

Big Stone Gap District United Methodist Church

Jeff W. Wright, District Superintendent

After growing up, not wanting to be a “preacher,” Jeff answered the call to ministry in 1985. His previous ministry assignments include three years as a student pastor at the Salem United Methodist Church in Oxford, N.C., in the North Carolina Conference while at student at Duke; four years at the Mountain View and Seven Mile Ford United Methodist Churches near Chilhowie, Va., and seven years at the Central (Bean Station) and Rutledge United Methodist Churches in Grainger County, TN. Prior to being appointed as the senior pastor at State Street United Methodist Church in Bristol, Va., in June of 2011, he served for 11 years as the pastor at Allen Memorial United Methodist Church in Athens, Tenn.

Jeff is looking forward to working with the people, pastors, and churches of the Big Stone Gap District. Jeff says in many ways it is like returning home for him since his father served here for so many years. And, not only did he grow up here, but after college he actually worked in that area as a salesman for a brief period of time.

Jeff is married to Sandy Roberts Wright who is a registered nurse. They have been married for 30 years and have two sons. Both he and Sandy are natives of Saltville, Va. Jeff lived there until he was in the 7th grade. His parents were the late Rev. James and Ruth Frye Wright. His father was a local pastor in Holston Conference for many years and actually served for 21 years in the Big Stone Gap District. Jeff is a 1977 graduate of Thomas Walker High School in Ewing, Va., and a 1981 graduate of Emory & Henry College. He received his Masters of Divinity degree from Duke Divinity School in 1989. Jeff’s hobbies are golf, music, UT football, and Duke basketball.

