

Just Who's Teaching our Chapters in *Our Way Home* Anyway?

Here are some brief biographical sketches of our members who are teaching the nine chapters in *Our Way Home* authored by the Rev. Dr. Daniel E. Paavola. *There's a bio for him, too!*

Alan Shaw, RLC Vicar, Teacher of Chapters 1 and 9. Alan moved to Holly Springs before retiring from the Army in September 2014. He pursued certifications in personal, congregational and high performance pattern coaching and started a coaching business in 2014. He also works at Fort Bragg with the Special Operations community. He is a current member of the RLC Council and serves as a Worship Leader at the 10:45 service. He was accepted into Concordia University's Specific Ministry Pastor (SMP) Program for the January 2019 cohort, so he's now considered our VICAR! Yeah! His ministry will focus on congregational coaching and leadership development for pastors, staff, and church members. He and his wife, Faith, have two children.

Tim Striplin, Teacher of Chapter 2. Tim and his family have attended RLC for almost 10 years. He is active in the music ministry, singing in Cantus Christe—and in choir or playing the piano, whenever Bob Unger can “rope him into participating.” Tim currently serves as the Liturgist for the 10:30 service on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of each month. He has previously taught adult Sunday School classes on the liturgy and assisted his wife in the Parents & Twos class. Tim is a marketing technologist by day, but his passion is the history and development of Christian worship. He holds a PhD in Historical Musicology from UNC Chapel Hill, specializing in the musical, theological, and political aspects of transmission in early medieval Gregorian chant, especially the Alleluia chant before the Gospel lesson. Tim taught piano in the Cary/Apex area for over 15 years, and has passed on his love of music to his children, Annalisa (ballet and piano), Marta (Scottish Highland dance and oboe), and Sebastian (undecided, but probably trumpet). It's no surprise that Tim met his wife, Sonja, in an early music singing group!

Kathy Rihani, Teacher of Chapter 3. She graduated from UNCG in 1969 with a degree in marketing. She married Fuad Rihani in 1969 and then had 3 children. She was employed by NC Dept. of Revenue from 1969-1972. She did a lot of volunteer activities for Hickory Public Schools for 10 years, actually writing a manual on setting up a volunteer team. She was involved in many community and civic opportunities when volunteers were needed. She served on church councils of two churches, taught Sunday School (children, teens, and, more often, adults), for many years, led marriage retreats, initiated a prayer group in 1990 (1st Gulf War) at the request of a group (*this prayer group is still meeting each Monday morning.*) She developed and taught Bible studies at the request of members of several churches. Presently, she spends as much time as possible with 6 grandchildren, developing her relationship with Fuad since they now “actually occupy the same space,” and reading, especially for Bible studies.

Bob Unger, Teacher of Chapters 4 and 8. Bob is Director of Worship and Music Ministry at RLC/Schools where he conducts choirs/vocal ensembles, band/instrumental ensembles, and handbell choirs; and is the principal organist. He instructs at RLC Music School. He teaches grades 6-8 religion, electives, band and choir, at RLS. He is the Music Director of both The NC Boys and Girls Choirs. Previously, Bob has been the Artistic Director of the Raleigh Boychoir, Raleigh, NC; a conductor with the Appleton Boychoir, Appleton, WI; and co-founder and conductor of the Badger State Girl Choir, Neenah, WI. He was a vocal coach/instructor in the Appleton Area SD; and has been a conductor of the Ascension Trombone Choir, Cary, NC. In his previous Calls, he held positions of Director of Worship and Music, Organist, Director of Christian Education, Principal, Teacher, AD and Coach at Faith LC, Appleton, WI; Immanuel Lutheran Church/School, Danville, IL; Immanuel Lutheran Church/School, Des Plaines, IL; St. John Lutheran Church/ School, Hannibal, MO. He has also served as summer staff at Camp Arcadia in MI. He holds a BA and Master of Church Music (composition) degrees from Concordia University, Chicago, IL. Bob is married to MaryAnn (Co-Director of Children and Family Ministry) at RLC. They and have 11 children and 11 grandchildren.

John Heilman, Teacher of Chapter 5. John and his wife, Virginia, moved to Cary in mid-2017 and joined RLC later that year. He retired in 1999 after a career in Human Resources management. They moved to Cary to be closer to family who are in the area. He and Virginia serve at RLC as counters, greeters and ushers, and helpers with the third and fifth grade classes at RLS. They also make gift bags for visitors. They attend all 3 services. John and Virginia lead a neighborhood Bible study on *The Truth Project*. John has taught adult Bible classes before in other states where they lived.

Tim Kearby, Teacher of Chapter 6. Tim joined RLC in 1995 when the family moved to Cary from Ft. Wayne, Indiana. Born and raised in the Nazarene church, he has been a Lutheran since 1990. He has taught, co-taught, and served as a substitute teacher in both adult and children's Sunday School and a co-leader for Wednesday Night Workshops for approximately the last 10 years. He has co-led *The Story* and *The Truth Project*. He is an engineer at IBM. He holds a Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering from Purdue University. Tim is married to Sue. They have one son, Daniel.

Melinda Stephani (Mindy), Teacher of Chapter 7 is in her 10th year as a member of RLC along with husband, Marty. She is one of our adult educators, teaching on Sunday mornings and Wednesday Night Workshop. She was an assistant principal in 3 high schools, first in New York State and then NC. She retired from Wake County Schools as a central office administrator and says of that role, she was a "teacher of teachers." She has taught a myriad of subjects here at RLC and always loves a new challenge. She is coordinating RLC adult education for the winter and spring. She served on the RLS School Board for five years and is often a lector for our services. She has a Master's Degree in Secondary Education and a Certificate of Advanced Study in Educational Administration, both from SUNY/New Paltz, NY. She is a wife to Marty, mom and grand mom to 3 Ohio grandkids as well as "one on the way" in Minnesota. She loves to travel--her favorite places to visit are Israel and Bermuda. She will give a brief part of her testimony as it pertains to the subject covered in chapter 7, *Deliver Us From Evil*.

The Rev. Dr. Daniel Paavola, Author of *Our Way Home*. Dan grew up on the family farm near New York Mills, MN. He went to Minnesota State University at Moorhead for a degree in English and Phys. Ed. He went to Concordia Theological Seminary at Ft. Wayne, Indiana for his Master of Divinity degree. He also went to Princeton Theological Seminary for a Master's Degree in Theology and earned a Ph.D. in Exegetical Theology from Concordia Seminary, St. Louis. He was a pastor for 12 years at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Butternut, WI, before teaching theology at Concordia University WI in 1996. Dan also served as an Army Reserve chaplain for 7 years, training with Reserve units in northern and Upper WI. At Concordia University, he teaches classes in the New Testament and parish ministry. He has written several books for Concordia Publishing. He wrote the commentary on the Gospel of Mark in the Reformation Heritage Series, 2013. His book on the Lord's Prayer, *Our Way Home*, was published by CPH in 2017. Another book on biblical themes, *Patience and Perfection*, was published by CPH in November 2018. A study on the key themes of Lutheranism, tentatively titled *Grace, Faith, Scripture: A Portrait of a Lutheran* will be published by CPH in June 2019. He was an associate editor for the *Lutheran Study Bible*, published by CPH in 2009. Dan and Holly were married in 1979 and have three grown children. His hobbies include running, motorcycling, woodworking, and driving their 1917 Model T Ford car. ***Let's welcome him by our presence on the January 12-13 weekend!***