised and educated in Richmond, Va., John served as the Pastor of Kanawha United Presbyterian Church in Charleston, West Virginia immediately prior to being called to Springdale in 2009. Before West Virginia John was a solo Pastor in the Mississippi Delta, working with “the lone PC(USA) church in a town which was awash with Fundamentalism.”

Through the years, John’s ministry has been centered on the twofold task of spreading the good news of God’s love while working for social justice. "One without the other," he says, "presents an incomplete picture of what our Lord’s earthly ministry was all about."

John served on the Board of Directors for both Habitat for Humanity and West Virginia/Kanawha Valley Homes, and in leadership roles with Kanawha Pastoral Counseling Center and Davis and Elkins College. He has taken active roles in helping to shape the faith of high school and college students, speaking at retreats and serving on two different Committees on Preparation for Ministry. John received his Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy from Virginia Commonwealth University as well as both a Master of Divinity and a Doctorate of Ministry from Union Theological Seminary. The area of emphasis for the Doctorate degree was “Reclaiming Revelation as a Text of Hope and Perseverance for the Church Today”.

John has two children - one in elementary, one in middle school, and he enjoys cooking, backpacking, reading, strumming the guitar, and playing racquetball.