



A PUBLICATION OF TAYLORS FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH



ENCOUNTER GOD.



The Value of Worship in the Life of the Church

By Scott Norman, Minister of Worship

As believers, private worship is an important part of our daily walk with Christ. Encountering God in daily worship includes spiritual disciplines like reading the Bible, praying to God, singing to the Lord, and calling on Him. While daily private worship is important, it is not the pinnacle of our Christian lives.

The Psalms lead the way in helping us understand the value of worship in the life of the church. King David in Psalm 34:3 exclaims, "Oh magnify the Lord with me, and let us exalt his name together!" This call to worship is one where David doesn't want to worship alone. He calls on others to join him and worship God with him. I love this verse because it declares a powerful truth about worship.

We were made to worship Jesus together.

Corporate worship is the life-giving encounter with God and his people that rekindles our spiritual fire each Sunday. When we gather together around God's Word, singing, praying, and fellowshiping we are being built up together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit as Ephesians 2:22 reminds us.

At Taylors FBC one of our values is Christ-Centered worship. This means that Jesus is the center of our worship every time we gather together. When we proclaim the excellencies of Christ as we sing, the Spirit moves in our midst and is shaping us to be more like Christ. Our aim is to rehearse the gospel of Jesus and reflect the heavenly worship we see in Revelation 7:9-10.

a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb...and crying out with a loud voice, "Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!"

Corporate worship not only forms us to be more like Christ, but also realigns our heart to see the lost, not just our own needs. When we see Christ, hear His Words, are moved by His Spirit, we begin to see others around us who need the gospel. And Christ sends us to a world that needs the good news of Jesus.

Let us encourage one another with this exhortation from Hebrew 10.

And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.
Hebrews 10:24-25



Are you engaged in worship?

By Kevin Batson, Worship Pastor

We live in a world of distractions. One great example is the small computer you carry around in your hand that captures your attention for hours each day. These computers also take pictures....thousands of them. We have multiple pictures of the exact same people in the same place, because we had to find one where everyone looked their best (especially you – when you look at a picture, don't you look first at yourself?) These computers have apps like Facebook and Instagram where we can post our most perfect pictures so that our "friends" can like and comment, which gives us a great rush of dopamine. These little computers pull us away from conversations, from books, from



time to be quiet and think, and from personal engagement with our families. And they pull us away from worship.

Our phones are just one example among many things that distract us from God.

A professor at Southwestern Seminary who blessed both Scott and me is Bruce Leafblad. Now retired, Dr. Leafblad presented a wonderful definition of worship:

Worship is communion with God in which believers, by grace, center their mind's attention and heart's affection on the Lord, humbly glorifying God in response to His greatness and His Word.

One of the hardest things to do is to center the attention of our minds on one thing. Yet one of the most important aspects of worship is how it can reset and recalibrate our minds to the things of God – righteousness, holiness, peace, comfort, conviction, suffering, and a call to faithful living.

I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. 2 Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect. Romans 12:1-2

Here are a few suggestions for centering your mind's attention in worship:

- Come early. If you're rushing in, stopping for coffee, finding a seat, and missing half the worship songs, it's hard to not be distracted. Every part of worship is carefully planned to help you encounter God in a meaningful way.
- Ask God to help you focus your mind on Him. Willingly put aside the distractions of lunch plans and the need for caffeine. Lay your personal burdens of family and work issues at His feet. Allow His goodness and grace to wash over you.
- Engage. Sing the songs. Read the scriptures with enthusiasm and understanding. Listen to the Word and allow it to penetrate your heart and mind.
- Take notes. Use your Bible and a journal rather than your phone. It's just too easy to check those messages.

Once God has your attention, He will capture your heart. And that will be for your good, and for His glory!



A Heart for the Next Generation of Worshipers

By Cameron Phillips, Worship and Communications Associate

One of my greatest joys in ministry is getting to lead our Middle School, High School, and College students in worship each week. On Wednesday nights, I get to worship alongside our Middle School and College students, and on Sunday nights, with our High School students. Each ministry looks a little different, but my heart behind leading them is the same: I want students to know the God they are worshiping and understand why He is worthy of their worship.

My heart for worship has never been simply about singing songs or creating a great moment in a service. I love music, but worship is so much bigger than music. When we gather, I want our students to see that what we sing is a response to who God is, what He has done, and what His Word says is true.

That shapes the way I approach worship with each age group. We choose songs intentionally, use Scripture to help connect what we're singing to God's Word, and take time to teach new songs instead of assuming everyone already knows them. Sometimes that means stopping to explain why we're singing something or giving students language for how they can respond to God. My hope is that we're not just teaching them the words to songs...we're helping them understand the truth behind those words.

For the past four summers, I've had the opportunity to lead worship at a camp in Canada. Those weeks have given me a unique opportunity not only to lead students in songs, but to teach them how and why we worship. Because we're together day after day, I get to walk students through what we're singing and remind them that these aren't just lyrics on a screen.

When we sing about God's faithfulness, we're declaring something we believe to be true about Him. When we sing about surrender, those words mean something. When we sing about the cross and what Jesus has done for us, that deserves more than simply singing the right notes. I want students to think about what they're saying and respond to Jesus from their hearts.

Canada has taught me that sometimes leading worship means encouraging a room full of students to clap and celebrate—and sometimes it means teaching them that it's okay to be still. Both can be worship. What matters is the heart and the One our attention is fixed on. That is something I want to continue cultivating here at Taylors with our Middle School, High School, and College students. We intentionally choose songs rooted in truth, use Scripture to connect what we're singing to God's Word, and take opportunities to explain the meaning behind what we're singing. I don't want to assume students understand worship simply because they've grown up around worship music. Part of leading them is teaching them.

The more I lead the next generation, the more I'm learning that worship leadership is discipleship. I'm not just responsible for choosing songs and leading a band. I have an opportunity to help students develop a biblical understanding of worship and model what it looks like to respond to God with joy, surrender, and gratitude.

My prayer isn't that our students leave our ministries simply knowing a lot of worship songs. My prayer is that they leave knowing the God those songs are about. I want them to understand why He is worthy of their worship and carry that with them long after Middle School, High School, and College.

If we can help raise up a generation that doesn't just sing the words, but believes them and lives them, that's the kind of worship ministry I want to be part of.





EVENING OF WORSHIP

Lord's Supper & Ordination

September 13 | 5:00 pm

Led by our Worship Ministry and Pastor Josh, we'll bring our hearts together to sing and celebrate the Lord's Supper. We will ordain our newest deacon as well.



Regeneration Student Choir, for 6th through 12th grade students, kicks off the 2026-2027 season with:

Magical Mystery Tour 19

Saturday, September 26, at 3:00 pm

Sign up in the Church Center App or at taylorsfbc.org/ events by September 21.

*Regeneration Student Choir rehearses
Sundays at 5:00 pm beginning September 27.*



**Mondays at 10:00 am
beginning September 14**

This dynamic choir of senior adults sings for worship services and ministers through music whenever invited to retirement homes, nursing facilities, and to other church groups. We are looking forward to a great year of sharing our love for Jesus through wonderful, uplifting music.

The Best of Scotland and Ireland Trip — July 12 - 21, 2027

Join us for an unforgettable trip as we explore the rich history and breathtaking landscapes of the Celtic region. Singers and non-singers welcome. Cohosted by Josh Powell, Lead Pastor, and Kevin Batson, Worship Pastor.

Scan the QR code to view the brochure or contact Diann Greer at dianng@taylorsfbc.org in the Worship Office.



Wednesday Nights at Taylors First Baptist Church

Dinner Served, 5:15 - 6:10 pm

Reservations are required by the **Monday** prior and are non-refundable. Sign up in the Church Center App or at taylorsfbc.org/events.

- September 2 Little Pigs BBQ: choice of pork or chicken with baked beans and coleslaw or Chick-fil-A
- September 9 Josey's Chuckwagon: meatloaf with mashed potatoes and green beans; or Chick-fil-A
- September 16 Italian Garden: lasagna with house salad, and garlic bread; or Chick-fil-A
- September 23 Tropical Grill: grilled chopped chicken with rice and black beans; or Chick-fil-A
- September 30 Jersey Mikes: choice of ham, turkey or roast beef sandwich with chips; or Chick-fil-A



Equip Institute Begins September 9

Meets weekly at 6:30 pm in The Loft

The Institute begins a new two-year journey this fall with The Christian Story, an overview of both the Old and New Testaments, basic biblical interpretation, and an introduction to Biblical theology.

Led by Teaching Pastor Nathan Finn, the Institute exists to equip us to think rightly about God and His Word for the sake of living rightly before God in His world.

Sign up in the Church Center App or at taylorsfbc.org/events!



Pastor's Bible Study, 6:30 pm

Join us in the Fellowship Hall as Pastor Josh Powell walks us verse-by-verse through the Bible.



Worship Rehearsals

Worship Choir, 6:15 pm;
Orchestra, 6:30 pm; and
Traditional Worship Choir, 7:20 pm



Konnect for Children, 6:15 pm

Children, ages 3 through 5th Grade
experience music and Team Kid.
Nursery: Newborns - 2-year-olds



Moms and Work, 6:30 pm

Meets on the first Wednesday of each month — Moms will be encouraged, equipped, and challenged with practical wisdom from God's Word.



Middle School Midweek at 6:00 pm

Students will worship, sit under teaching centered around God's Word, participate in small groups, and be equipped to walk as a disciple of Jesus.



Share Jesus Series, 6:15 pm 9/16, 10/14, 11/11 | Room: C126

The series is designed to help believers gain a deeper understanding of the gospel and learn how to naturally move everyday conversations toward gospel-centered discussions.

Sign up in the Church Center App or at taylorsfbc.org/events!

EQUIP BELIEVERS.



Taylors Seniors exists to create a spiritual environment founded and grounded in the authority of the Word of God through which Senior Adults experience salvation through Jesus Christ; having done so, they are then disciplined to be disciple-makers.

EXTRA YEARS OF ZEST

XYZ

XYZ is a ministry to Senior Adults that meets in the Fellowship Hall the second Monday of each month. Programs consist of entertainment followed by a hot lunch.

Sign up to join us in the Church Center App or at taylorsfbc.org/events by September 7.

Upcoming Programs

September: **Norman Nokleby**, Photos and Experiences Across America

October: **SC Senior Jazz Band**

November: **Lucas Shrout**, Piano

December: **Lori and John McClellan**, Christmas Show



Join Us for
A Year in the Word

We are reading the breadth of the Scriptures together!
Pick up a booklet in the Welcome Center with tools to help you as you read.

Scan the QR code to let us know you are reading the Word with us!





Taylors Women exists to disciple women to love God more by knowing Him better.

AN EVENING FOR WOMEN

In Every Season I will Praise Him

WITH GLENNA MARSHALL



September 25 | 6:30 pm
Taylors First Baptist Church

I will praise the Lord at all times; His praise
will always be on my lips. Psalms 34:1

- Christ-Exalting Worship
- Teaching from God's Word
- Connection with Other Women

Women's Retreat

• A WEEKEND IN PSALM 23 •

April 16-18, 2027

AT THE BILLY GRAHAM
TRAINING CENTER AT THE COVE

Sign Up Online or in the Church Center App!

Single Adults FALL Picnic

September 26

September 26 | 5:00 - 8:30 pm | Taylors Rec Picnic Shelter

Join other single adults for a time of fellowship and a delicious meal of BBQ. Bring your favorite side or dessert to share and a folding chair.

Register in the Church Center App or at taylorsfbc.org/events/



Every member growing in spiritual maturity and on mission.

Life Groups at Taylors First Baptist Church exist to change the world for Jesus by making disciples who make disciples. Life Groups are where our big church becomes small, where engaging the Word is our priority, and where relationships are formed. One key component to each Life Group is the leaders who faithfully serve. Recently I asked a few Life Group leaders to write out why they are a Life Group Leader or why they think Life Groups are important. Here are a few of their responses.

Life Was Never Meant To Be Lived Alone

I am a Life Group leader because I believe life was never meant to be lived alone. God has called us to encourage one another, grow together in faith, and walk alongside each other through both victories and challenges. Leading a Life Group gives me the opportunity to help create a place where people feel welcomed, supported, and connected to God's Word and His purpose for their lives.

I do not lead because I have all the answers. I lead because I have experienced God's grace, the value of Christian community, and the impact that faithful relationships can have on a person's spiritual journey. My desire is to help others grow deeper in their relationship with Christ, discover their God-given gifts, and find encouragement for this journey called "Life!"

For me, being a Life Group leader is about serving others, building authentic relationships, and pointing people to Jesus. There is no greater joy than seeing lives transformed by God's love and watching people grow in faith together. — Chad Lingerfelt

"And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together... but encouraging one another." Hebrews 10:24-25 ESV



God Opened My Eyes and My Heart to The Truth

It was the reading and teaching of God's Word in the context of a Sunday School class in GA when we were first married and then a Sunday School class here at Taylors FBC when we moved here that God opened my eyes and my heart to the truth. That class at Taylors FBC in the early-mid 90's literally shaped our lives in terms of relationships with fellow believers and God's developing us to be used to pour back into others. I have done a lot of things in the church and held a lot of positions, but it is leading others in the Word that I pray and believe has the most impact of anything we do in the Church. — David Massie





Taylors Children exists to come alongside parents to raise up the next generation to love Jesus with all their heart, soul, mind, and strength.



Major Milestones

This summer we celebrated two big milestones — our rising 1st graders crossing over from preschool to elementary ministry, and our rising 6th graders moving from Taylors Children to Taylors Students. Each child was sent off with a brand-new Bible!

Mom & Mini

September 10 at 6:00 pm

Join us for a Night of Worship led by Cameron Phillips!
Together we'll look at what it means to worship God and
the many beautiful ways we do it.

Ages K4 to 5th Grade are invited. Registration is
open through September 3 in the Church
Center App or at taylorsfbc.org/events!



Thank You Volunteers!

Our annual volunteer training was a great time to gather as we welcomed new and returning volunteers, reviewed policies and procedures, introduced new curriculum and collaborated with others who serve in the same area.

We are so thankful for each volunteer within Taylors Children who partner with us to come alongside parents to raise the next generation to love Jesus with all their heart, soul, mind, and strength!



Taylors Students exists to equip students to change the world for Jesus.

Upcoming Events

FALL AT McCALL

September 18 - 20

Sign up early to save! \$150 until September 6
then \$170 through September 13

Sign up in the Church Center App or at
taylorsfbc.org/events.

Baptism Class

Sunday, September 6, at 9:40 am

Sign up in the Church Center App or at
taylorsfbc.org/events.



Sundays at 9:40 am
September 27 - October 18

Sign up in the
Church Center App or at
taylorsfbc.org/events.

TIME IN THE HARVEST

September 26 | 10:00 am - 12:00 pm

Meet at Greer City Park



Partnering with Parents

The partnering with parents meeting was super helpful and informative! Matt did a great job of explaining the purpose of the Taylors Students and how we as parents can help our students get involved and grow in their faith. There are lots of exciting things ahead for the student ministry and I'm excited that my son, Greyson, gets to be a part of it! The mission of Taylors Students is something I hope he will carry with him into his school and after he graduates. I am thankful we had this time to come together as parents to see and hear from Matt as well as our son's Life Group leaders. — Lea Hardy



Jump Into Student Ministry

We had the privilege of taking our 6th graders to Big Air. It was great to be able to spend time with the newest members of our student ministry. We jumped around, ate pizza, and most importantly had the opportunity to build relationships with these students. It was an amazing time of fun and fellowship, and we are excited to get to know and pour into these new students! — Grant Miller, Establish Network Resident



Back in our Weekly Rhythms

Getting back into the swing of our regular rhythms during the school year has been awesome. Students are back in Life Group on Sunday mornings to engage the Word of God for themselves and we pray they would see God's glory in His Word as we continue in Matthew's gospel this year. Middle School Midweek and Sunday Nights for High School have also kicked back off and we have begun looking at Exodus 34:5-8 to know what the Lord says about Himself that we might worship Him more fully. Please join me in prayer for our students throughout this year that they would grow in their walk with Jesus! — Matthew Kilgore, Minister of Students



Middle School Midweek
Wednesdays at 6:15 pm
High School Sunday Nights
Sundays at 6:00 pm





We are rooted in a deep desire to see students grow into mature disciples of Jesus Christ. We operate with the understanding that these young adults are not only the church of tomorrow but an integral part of the church today.

Semester Kickoff

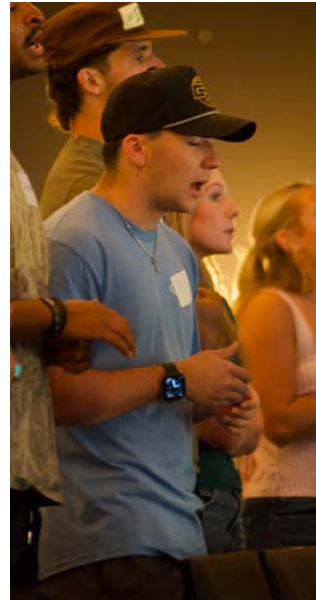
Summer break has finally come to an end, and we are excited to welcome back our college students.

At the beginning of each fall semester, North Greenville University hosts a church fair. Setting up a tailgate tent and table is always a great way for us to connect with returning college students and meet new ones. This year we connected with over 200 students! It was especially encouraging for our team to see several students inviting their friends to come and hear about Taylors FBC and Taylors College. We saw the fruit of this with over 90 college students in attendance for our first Big Breakfast, Sunday August 23, including around 15 first-time guests. A big thank you to the Matthews/Harrelson Life Group for providing breakfast for everyone! We are looking forward to a great semester.



The Gathering

As our fall rhythms resume, we are excited to welcome our college students back to the Gathering. At the end of August Taylors College kicked off with our Fall study in Galatians. It has been encouraging to study at Paul's letter as it has many present day applications. With several schools represented, it was great to see these students fill the room! Each week consists of times of hearing about missions opportunities, worshiping through song, preaching the word, focused prayer, and practicing true community. We are ready to see these young adults grow in their faith and make much of the Lord's name! Thank you for your prayers as we invest in these students.



Teach, Reach, Beach

Fall Retreat - September 18-20
Charleston, SC

This is a multi-church collaborative retreat for college age students.

Sign up on the Church Center App or
at taylorsfbc.org/events

ENGAGE THE WORLD.



GOOD NEWS NOW! HOPE CAN'T WAIT!



Engage Sunday is October 25!

We will have several of our mission partners from Los Angeles, Utah and South Asia with us and you will have multiple opportunities to connect with them, hear about their ministries, and explore ways to be involved with them in the mission of God.

- Meet & Greet Partners before the worship service
- One Worship Service at 10:00 am
- Lunch & Learn: A Missions Testimony immediately following the worship service
- Explore 2027 – Where is God calling you in 2027? at 6:00 pm that evening

Stories from Serving the Sent Mission Trip

Our recent Serving the Sent mission trip took our team to Asia with a unique purpose: to encourage and serve missionaries who are faithfully laboring among the peoples of South Asia. Rather than leading a traditional outreach trip, our mission was to come alongside these gospel workers, refresh them, and remind them that they are not alone in their efforts.

The heart of our mission was caring for those who have devoted their lives to taking the gospel to the nations. Our worship team led missionaries in times of worship, and our pastor opened God's Word to strengthen and encourage them in their calling. At the same time, other members of our team ministered to babies, children, and students through age-appropriate programs, allowing missionary parents to be spiritually renewed while knowing their children were loved, cared for, and encouraged.

The need for this kind of ministry is significant. These missionaries serve among the peoples of South Asia, home to the largest concentration of unengaged, unreached people groups in the world—more than 900 in all. Across the seven countries of this region, an estimated 97% of villages have no church. These sobering realities highlight the importance of encouraging those who faithfully minister in these difficult places where God has called them to live, labor, and proclaim the gospel.

In the following testimonies, three members of our team share how the Lord used this trip to encourage their own hearts and deepen their understanding of His work among the nations. Their reflections provide a personal glimpse into what it meant to Serve the Sent and to witness the faithfulness of those who continue carrying the hope of the gospel to difficult places in the world.

Daniel Mayer

The opportunity to go on this trip is something that I will never take for granted. My wife and I had the privilege of attending the July 2022 trip to Florida, and the moment we heard Taylors FBC was organizing this trip again, we knew right away we wanted to be part of it. There is no greater opportunity than to go serve these missionaries. It was such an encouragement to me to grow and serve them alongside other members of our church family. We fought through the challenges and exhaustion together in order to serve the ones who sacrifice every day for the sake of the gospel. Not only did we work together, but we also had a great time doing it and I believe our church family is closer because of it.



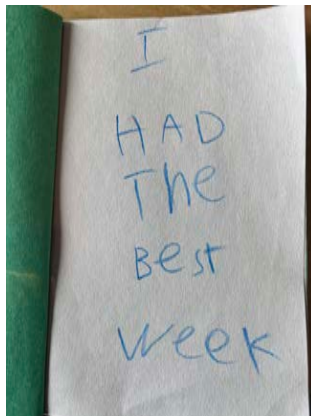
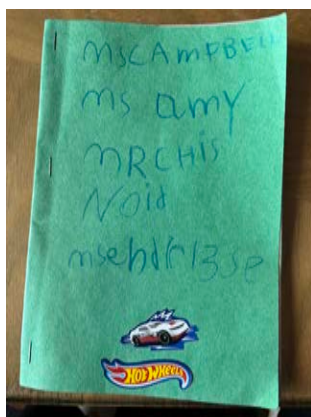
I had the privilege of serving in the audio video department while in Asia. We led worship in the adult sessions in the mornings, and with the youth during the afternoons. We had the opportunity to watch them worship with their whole heart, proclaiming Christ's victory and his continued work. For many of them, this was their first chance to worship in English in 4 years. I had the opportunity to talk to many of them before and after the services and hear about their trials- not because they were complaining, but rather because they were celebrating the victories God had given them through it all. Many of them face imprisonment, violent mob attacks, and local government issues on a daily basis. It was so encouraging to see how they truly live their lives for the sole purpose of proclaiming the gospel, no matter the obstacles.



The most meaningful thing I took away from this trip was how thankful the missionaries were to us for coming over and helping host this conference. It was crazy to see how thankful they were just to have an afternoon to themselves, without their kids, for the first time in years. I wish everyone in our church could have seen the smiles on the missionaries' faces when they saw their gift bags, which contained small gifts that they don't have access to in their respective countries. I wish you could have heard their testimonies of being attacked by Muslim mobs, thrown in jail by the government, or fighting cancer battles in third world countries. I wish you could have seen the tears in their eyes as they thanked us for a much-needed refreshing week. Please continue to pray for these families as they enter back into the mission field and risk their lives for the sake of the gospel.



Amy Bryant



If I had to sum up my experience on the Serving The Sent trip in one word, it would be "grateful." I am grateful to the Lord for providing the opportunity to go and to serve. Soon after my husband and I started attending Taylors FBC, I learned that the church was planning a trip to Southeast Asia to serve missionary families. I was so excited to hear this announcement! I had served on a similar trip to Japan a few years ago and loved it. I had hoped that one day I would have the opportunity to go and serve missionaries again, so I was especially thankful when God opened the door for me to be a part of this trip.

I served on the children's team, and my role was to teach a class of six-year-olds along with three other adults. Our six-year-old team didn't really know each other before the trip, but it quickly became clear that God placed us together to use our different gifts and life experiences to care for these sweet children and teach them more about Jesus. We played games, read Bible stories, sang songs, made crafts, and had lots of fun together. The missionary kids don't get the opportunity to experience something like Vacation Bible School where they live, so they were excited and happy to be there. It was such a joy to see their enthusiasm and hear their laughter. It was even a greater joy to talk to them each day about who Jesus is and have discussions centered around the gospel.

There were over one hundred volunteers on this trip, and I was greatly encouraged by their servant hearts. It is a wonderful thing to watch brothers and sisters use their gifts and abilities to serve the Lord. Some rocked babies to sleep and prayed over them. Some taught Bible lessons to children and teens. Some prepared gifts for the missionaries and passed them out. Some stood watch, keeping us safe. Some led us in singing praise to the Lord. And the list goes on! God used us all in different and unique ways to join in His work, and I am thankful I had the privilege of serving alongside such a wonderful group of people.

While in Southeast Asia, God continually reminded me through His Word of His greatness and his steadfast love, and my heart was filled with gratitude for who He is and what He has done. But one morning, as I read Psalm 113 and watched the sun rise over the land, my heart became heavy for the many lost souls who do not know the name of the Lord. There are still so many people walking in darkness who have never heard the gospel. So, while I left thankful for all the work that was accomplished during our trip and for all the work that is currently being done across the world, I left knowing there is still much work to be done. My prayer is that we will continue to pray and continue to go until all have heard.

Ty Thompson

For several years, I have watched our church take part in wonderful mission opportunities. I prayed for those who went and wondered which trip might be the right fit for me. After serving on several construction trips to Central America and a medical mission trip to India, I still wasn't sure where I should serve next.

When our church was invited to participate in STS, I knew it was the next adventure for me—and the perfect opportunity for my youngest daughter to join me for her first mission experience. I have always encouraged my children to take part in short-term missions, and I knew this would be a great fit for Campbell. With her kind and gracious heart, she would be well suited to serve those overseas who are serving the Lord through missions.



There are several big takeaways that I have from this experience. One of those being "AGE". We had folks from "College age" to "post-retirement age" and others in between. But everyone had a job and a place to Serve the Sent, and they all did their jobs very well. My assigned area was within the recreation team, but quickly morphed into helping out with some of the other classes (newborn through two year olds) that may need a little extra help during drop off and pick up time and to also give them a breather during lunch.

I was not surprised by how well our STS team from Taylors seemed to take the challenge of caring for the children of the workers. We are a caring Church and that was what we had been sent to do. I learned first hand of the multiple gifts that our team possesses. And I was able to minister alongside people that I have not previously connected with prior to the trip. Other relationships that I already had, were strengthened through this time as well.

My next big takeaway and probably the most profound for me occurred on one of the last days when I went to the worship session at the beginning of that day for the STS participants. It was amazing - to look at all of those folks in the room who had truly made a sacrifice, and the unbelievable level that sacrifice was. I couldn't help but ponder on the many aspects of their commitment. These are some of the questions that kept rolling through my mind:



1. When will they be able to come stateside.
2. When will they hear from their family next.
3. Who do they communicate with while in foreign countries in a true "Friend" aspect. Especially if they need something or need help.
4. When will their kids see their Grandparents.
5. I wondered how often they communicate with folks back home
6. I wondered about their safety in hostile areas
7. I wondered about their kids off at college and those challenges.
8. I wondered about the language barriers between them and the people they are serving.
9. I wondered if we were effective in our work while there.

As I thought about these questions -I couldn't help but think of a specific couple of kids that I had an opportunity to meet and serve them and their families while there. I bought a wooden elephant

that we placed on our mantle when we returned, and it serves as a reminder every time I see it to stop and pray for those who are in the land of the elephants, spreading the gospel.

I know that going to a foreign land isn't for everyone, but many within the Church played a vital part in making this mission a success. I keep thinking about the "Body of Christ" and how we all have different jobs to keep the body functioning. Your job could have been a "prayer warrior" or "rope holder", an enabler through your sacrificial giving, a participant in the trip, or someone who filled the duties of someone who was on the trip while they were away. Or you could have even been one who took time to drive this group and their luggage to Atlanta – Well, there is another whole story just in the trip down. I do invite you to start praying about how you can be used within the mission of our Church. I know everyone may not be able to "GO", but everyone is vital to the success of our "Going".

This trip has helped me to "be still" and know! Life is busy — and I personally enjoyed the time spent in spiritual preparation prior to going, and it has reignited my passion for missions, and I want to see where I might fit in on another trip in the future – Will you join me?



As you reflect on these testimonies, we hope you will recognize your own part in this ministry. This trip was not only accomplished by the 103 team members who went on the trip —it was the work of our entire Taylors First Baptist Church family. Your generous financial support, your fervent prayers, and your faithful encouragement made it possible for us to minister to those who have given their lives to taking the gospel to the nations. Because of your partnership, missionary families were refreshed, strengthened, and reminded that they are not serving alone. Thank you for your unwavering commitment to God's mission. Together, we had the privilege of serving those who have been sent, so they can continue proclaiming Christ where He is still largely unknown. Together, we are changing the world for Jesus!

UUPG PRAYER TIME

**Sunday,
September 6**
9:15 - 9:30 am
& 11:00 - 11:15 am

Join us in the
Worship Counseling
Room B131
as we pray for
Unreached and Unengaged
People Groups.

Prayer for the Harvest

Tuesdays
7:00 - 8:00 am
September
1, 8, 15, 22, 29

Join us in the
Taylors Rec Center
for an informal,
scripture-driven,
and spirit-led time of
prayer for the harvest.

Time in the Harvest

Thursdays
5:00 - 7:00 pm
September
3, 10, 17, 24

Meet in the
Church Office
as we go into the harvest
to prayer walk, share the
gospel, and make disciples
in the community!

WOMEN'S MISSIONARY UNION

**Tuesday,
September 15**
10:45 am

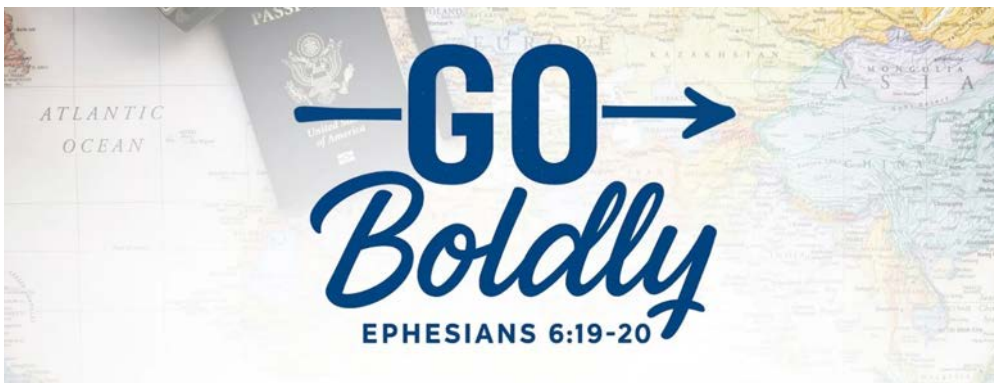
Meet in the
Taylors Ministry Center
as we discuss missions
education and support.
Sign up in the Church
Center App or at
taylorsfbc.org/events

Monthly Prayer for Unengaged Unreached People Groups

The Dammali are an unreached, unengaged people group numbering 7,500 and residing in the Srikakulam district of Andhra Pradesh. Their name derives from the word "dammadu", which means "pious person", because of their traditional role as Hindu priests. While still leading out in festivals and Hindu rituals, the Dammali people are now predominantly involved in agriculture in order to make ends meet. Largely impoverished, their greatest need is still the gospel.

- Pray for more laborers to share the hope of Jesus with the Dammali, and for them to come to saving faith in Christ.
- Pray that as they believe, they would take hold of their identity as a royal priesthood and go on to share the light of Christ with their neighbors.

"But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light." 1 Peter 2:9



Janie Chapman Offering

Every year, the Janie Chapman (SM) Offering helps South Carolina Baptists reach their lost neighbors, plant churches, send missionaries, serve communities in crisis, and much more. Each year in South Carolina, we see lives transformed by the gospel and people responding in obedience to God. Much of this is made possible by your giving to the Janie Chapman Offering.

How does the Janie Chapman Offering for State Missions make a difference?

- Church Planting Team - They help new churches to be planted throughout our state so that more people can be reached with the gospel.
- Strong Team - They help churches develop a strong disciple-making culture inside the church walls.
- Share Team - They equip and encourage SC Baptists to share with the 4 million people in SC who are not engaged in a local church.
- Shepherd Team - They help pastors and churches follow the Great Commandment and advance the Great Commission together.
- Missions Mobilization Team - They help every church be missional, sending workers and making disciples in our state, country, and world.
- Serve Team - They help churches find ways to show God's love by meeting tangible needs in their communities.

This year, we have set a goal of \$2.222 million, and it will take our entire family of churches working together to reach it so we can see more people across our state reached with the gospel. Let's join in praying that God would do something among this generation of missionaries we have never seen before. Prayer guides and offering envelopes are available at Engage Tables in the Connections Center.

Kelley Williams Update

The Abiding Church in Los Angeles

STORY:

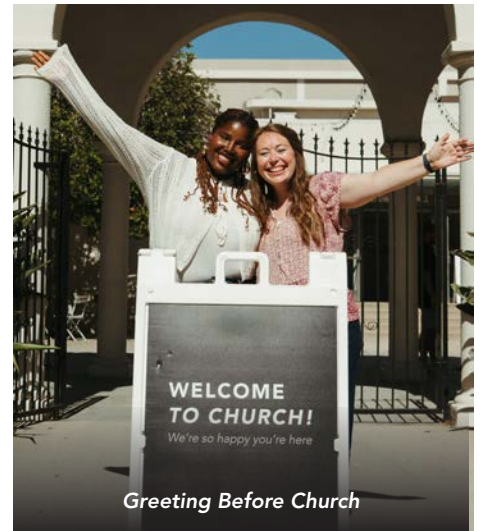
One of my favorite ways to serve the city is to serve at Fred Jordan Mission in the heart of "skid row" which is a downtown area where a large population of the homeless live in LA. When we go, we help with the chapel service, meal prep, meal distribution, and sorting donations. We usually start by going out and walking around the block to invite people to the chapel service and meal. Because we serve there regularly, I have been able to form relationships with people who live around Fred Jordan. This summer, we have seen several people choose to follow Jesus and a couple of people choose to get off the street and try to get help. I'm so grateful to get to serve my neighbors in this way and be a part of how God is working in LA.

CURRENT CHALLENGE:

One thing our church has struggled with is retention of families and lack of diversity in ages. A majority of our church is young singles.

SPECIFIC PRAYER REQUESTS:

1. I am raising my salary in order to be on staff at The Abiding. I am still in need of monthly givers.
2. I have chronic foot pain, which often hinders my ability to serve in the ways I would like at church.
3. We are going to be starting new discipleship groups soon — pray for relationships and growth in those groups.



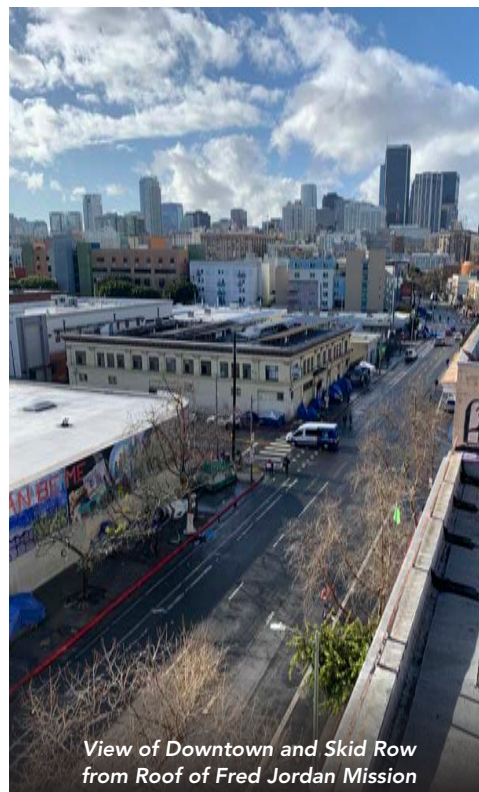
Greeting Before Church



Blake (left) is on Staff with Kelley
Pastor Trenton (right)



View From The Balcony Inside Church



View of Downtown and Skid Row
from Roof of Fred Jordan Mission



A Few Friends at Community Group



Chapel Service at Fred Jordan Mission

Bullards in Utah

Matt and Jennie Bullard both graduated from North Greenville with the goal of full-time ministry. In the spring of '25, Jennie went out to Utah on a one-week mission trip with a group from NGU. It was there that she first saw the need and began praying about potentially moving to Utah. In the fall of '25, Matt met a church planter in northeast Utah and began discussing with Jennie the potential opportunity of working in Utah with a church plant. Over Christmas, they decided that this was the ministry the Lord was laying before them, and they committed to pursuing it. Over the spring, they talked with several different pastors from different churches and church networks to see where they would be most needed. Matt and Jennie became connected with a brand new church plant called Redemption Bear River which was being planted in Tremonton, UT, a small farming community an hour and a half north of Salt Lake City. To finish his degree, Matt had to spend the month of May in Utah serving with a church south of Salt Lake City and applying missional strategy. During that time, he was able to connect in person with the pastors of Redemption Bear River and see Tremonton and the surrounding area. After that visit, Matt and Jennie committed to serve for two years with Redemption Bear River.

The Bullards arrived in Tremonton on August 18 and have already begun to serve with the church. As they become established, Jennie will serve with the Sunday morning worship ministry, and Matt desires to train church members in sharing their faith with their family and friends. Together, they will begin leading the youth group starting in mid-September and will be discipling young couples who are new to the faith.

Even in the first week of being in Tremonton, they have seen the clear need for support of the church leaders as they have been carrying the load of this new plant for the past year.

- Please pray for Jason and Mallory, and Andrew and Lauren as their families invest time, energy, and effort into leading Redemption Bear River.



- Pray also that the new members would learn what it means to follow Christ and serve Him through their local church.
- Finally, pray for Matt and Jennie as they find their places to serve in the church and in the community. Pray that they would be humble servants and willing workers. Please also pray for their new marriage as they learn to build their life together as they serve in Utah.

At this point, one of their biggest needs is monthly financial support. If you wish to support them monthly please scan the QR code to learn more about their ministry.





Spring Grove Back-to-School Block Party

On a hot Saturday in August, three churches came together with one purpose: to share the love of Christ with the families of the Spring Grove community. The Back-to-School Block Party was organized through the Homework Club ministry that meets regularly in Spring Grove, building relationships with children and families throughout the year. What began as an ongoing outreach ministry became a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the community, serve families, and share the hope of the gospel.

The event brought together volunteers from Community Mission Baptist Church of Taylors, Cornerstone Church of Maiden, North Carolina, and Taylors First Baptist Church. Hosted at Community Mission Baptist, located within the Spring Grove community, the day was filled with fun, fellowship, and meaningful conversations.

A special blessing was the participation of more than 30 volunteers from Cornerstone Church. After serving the children of Spring Grove during FUGE Camp earlier in the summer, they wanted to continue investing in the community and traveled more than an hour and a half to be part of the day. They also sponsored a Kona Ice truck, providing free frozen treats for everyone who attended.



Children enjoyed face painting, craft stations, fresh cotton candy, and a giant inflatable water slide that provided welcome relief from the August heat. Families were also served through Village Wrench, which offered free bicycle repairs and filled a record number of tires with air!

Throughout the event, volunteers served 175 hot dogs to children, parents, and helpers. More importantly, the day created opportunities to strengthen relationships that have been developed through the Homework Club, Village Wrench, and Taylors FBC's weekly Time in the Harvest teams. Conversations were shared, friendships grew, and the gospel message was clearly presented.

The block party served as a beautiful reminder of what God can do when churches work together and invest consistently in a community. Through the ongoing ministry of Taylors FBC and the partnership of these congregations, families in Spring Grove experienced both practical support and the love of Christ in action. We thank God for every volunteer, donor, and ministry partner who helped make the day a success, and we pray that the seeds planted will continue to bear fruit in the lives of the children and families of Spring Grove.



ESTABLISH THE CHURCH.



We seek to glorify the Lord Jesus Christ by Equipping Students to strengthen churches and fulfill the great commission.



Meet Ty & Kayla Henson

My name is Ty Henson and my wife Kayla and I have just completed our first year in the residency program. Kayla and I met at Anderson University where I earned my bachelor's degree in clinical psychology. During my time at Anderson University I had the opportunity to go to LA on a mission trip. It was on this trip that God worked in my heart and called me to missions.

It was through Kayla, who had previously interned at Taylors FBC, that we learned about the Establish Network Residency. After praying we decided to join the Residency program at Taylors FBC to be equipped to fulfil our call through ministry experience in the local church.

Taylors FBC has been a blessing to Kayla and me over this past year. Through the classes that we have taken in the Equip Network with Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary God has confirmed our call and increased our knowledge of His Word.

We are looking forward to continuing in the Residency this year, serving at Taylors FBC, and completing the interview process to be sent to the nations.

We have openings for the Establish Network Residency. Visit taylorsfbc.org/establish to learn more and apply.

Establish Network Internship

Equipping and Sending multiplying leaders who abide in Christ, make disciples, and develop leaders to Establish the Church.

The Internship is a leadership development ministry of Taylors First Baptist Church that provides college age students and young adults the opportunity to be actively involved in the ministry alongside faithful and experienced ministers.

Young adults have the opportunity to serve within the ministries of the church. The goal is not only for each intern to grow in their ministry skills, but also in their character and call.

The Internship exists to develop multiplying leaders who make disciples wherever God calls them. We offer semester internships and summer internships. Visit taylorsfbc.org/establish to learn more and apply.



Our Church Family

Celebrate new members, baptisms, anniversaries, stewardship, and more.

Welcome New Members



Barbara Malone
Joined August 2, 2026
by Letter



Evie Frazier
Joined August 2, 2026
by Baptism



Oliver Plant
Joined August 2, 2026
by Baptism



Samantha Bishop
Joined August 2, 2026
by Baptism



Darrell Steadman
Joined August 2, 2026
by Letter



Teresa Steadman
Joined August 2, 2026
by Letter



Hayley Searcy
Joined August 9, 2026
by Statement



Nate Searcy
Joined August 9, 2026
by Statement



**Carey and Betty
Hedgpeth**
Joined August 9, 2026
by Statement



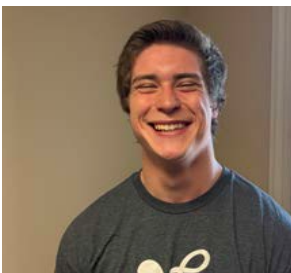
Henry Johnson
Joined August 16, 2026
by Baptism



Lexi O'Daniel
Joined August 16, 2026
by Statement



Emma Compton
Joined August 23, 2026
by Baptism



Garrett Opperee
Joined August 23, 2026
by Baptism



Jacob Homesley
Joined August 23, 2026
by Baptism



Peyton Boggs
Joined August 23, 2026
by Baptism



Raymond Nunez
Joined August 23, 2026
by Baptism

Baptisms

We welcome to the Body of Christ through believer's baptism: Samantha Bishop, Peyton Boggs, Emma Compton, Evie Frazier, Jacob Homesley, Henry Johnson, Raymond Nunez, Garrett Opperlee, Oliver Plant

September Staff Anniversaries

20 Years of Service

Brad Reece, Taylors Rec Center Assistant

13 Years of Service

Anna Duncan, Childcare Coordinator

7 Years of Service

Mallory Gilmore, Taylors Women Coordinator and Financial Ministry Assistant

3 Years of Service

Ira McCoy, Production Director

2 Years of Service

Shirley Atkins, Food Service and Facilities

Church Center App

Download the Church Center App!

You can register for events, give, keep your information current, see the church directory, and access the church calendar!

Download from Google Play or The App Store

Opt-in to our Church Directory!

Church Members have the option to opt in to our directory. Just as we've had a pictorial directory in the past, we have built a digital pictorial directory that can be accessed on the app or computer.

Only Church Members can view the directory!

Stewardship

JULY

Budget Receipts.....	\$462,920
Actual Receipts	\$403,517
Actual Spent.....	\$475,066

YEAR TO DATE

Budget Receipts.....	\$3,471,895
Actual Receipts	\$3,235,493
Actual Spent.....	\$3,418,214

Ways to Give



In the Church Center App



Online at taylorsfbc.org/give



Through online banking — set Taylors FBC as a payee in your banking system



Bring your contribution to the Church Office



Mail your contribution to the Church Office



Place your contribution in one of the Giving Boxes



Other Giving: Give through your charitable trust, charitable annuity, or your IRA Required Minimum Distributions



Legacy Giving: Give through your estate as a bequest

Sunday Statistics

	8/2	8/9	8/16	8/23
Nursery	47	35	39	35
Preschool.....	59	48	60	56
Elementary	74	108	130	110
Students	63	106	100	100
College.....	52	60	40	90
Adults	651	651	690	711
Life Group Total.....	1049	1111	1187	1224
Morning Worship....	1475	1402	1478	1602

Team Updates

Shianne Bujtor, Director of Connections



We are pleased to announce that Shianne Bujtor has transitioned to the role of Director of Connections with the Equip Ministry Team.

Shianne has faithfully served as Director of Connections & Community Ministries, supporting guest services and community partnerships, building strong volunteer teams, and connecting members to ministry opportunities. We are grateful for her continued service, leadership, and heart for hospitality.

As Director of Connections, Shianne will focus on helping guests and members connect, grow, and serve through Guest Services, new member classes, baptism coordination, spiritual gifts assessments, and other opportunities that help people become connected to the life of Taylors FBC.

Community Ministries will continue under Pastor Steven's leadership and will now be coordinated through the Engage Ministry Team.

Please join us in praying for Shianne as she continues serving our church family in this focused role.

Randal Blackburn, Organist

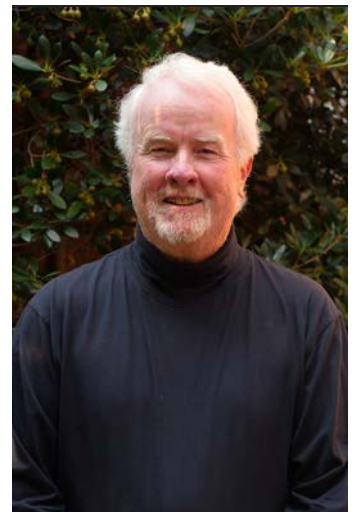
We are pleased to welcome Randal Blackburn as our Organist.

Randal began serving as our Organist on August 17. He brings exceptional experience to our worship ministry, with a distinguished career of service as a church organist and choir accompanist throughout Greenville and the Upstate region. He previously served as Organist here at Taylors FBC and has built a remarkable record of musical leadership and accompaniment across numerous Baptist congregations.

Randal's return to Taylors FBC brings the blessing of continuity, deep familiarity with our worship life, and a proven commitment to supporting congregational worship through musical excellence. His understanding of our church family and his experience in music ministry make him a wonderful addition to our Worship Ministry team.

We are grateful for his willingness to dedicate his gifts to glorifying the Lord through organ and piano accompaniment. Please join us in praying for Randal as he settles into his role and continues his faithful ministry of worship leadership among us.

Welcome back to our team, Randal Blackburn!



Blake F, Engage Ministry Coordinator

We are pleased to announce that Blake has transitioned from Student Ministry Coordinator to Engage Ministry Coordinator with the Engage Ministry Team.

In his new role, Blake will serve under the leadership of Pastor Steven to help mobilize, equip, and send disciples to engage in the mission of Taylors FBC. He will help equip disciples, support Engage Residents, strengthen relationships with our community ministry partners, and create opportunities for our Children, Student, and College Ministries to participate in the mission.

We are grateful for Blake's faithful service in Student Ministry and look forward to seeing how God continues to use him as he transitions into this new role.