

## Bio for Reverend Bruce Sandy

I grew up in Oxford, Massachusetts (MA), attending an American Baptist Church where I accepted Jesus as my Lord and Savior at age 10. I graduated from University of MA cum laude with three majors: Psychology, History, and Social Sciences along with teacher's certification.

I attended Gordon-Conwell and Andover-Newton seminaries, receiving a Master of Divinity cum laude in 1980. In 1977, I was an Assistant Minister at an American Baptist Church in Lynn, MA, when Pastor Bill was the Pastor at an ABC church in neighboring Peabody. We have developed a lasting friendship throughout the years. On a few occasions, he and I combined our youth groups for fun activities. We have stayed in touch ever since.

I pastored a church in Somerville, MA, in the midst of a tough section of the inner city. It was here that I learned it is not the size of your congregation that determines your ministries but the size of your parishioners' faith. They had an incredible faith! After six years there, I moved on to FBC in Belmont, MA, a fairly wealthy suburban community whose residents had the oldest average age in all of Massachusetts, which made for very interesting ministries. Eleven years later, I came to Manchester, CT, and have been serving the Lord there for the last 12 years. And yes, I am still a die-hard fan of the Red Sox, otherwise know as an eternal optimist!

My wife Bettylou and I have been married for eight years now. A couple of years ago, we bought our first home for both of us. It's a beautiful ranch backing up to a nature preserve. Bettylou has an adult daughter that lives in the Boston area. Bettylou is a professional gardener, teaching numerous courses at Manchester Community College, as well as training people how to garden for themselves, reconnecting them to God's creation.

I am a ferroequinologist (that's for all you crossword puzzle fans), an amateur archeologist, fossil collector, and photographer. I also teach a course at MCC on the spiritual symbolism and theological epitaphs from gravestones from 1620-1799.

I believe the Lord has brought us together for this very special interim time, and I greatly look forward to serving the Lord with all of you.

Reverend Bruce Sandy