



Dr. Brouwer's Family

Doug met his wife, Susan DeYoung at Calvin College. They have been married for nearly 32 years. Susan practiced law for 25 years before leaving that profession for residential construction. She is an ordained elder, has sung in church choirs, taught Sunday school, and served on various church committees. Yet, Susan's focus has always been her strong commitment to her family.

Susan and Doug are the proud parents of two daughters. Sarah is now in her final year at Luther Theological Seminary. Under the care of Twin Cities Presbytery, Sarah is hoping to be ordained in the PCUSA within the next year. She was married last summer—the joyous occasion for their family photograph. Elizabeth is a senior at the Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy, University of Michigan. She is hoping to find an internship for next year in government before applying to graduate school for the following year.

Doug's parents are both in their early 80s and are in good overall health. His dad has been for years a painter (water color). And, in Doug's words, "My mom is now resting from the difficult work of raising me." He has two sisters - one older, one younger. His parents and sisters live in Grand Rapids, Michigan. Susan and Doug, with their daughters and new son-in-law, look forward to family vacations on Lake Michigan.



Introducing The Reverend Dr. Douglas J. Brouwer

"Why Do We Come to Church on a beautiful Sunday morning? It's to put ourselves in the presence of Jesus Christ and to be changed by him, to raise ourselves and become better than we ever imagined we could be. It's not that worship is a kind of self-improvement course; it's that in worship we discover who we really are. God reminds us that we have a wonderful identity."

From Dr. Brouwer's book, *Remembering the Faith: What Christians Believe*
[1999, EERDMANS]



DR. BROUWER'S PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2004-present First Presbyterian Church, Ann Arbor, MI
Pastor, Head of Staff, 2100 Members

One of Doug's outstanding accomplishments at Ann Arbor has been the rebirth of the church's campus ministry. In route to classes, thousands of students walk through the church property each week, but for years the church had no effective ministry for them. Doug led the implementation of a new model of campus ministry, and participation levels have grown dramatically.

1991-2004 First Presbyterian Church, Wheaton, IL
Pastor, Head of Staff, 1590 Members

When Doug came to Wheaton, the membership had been in decline. As a result of his preaching and leadership, the membership increased dramatically, especially affecting and strengthening the children's and youth ministry. This called for a Master Plan to accommodate the growth, which was completed in 1998.

1985-1991 Hopewell, Presbyterian Church, Hopewell, NJ
Pastor, Head of Staff, 750 Members

1980-1985 Pine Street Presbyterian Church, Harrisburg, PA
Associate Pastor, 900 Members

Dr. Brouwer is also a published writer, having produced many articles and chapters-in-books, mostly spiritual and theological reflections about being a pastor. He has also written four books:

- *I Heard it at the Pot Luck*, 1992 (Harold Shaw)
- *Remembering the Faith: What Christians Believe*, 1999 (Eerdmans)
- *Beyond "I Do": What Christians Believe about Marriage*, 2001 (Eerdmans)
- *What Am I Supposed to Do With My Life?* 2006 (Eerdmans)

His publications have led to preaching and speaking engagements throughout the United States.

PERSONAL

Dr. Brouwer grew up in western Michigan. He was baptized in the Christian Reformed Church as an infant and attended Christian schools (k-12). In Doug's words, "The first two decades of my life formed and shaped me in substantial ways. In childhood one of the most regular features of my life was going to church—not just once, but twice each Sunday. At church I met and made friends, enjoyed myself, and in general found meaning and completeness in life. In adulthood, the church means all of this and more."

At Princeton for his M. Div., Doug served as an intern in a college town church. Only three months after Doug's arrival, the church needed a pastor and asked Doug to preach each week. As Doug tells it, "Nervously, I accepted the responsibility and discovered that I could do it. Each week, ever more boldly, I found myself declaring what I believed." It was through this experience that Doug felt his call to become a Presbyterian pastor.

For fun and exercise Doug loves to run. A runner for more than 30 years, he completed his first Chicago Marathon in the fall of 1999. Doug loves sports and leads an active life.

EDUCATION

1985 *Doctor of Ministry* Princeton Theological Seminary
(Local Church Evangelism)

1979 *Master of Divinity* Princeton Theological Seminary

1975 *Bachelor of Arts* Calvin College

DR. BROUWER'S PRIMARY GIFTS FOR MINISTRY

COMMUNICATION: "I started out knowing that I was an effective communicator. I knew that I could write. Over the years I have become an effective preacher as well."

- **PREACHING:** Doug preaches biblical sermons that are direct and to the point, with humor interspersed in the content. His sermons are stimulating, engaging, while encouraging the growth of a stronger faith.
- **TEACHING:** Doug also enjoys teaching. Much of his published material has come from preparation for sermons and classes.

PASTORAL CARE: "I listen and have developed the skills for active listening. I have always had strong relationships with people of all ages, and in recent years have enjoyed serving as a leader on the senior high mission trip. Youth ministry has made me a better pastor."

LEADERSHIP: Doug likes to lead by example. He works "to build consensus" and enjoys working with gifted and talented people. "Group building, such as retreats and having fun together are essential. The leaders and staff can then pour their whole energy into the work to be done."

EXCERPTS FROM DR. BROUWER'S STATEMENT OF FAITH

I believe in God the Father who created the universe out of nothing and now cares for and watches over creation with a passionate and jealous love. God the Father is at once imminent and transcendent – so close and so personal that I experience Him daily, so powerful and majestic that I cannot fully comprehend Him (PSALM 139:17-18).

I believe in God the Son who was, mysteriously and at the same time, fully human and fully divine. In Jesus Christ, everything we need to know about God was present. His human life demonstrated what human life could be and was created to be. In His birth, life, death, and resurrection, Jesus Christ accomplished what I cannot accomplish on my own. I am who I am solely because of God's grace.

I believe in God the Holy Spirit. With the Spirit alive in me, I am able to become more and more like Jesus Christ, which I believe is the goal and destination of the Christian life.

Having been **claimed by God in Baptism, I believe that I am now called to live differently – with a life that honors and points to God.** I believe that all of God's people are called to particular functions and that no vocation is more worthy than another. In Baptism, I received a name and an identity. I know who I am and to whom I belong.

In the Bible, I find God's Word, which comes alive through the mysterious work of the Holy Spirit. In the Bible, I discover who God is and how God has acted through history. I learn that God can be trusted to do in the future what God has done in the past – to love, to call forth a people, to redeem, to be worthy of praise and gratitude.

A LETTER TO THE CONGREGATION

Dear Members and Friends of First Presbyterian Church,



I never imagined myself writing this letter. That's a testimony, I suppose, to the surprising way of God in our lives. When your search committee first made contact with me last fall, I confess that my response was laughter. The thought of leaving my current ministry and moving to Florida seemed preposterous. I wasn't looking to move, and my personal information forms were several years out of date. And yet, I found myself listening – first, to the excitement and hope that the search committee members expressed for their church, and finally, to an inner sense that this just might be what God had in mind for me at this particular point in my life.

The more time I spent with members (and staff) from your church, the more I realized that First Presbyterian Church of Fort Lauderdale is a special church. I remember asking search committee members at the end of a lengthy interview why they are members of this church, and the responses – unanimously – had to do with deep and profound relationships based in Christian faith. I was smitten. And so was my wife Susan, who listened as I did to rich testimonies of faith coming alive through mission and ministry. I left that conversation knowing deep down that this was something I longed to have in my own life.

I look forward to getting to know the members and friends of this congregation and experiencing a little of what I have heard. I also look forward – if the way be clear – to a vital and life-giving ministry with you.

Faithfully yours,

Doug

FROM THE INTRODUCTION TO DR. BROUWER'S BOOK *Remembering the Faith: What Christians Believe*

"We were created...to be in relationship with God. We received God's image, God's likeness. We were created to reflect God's glory. We were born for this, and until we see it, until we recognize what our lives were made for, until we wake up to God's never ending pursuit of us, we are going to be hungry, restless, dissatisfied people, giving our allegiance to one or more of the lesser gods around us."