

## A NEWS RELEASE from FAIRMOUNT PREBYTERIAN CHURCH

▪ A Faithful Presence in the Franklin Park area for 198 YEARS ▪

2535 Fairmount Church Rd., Sewickley, Pa. 15143 – [fairmountarp@gmail.com](mailto:fairmountarp@gmail.com) – 412-364-7880

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It is interesting to know about the first and current pastors at Fairmount Church. The first pastor traveled by horse and wagon. Whereas 190+ years later the current minister traveled by automobile and airplane. They both had a deep commitment to religious teaching.

In the early 1700s, Presbyterian ministers of Scot and Scot-Irish descent began emigrating from their homelands to the eastern regions of North America. While they made their way West over the next hundred years among the settlers who were also looking for land to establish a new life in Pennsylvania and beyond, they preached to anyone who would listen.

Fortunately, historical information exists about the first Fairmount Church pastor. His name was John Andrews. Born in Maryland (1768), Andrews spent his childhood and formative years in North Carolina where he was introduced to religious teachings, before being ordained in 1794 and preaching in Kentucky.

Reverend Andrews began preaching at a time when books and other printed materials were both scarce and costly. He hoped to fill the void with a monthly religious magazine (ca.1802). His efforts finally gained success in 1814 when he began publishing the nation's first religious newspaper while in Chillicothe, Ohio. In 1821, the Pittsburgh Synod invited Reverend Andrews to bring his paper to Pittsburgh where it would have a wider circulation. Following his arrival, he was appointed as Stated Supply Minister to the Duff Mill and Sewickley Presbyterian congregations effective 1 June 1822. Duff Mill (later changed to Fairmount Church) organized a few months later on 8 September. He alternated preaching duties at Duff's Mill and Sewickley log churches. Rev. Andrews, the father of three, retired in 1831, and died in 1849.

Current pastor Nathan Beard was born in Pittsburgh, but at 2 years old his family moved to Kansas, where he grew up. His wife Kelly started life in Michigan and moved with her family around Eastern USA during her formative years.

Nathan moved back to Pittsburgh in 2003 to attend the Reformed Presbyterian Theological Seminary, graduating with a Master of Divinity in 2006. Kelly graduated from Miami of Ohio in 2007, and following in her father's footsteps, took an accounting position in Pittsburgh and is now a CPA. They were married in 2013.

A seemingly 'chance' encounter and conversation with a former Fairmont member in 2014, where Nathan worked while looking for a permanent pastoral position, was God's way of leading him to be appointed as minister of Fairmount in 2015. God has a way of bringing people together in unexpected places and circumstances.



Rev. Nathan and Kelly Beard



Fairmount Church - 2020

This is the third in an ongoing *Series of Newsletters* celebrating the families and the rich history of the church as it has served the North Hills community for almost 200 years. Fairmount Church will hold several commemorative events during 2022, culminating in a festive celebration in September 2022.

You can read more about Fairmount Church at [www.fairmountarpchurch.com](http://www.fairmountarpchurch.com)