



A PUBLICATION OF TAYLORS FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH



Connections

Going above and beyond to create space for life-changing encounters with the living God!



The mission of Connections Ministry is to cultivate a space for change to take place by going above and beyond to serve and engage our guests and members that they might have a life-transforming encounter with the living God.

The Greatest Invitation Goes Far Beyond Sunday Morning

By Shianne Bujtor, Director of Connections

The most welcoming place on earth should be the local church and the most welcoming people on earth should be Christians. Why? So that lost people can hear the Good News and encounter the living God. All of us who know Jesus as our Savior and follow Him have been invited and have been welcomed. Maybe our first invitation was from a friend, teammate, neighbor, coworker... you fill in the blank, but at some point someone invited you to come to church, and by the grace of the Lord, you said yes! It can be easy for us to fall into our Sunday rhythms and forget that every single Sunday is someone's very first Sunday. We must fight that current to ensure we keep an attitude and mentality that is focused on making room for others to feel welcomed, both in our church and in our day to day lives.



Think back to your first Sunday at a new church and think about what you made note of. On that list is probably a note about the message or how the worship made you feel, but for most, I'd argue that on that list is a specific memory of how someone made you feel. At some point throughout your morning, someone showed a little extra kindness and warmth that made an impact in your life - maybe it was a simple "Good Morning," maybe it was helping you find your way through a new campus, maybe it was sliding down a seat so you'd have a place to sit, maybe it was a childcare worker helping with your little one, an extra moment an individual spent getting to know you, or a hot cup of coffee when you needed it. You experienced more than just what took place in the order of service and our experiences matter. Experiences are made up of small encounters and interactions that ultimately shape our attitude and perceptions, and then form our opinions.

How you were treated that very first Sunday impacted your decision to return a second time more than you may have thought. The same goes now for those who join us on Sundays. People remember how we make them feel. We must remember that from the initial invitation, to our Sunday morning encounters, we are clearing a way for a far greater invitation and far greater sense of welcome, we are inviting people to an invitation to hear and respond to the gospel. Praise the Lord we have a hospitable God who has always welcomed us in. We should all strive to be more like Him in our welcoming of others. How do we do that?

- We remember the blessing of belonging, and we seek to share that blessing with others. Sunday mornings are about fellowship with other brothers and sisters in Christ, as we exalt the Lord, together. Remember that the church is a community of believers gathering together, not simply a location or a space. Embrace community with one another and believe that we are better, together.



- We remember hospitality is a culture, not the job of a few, but the job of all. Throughout scripture, we are called to show hospitality to one another. Showing hospitality is a way that we show Jesus' love to others through our words, actions, and attitude. It's not just the job of the Guest Services Team to be hospitable and helpful, but every member's responsibility to outdo one another in showing love.
- We remember that it's better to invest, not just to attend. As members of Taylors FBC, it's far more rewarding to invest where we've placed our roots, than simply to show up. God has called you to be a member of this body for a reason. Ask yourself, "How can I use my gifts to serve Him, His church, and expand His Kingdom?" You'll find great joy when you choose to use your time, talents, and treasures for His glory and the work He is doing within our church.
- We remember to begin with the end in mind. All that we do should be done with the anticipation of the earth being filled with the knowledge and glory of the Lord, with the desire to be one of many standing before the throne of the Lord on the day of salvation. We must take every opportunity to share about the goodness of the Lord, and to show it, too. We must believe that our efforts matter, and that every Sunday is an opportunity for someone to come to know the Lord as Savior.



Romans 12:9-13: *Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good. Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor. Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality.*

A YEAR IN REVIEW Numbers to Celebrate

1534

Average Worship
Attendance

First Time
Guests/Families

279

177

New Members

Baptisms

60

Data: September 2025–September 2026

Serve with Us

Do you love people and the love the church?
Join our Guest Services Team and help us invite
people into a space where they can respond to
the greatest invitation of all time.

We currently have needs for team members:

Parking Lot Team

Greeter Team

Guide Team

Next Steps Team

Fill out our Volunteer Application by scanning
the QR code, or email shianneb@taylorsfbc.org.



Membership At Taylors First Baptist Church

Why join the church?

God created us for relationship – relationship with Himself and relationship with other believers. In the New Testament, Jesus' followers went from town to town and always sought a group of believers with whom to identify in biblical community. When you join a church, you are saying, "I belong here...this is my family."

Joining a Church

According to Romans 12:4-5 "For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another."

When one joins a church, a sense of belonging results as we use our spiritual gifts together in order to build up the body of Christ and to bring glory to God. Church membership also provides accountability as we walk alongside one another encouraging each other to be the people God desires us to be. When a brother or sister in Christ stumbles, we are there to encourage and restore.

When you become a member of our body at Taylors, you are committing to follow the teachings of our church, embrace our mission and values, and come under the trust and service of our church leadership - both the lay and ministerial team.

Joining our church says, "I commit to use my spiritual gifts to be a part of what God is doing here in this mighty work." 1 Corinthians 12:7,11 says "Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good... All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he distributes them to each one, just as he determines."

How to Join the Church

The New Testament church is made up of baptized believers who have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior. If you have never accepted His forgiveness for your sins, trusted Him alone for salvation, and committed yourself to follow His will for your life, will you consider it today?

At the close of each of our services, we have an "invitation" time. During this time we invite you to share your testimony and request church membership with members of our staff or Next Steps team. We accept members...

- By public profession of faith and believer's baptism by immersion.
- By statement: you have previously made a faith commitment to Christ as Lord and Savior and have already followed Him in baptism by immersion.
- By statement and pending baptism: you have previously made a faith commitment to Christ as Lord and Savior and now wish to follow Him in baptism by immersion.
- By letter of transfer of your membership from a Baptist church of like faith and order.
- By watch-care. Watch-care allows college students to come under the spiritual leadership of Taylors FBC while in the area and remain a member at their home church.

Questions about church membership?

Stop by our Next Steps Area on Sunday morning or contact our Director of Connections, Shianne Bujtor at shianneb@taylorsfbc.org. Smiling and helpful faces are eager to walk alongside you to take your next step in your faith or here at Taylors FBC.



Membership Expectations

Gather Regularly

We value a lifestyle of personal and corporate worship where we encounter the living God and anticipate the movement and activity of the Holy Spirit.

Grow Continually

We value life transformation and long to see every member growing more and more in likeness to Christ Jesus.

Give Generously

We value sacrificing our time, talents, and treasure to help others connect with and follow Jesus.

Go Faithfully

We value loving a lost and broken world and are committed to share His gospel of grace with all people to advance His Kingdom.



**We the church exist to display the
glory of God by being built upon
and centered in the gospel of Jesus
Christ and by living generously to
reach a world desperate for hope.**

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.

October 7	Little Pigs: BBQ (pork or chicken) with green beans, mac and cheese; or Chick-fil-A
October 14	Breakfast for dinner with bacon, eggs, grits, biscuits, and gravy; or Chick-fil-A
October 21	Harvey's: Hamburger steak, with green beans, mashed potatoes, and gravy; or Chick-fil-A
October 28	Zaxby's: Chicken fingers with fries, slaw, and toast; or Chick-fil-A



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



Equip Institute

Meets weekly at 6:30 pm in The Loft

The Institute has begun a new two-year journey 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.



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 6:15 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 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!

ENCOUNTER GOD.



Psalm 19:1 proclaims “The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his handiwork.”

A few weeks ago on church staff retreat in Asheville, NC, we were given most of one afternoon to spend time with the Lord and recharge. Being in the Asheville area I knew exactly where I wanted to spend my time with the Lord.



I hopped in my vehicle and headed to nearby Pisgah National Forest where one of my favorite waterfalls resides. Looking Glass Falls is right off the road with easy access and just a few steps down to the falls. I was blessed to spend almost two hours walking in the falls, skipping stones, taking pictures, gazing at the beauty of God’s creation, and contemplating the glory of God. I had a smile on my face from the moment I saw the Falls until I left.

This brief encounter with God reminded me of Psalm 19. In this psalm our hearts are awakened to worship by the glory of God revealed in His creation and in the perfection of His word. The psalmist responds to the glory of God with a humble plea to forgive his sin. He finally closes with a prayer of surrender to be made pure by God’s transforming power and places his trust in the Lord, our rock and redeemer.

Sunday night, October 18, we’ll gather down at the Taylors Rec Picnic Shelter for a night of worship as we contemplate the Glory of God. Psalm 19 will guide us with scripture reading, prayer, and singing. Bring a chair, blanket, and prepare your heart to encounter God together. Stay and enjoy some ice cream provided after the evening. Please park at the softball fields and the picnic shelter parking lot. — Scott Norman, Minister of Worship

EQUIP BELIEVERS.



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

Women's Retreat

• A WEEKEND IN PSALM 23 •

April 16-18, 2027



AT THE BILLY GRAHAM
TRAINING CENTER AT THE COVE

Sign up in the Church Center
App or Scan the QR Code!



Good Shepherd. Sweet Fellowship. Biblical Rest.

Retreats give us the opportunity to intentionally step away from the rush of everyday life and focus on the Lord. We would like to invite you to a time of prayer, worship, biblical teaching, and personal reflection.

The Billy Graham Training Center at The Cove is located in the Blue Ridge Mountains of North Carolina. Come immerse yourself in God's creation, find peace in His presence and tune out the distractions of this world.

Our prayer is that friendships will be made and deepened over a cup of coffee by the fireplace, watching the sun rise over the mountains, and/or sharing encouragement over a meal.

Don't let finances stop you!
We have scholarships available.
Scan the QR code to apply.



Susan Tyler's Faithful Ministry at Taylors First Baptist Church

Susan Tyler has been a member of Taylors First Baptist Church since 1977. In the early 1990s, Phil Hargrove invited her to serve in the church library, beginning a ministry of faithful service that has continued for nearly 35 years.

Throughout those years, Susan has generously shared her time, energy, and warm smile with everyone who entered the library. She has helped church members check out books and videos, answered questions, and guided them toward materials they could enjoy and benefit from. She has also purchased new resources to expand and strengthen the collection, welcomed donations, and thoughtfully selected materials for the church family.

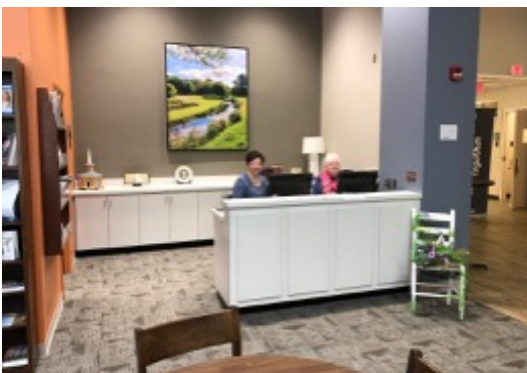
Susan's service extended beyond Taylors First Baptist Church as well. In conjunction with Taylors FBC she helped host the state convention for library workers serving churches and communities throughout the state. Through this responsibility, she connected with others who shared her passion for library ministry and encouraged fellowship, learning, and service beyond our church walls.

Yet Susan's ministry has always been about more than books and videos. Her greatest desire has been to serve people. With kindness and a welcoming smile, she has greeted each person and helped make the library a place of connection, encouragement, and discovery.

Susan's nearly 35 years of faithful service reflect a beautiful example of using God-given gifts to bless others. Although much of her work has taken place quietly behind the scenes, her influence has reached many people both within our church and across the state.

Taylors First Baptist Church is deeply grateful for Susan and for the countless hours she has devoted to this ministry. We celebrate her dedication, her servant's heart, and the joy she has brought to our church family throughout the years.

Susan, thank you for serving so faithfully and for always doing so with a smile. You have truly been a blessing to Taylors First Baptist Church.



When we renovated, Susan Tyler and I "lived" at the library to inventory all the books and CDs, then packed everything to wait for the move to storage, then unpacked and re-shelved! (We probably should have put cots in the workroom!) Today you can see how the library has changed. Since shelf space is limited, additional materials are housed in The Branch, our upstairs overflow room. Just ask a volunteer and they'll be glad to retrieve anything for you!

Susan has been a great "library buddy" and a valued friend. We miss seeing her behind the library desk on Sunday morning, but she has earned a much-needed rest! I love you, Susan. — Judy Dorn

If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Judy at 864-346-2260 or judy.dorn@gmail.com.



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.

October: Lucas Shrout, Piano | November: SC Senior Jazz Band
December: Lori and John McClellan, Christmas Show

Sign up to join us in the Church Center App or at taylorsfbc.org/events by October 5.



Life Group Gathering

Join us for sweet fellowship, food, and music!

Friday, October 23

4:00 – 7:00 pm | Patty Byars' Farm

The event address will be provided upon registration.

Come hungry for a good meal, ready to catch up with your own Life Group, and excited to build connections with friends from other groups across our church community.

We are also blessed to welcome *Old Friends*, who will uplift our spirits with a wonderful selection of Bluegrass and gospel music.

Come prepared to praise the Lord together. We cannot wait to see how God blesses our time together!

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

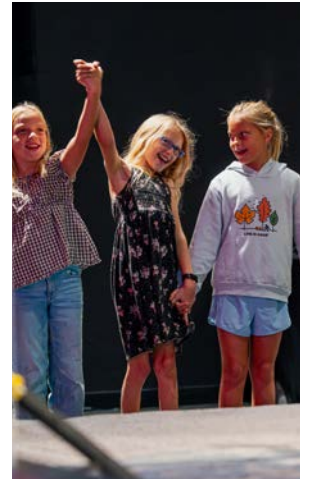


Taylors Children exists to come alongside parents to raise up the next generation to love Jesus with all their heart, soul, mind, and strength.



Mom and Mini

Our annual Mom and Mini event was held on Thursday, September 10. Moms, grandmothers, and daughters enjoyed special and intentional time together. Our theme was Night of Worship as Cameron led us through Psalm 95 focusing on why we worship Jesus, why God created us to worship Him, and how worship is so much more than singing—it's something we live out every day. Each girl created a shadowbox featuring Psalm 95:1 to take home as a reminder to always worship the Lord. We ended the night doing exactly that—lifting our voices together in worship! What a gift to see generations worshipping Jesus together.



Intern Spotlight



Kason Atkinson has joined us as a Taylors Children intern this fall. He is a student at North Greenville University desiring to go into children's ministry. You can find Kason leading our Bible story time on Sunday mornings in Elementary, helping out in various classrooms on Sundays and Wednesday, and preparing materials during the week. We are thankful to have Kason working alongside us!



Taylor's Students exists to equip students to change the world for Jesus.



It was my first time at Camp McCall, and I had a really fun and memorable experience. I went on a four-mile hike up a mountain, which was really challenging but the view at the end was amazing! I stayed in a cabin with my friends, swam in a beautiful waterfall, and played different games outside. I also got to go to the chapel, where we worshiped together and learned more about prayer and how important it is to pray. I learned different ways to pray and how prayer can help me grow closer to God and trust Him more. I also got to spend a lot of time with my friends, enjoy the outdoors, and try new things. Overall, Camp McCall was a great experience, and I made a lot of fun memories while also growing in my faith. — Harlow Eskridge, 6th Grade



This year at Fall Retreat I was reminded of how powerful prayer can be. Its purpose is to glorify God! He has power that I do not. I learned that a life marked by prayer is not just praying before bed or when things are not going my way, but prayer is never ceasing no matter what season I'm in. — Anslyn Klessens, 11th Grade



Fall Retreat at Camp McCall is always one of the most intentional weekends in student ministry. At McCall there are no distractions so it is just you, your friends, and the Lord. This weekend we discussed what prayer is, how we should pray, and why we pray. My favorite memory from this retreat was getting to the top of the hike and looking out over God's creation. As I get back into my routine at home, I plan to experience what it means to pray without ceasing in my personal relationship with the Lord! — Greyson Hardy, 12th Grade

One thing that I love and learned from this student retreat is that prayer should be a daily activity. It should not be something we do because we have to but it should be something we do because we want to. There was also this really long hike up the mountain we did that was really fun. Most of it was climbing over huge rocks, so of course I loved it! In the end, the view was totally worth the difficulty of the hike. We got to go fishing a little but sadly I didn't catch anything. In conclusion, I think anyone who comes on a trip like this will enjoy it a lot and ask to go again next year! — William Tonnsen, 8th Grade

It was an honor and a joy to serve the students at this year's Fall Retreat! I had the opportunity to reconnect with previous students and meet new friends in grades I hadn't worked with before. Fall Retreat has such a beautiful way of connecting students not only within their individual grades, but as a student ministry as a whole. This year, we learned about prayer, including how to pray, why we pray, and what we pray. My biggest takeaway was that prayer is one of the ways we glorify God as we watch Him work and bring deliverance in our lives. My prayer for these students is that prayer would no longer feel intimidating, but that they would put what they learned into practice and grow into lives marked by prayer! — Laura Caroline Atkinson, Leader



Upcoming Events

Baptism Class

Sunday, November 1, at 9:40 am

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



Sundays at 9:40 am
Through October 18

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

TIME IN THE HARVEST

October 31 | 10:00 am - 12:00 pm

Meet at Greer City Park



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.



In September we had the opportunity to join with six church college ministries in our annual, Teach Reach Beach.

This started as a grassroots effort. Alex and a few additional college ministers wanted to host a fall retreat that was more than just a time away. They wanted to create space for students to be refreshed in God's Word, enjoy community, and then quickly put their faith into action. With a desire to pair a retreat with evangelism, Teach Reach Beach was born.

It is encouraging to think that this is now our fourth season of evangelizing together. Each year, we have watched this simple idea grow as churches have come together with the same desire: to see college students know the gospel and confidently share it with others. We were grateful to once again be hosted at Fort Johnson Baptist Church by Pastor Marty Middleton and his congregation.

This year, 87 college-aged young adults came together to learn from God's Word, worship together, and receive a refresher on evangelism before being sent out to share the Good News at Folly Beach.

Our students had many gospel conversations and moments of prayer with beach goers. Those conversations led to five salvations and ten baptisms. Half of these baptisms were individuals who had previously accepted Christ but had yet to take that next step of faith and obedience. What a joy it was to watch college students put their faith into action.

What makes this retreat so special? It is not just about driving 3.5 hours away for a weekend. It is about equipping students to see the people





around them as the harvest. The drive, lunch spot, and the beach become the mission field; the hope is that students return home realizing that their campus, workplace, apartment, classroom, and friendships are ripe with the harvest also.

We believe college students can make a difference for the Kingdom right now. They don't have to wait until they graduate, get a job, or become a ministry leader. They are being used by God right where they are.

Church family, thank you for praying. With you joining us in prayer, the gospel was advanced, hope was shared, and lives were changed. We are grateful for a church family that believes in the next generation and is willing to send

them out with the gospel. Please keep praying for these students. Pray for the five who made professions of faith. Pray for the ten who took a step of obedience through baptism. And pray for the many conversations that may not have produced an immediate response but planted a gospel seed that God will continue to grow.

Our prayer is that these students will take what they learned and carry it back to their campuses, their churches, their families, and their communities. That they would continue to have gospel conversations, take steps of faith, and to live as people who have been sent.

What a joy to watch college students put their faith into action. Hope is alive!





It is our desire to equip couples for healthy, Christ-centered marriages that reflect God's glory to the world around them and that form the foundation for thriving families.

Marriage MATTERS

A marriage conference hosted by Nathan and Leah Finn.

October 9: 6:30 - 9:00 pm
October 10: 9:00 am - 3:15 pm

Join us for a weekend conference covering the topics that matter most — the foundation of marriage in Scripture, roles and relationships, romance and intimacy, family discipleship, parenting, and passing the faith to the next generation.

Cost: \$50 per Couple | Childcare Provided

The registration fee includes all conference materials, a box lunch on Saturday, and childcare throughout the conference.

*Scan to
sign Up* 



ENGAGE THE WORLD.



taylors engage SUNDAY

October 25



MEET & GREET, 9:00 AM

Enjoy coffee and conversation with our missionaries and church planting partners in the Welcome Center.



WORSHIP, 10:00 AM

Worship the Lord and celebrate what He is doing to make His glory known. We will hear exciting testimonies and Pastor Steven will preach the Word.



SUNDAY LUNCH, 11:45 AM

Enjoy a delicious meal and hear an unforgettable testimony that resembles the book of Acts.



Scan to sign up for lunch and childcare!



EXPLORE 2027, 4:30 PM

Learn about our partnerships and explore opportunities to GO on mission in 2027.



Scan to sign up for childcare!

*Good News Now!
Hope Can't Wait!*

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.

Larry and Carolyn Freshour

When Serving the Sent was announced, we knew that the Lord was telling us to go. We've been on several South Asia mission trips, know some of the workers, and we're always excited to help provide a good conference experience for them.

Maybe one of the more unexpected roles during Serving the Sent was serving on the Security Team. There's a need for special types of security because the workers attending the conference all live and minister in countries where the gospel is illegal or highly restricted. They live every day knowing that if their real purpose in being in their country is discovered, they could be jailed or kicked out of the country.

So at the conference, their identities need to be protected. That meant the team from Taylors worked alongside personnel from a professional security company. We were impressed with how seriously they took the job and how well trained they were. We learned they had been on site for over a week, learning the layout of the extensive buildings and grounds, getting acquainted with facility personnel and planning responses to different types of situations.

We started each day with a 7:00 am briefing and devotion, then received our assignments for the day. That might mean walking the grounds in a prescribed area or being stationed at one of a dozen or more places where children were being cared for or where participants were meeting in groups. We had several purposes: check badges and wrist bands, watch for any outsiders or suspicious activity, accompany groups of children to and from the playground or pool, check the restrooms for outsiders before our children went in, and



A typical children's classroom that needed to be checked and secured both before each day's sessions started and then after the sessions were over at the end of the day.

be the second person with a group of children when a teacher needed to leave.

Equipped with a communication system that allowed us to hear every member of the security team, we could quickly relay information to security headquarters and stay informed about what was happening.

One example of how quickly and professionally the team responded was a call saying there were two taxis hanging around outside the back gate to the property very near where the children were playing. Two security company guys were quickly sent there to talk with the drivers, find out what they were doing and “suggest” they move on – they did!

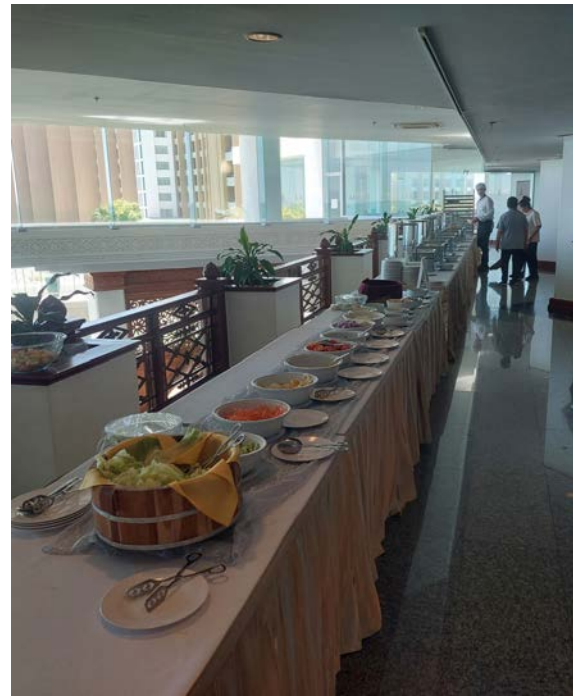
Another day a call came saying there was a lost boy. Personnel were quickly assigned to all the exits and instructions given on searching rooms. In just a few minutes, the call came that the little boy had been found – he was playing a game by hiding behind the desk in his classroom!

Being assigned in the children’s area was fun for us, watching their excitement and enthusiasm and interacting with them and their parents. We also got to eat the snacks provided for them mid-morning and mid-afternoon. Eating the children’s lunch and supper menus wasn’t so exciting unless you like chicken, rice and pasta twice a day!

Our day usually ended around dinnertime with us checking each room where children or workers had met to be sure there were no materials or information on the whiteboard that could reveal something that needed to be kept private. We had duty some evenings, again checking badges and wristbands, stopping any picture taking that might be happening and watching for outsiders while the participants were in meetings.

We were happy to be part of the security team because we knew the team’s presence there gave the participants peace of mind and the opportunity to relax and concentrate on what they were hearing in their seminars and big group meetings.

You’re always the winner when it comes to going on a mission trip! Meeting and interacting with such committed workers is a blessing, and being part of providing the setting that allows them to fully participate in their seminars and meetings produces a feeling of satisfaction and reward that’s hard to beat. So get ready for the mission trip reveal in October, and ask the Lord which trip He wants you on next year!



Special lunch serving line for the children and located near their classrooms.





Hannah Johnson

My first mission trip was when I was 14 years old. I traveled to Venezuela with my church to minister to a fishing village and help with VBS for the children. After that, I went on a trip almost every year, usually with my church or another organization.

There was always something about stepping outside the comfort zone of my American life that drew me in. You get to see life through a different lens, and every trip changed my perspective in some way.

When Drew and I heard about the Serving the Sent trip in the summer of 2025, we both knew one of us should go. I had taken about an eight-year break from traveling while our kids were little, and Drew knew that had been a sacrifice for me. He graciously said, "You should go."

I was extremely excited. But I'm not going to lie—the closer the trip got, the more stressful it felt to think about leaving Drew and the kids for almost two weeks.

And really, that became part of the trip before I ever left. God used it as an opportunity to remind me that He holds my children and Drew in His hands, too. I didn't have to be home to hold everything together. So, the reminders of His faithfulness started before the trip even began.

I served on the hospitality team, and we prepared for the trip by packing the gifts and donations church members had given and getting ready to serve wherever the Engage Conference leaders needed us.

Before the conference, we also wrote personal cards for each of the teams serving in the field and had the opportunity to pray over them. We had a plan for what our week would look like. But we also learned pretty quickly that plans can blow away with the wind. Because when you say "yes" to a mission trip, you're also saying, "I will be flexible."

We thought a lot of our time would be spent rotating with VBS workers to give them breaks, connecting with the teams from the field, and helping with conference logistics. And we did all of those things. But our willingness to be flexible also meant that we spent a good portion of the week holding babies from 0–23 months old.

These sweet little ones were being dropped off with strangers, many of them having never been away from

their moms before. They were absolutely in caring hands—but their lungs were telling a very different story! By Wednesday, thankfully, most of them had decided we weren't so bad.

One of my favorite examples of seeing God at work on this trip actually started with those cards we wrote before the conference for the missionaries.

On the first day of registration, Sharon Furniss and I were helping manage the registration desk for the hundreds of attendees. We met a husband-and-wife team who were preparing to head back into the field after being displaced. We talked with them for a little while and learned more about their story, but I didn't think much more about it afterward.

The next day, the wife found me and asked, "Hey, is there another Hannah on this trip?" I told her I was the only one. She then told me that what I had written in their card was so specific to what they needed to hear. They were blessed not only by the words in the card, but by realizing they had actually met and connected with the person who had written it.

I loved that moment because I had no idea when I wrote that card who would receive it or what they were walking through. But God did.

There were so many stories like that across our team—moments that lined up in ways none of us could have planned, but God already knew. And it reminded me of something I needed to learn myself: the gifts I have are not the limitation for how God can use me. He uses me in the way He needs—not necessarily in the way I think my gifts should be used.

Sometimes that looks like something you feel equipped for. Sometimes it looks like writing a card. And sometimes it looks like holding a screaming baby for several hours.

Our job is to be willing. That is probably the biggest thing I brought home with me: willingness is the first step to fulfilling God's calling, whatever that calling may look like. I was willing to go on mission trips before I had a husband and children, but the cost felt different once I had those responsibilities at home. That doesn't mean don't go.

It means that if God is giving you the desire to serve—whether that is locally or internationally—don't automatically let the logistics be the thing that stops you. Give God room to make a way. If you're hesitant, I think there's a question worth asking yourself. It's one I had to ask myself:

"Am I unwilling to participate, or am I afraid to participate because I may not be able to live up to my own expectations?"

One common thread I heard over and over from the teams we met was some version of, "We don't know how this is going to work out, but we know God will make a way."

Many of these teams had been pulled from or displaced from the very countries where they thought they would be serving. Their plans had changed. Their circumstances had changed. And yet there was still this confidence that God had not changed. When we obey with open hands, God doesn't need our help figuring out how to make a way.

He has already made the way.

Coming back stateside has reminded me how much I take for granted—and how easily I allow myself to become distracted. I think the biggest gift from this trip has been a renewed and refreshed perspective of just how big God is. I don't have to understand how everything is going to work. I don't have to hold all the pieces together. And I don't have to know exactly how God is going to use my willingness before I say yes.

He holds it all together.

For our good and for His glory.





Kamlyn Banks

I don't think I'll ever be able to fully put into words the impact the Serving The Sent trip has had on my life. I went because I felt the Lord calling me to serve and invest in the lives of people who have sacrificed so much so that the name of Jesus can be shared among the nations. I've been on many mission trips, but none quite like this one.

During the trip, I served on the worship team for both adult and student worship, as well as serving as a small group leader with the students. After adult worship one morning, a worker came up to me and thanked me for leading worship. They shared that they couldn't remember the last time they had been able to freely worship with other believers in English and actually say the name of Jesus out loud without being afraid that something might happen to them. That conversation has stayed with me. The stories I heard and the conversations I had with people were incredibly encouraging, humbling, and eye-opening. They truly have a way of putting your own life into perspective.



During one of our small group prayer request times, one of the senior girls shared that she and her family were heading to the U.S. for her first year of college. She shared that they were all worried about the home church they had just started because there was no one to take over when they left. As she continued to share, she broke down in tears. They had made so much progress in the town where they were living, and the thought of seeing it all go away was heartbreaking.

I realized how much I take for granted. When I went to college, I never really thought about what I was leaving behind because I was simply so excited for the next chapter

of my life. But these students have a completely different perspective. They truly have Jesus on their hearts and are on fire for spreading His name among the nations.

This trip reminded me that following Jesus often requires sacrifice, and that I should never take for granted the freedom I have to worship Him, share His name, and live out my faith openly. I'm so grateful the Lord allowed me to be a small part of what He is doing throughout Southeast Asia, and I know this is an experience I will carry with me for the rest of my life.



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!

God Is Not Limited: A Mission Trip to Panama

The initial assignment was to include small group reading and discussions of the gospel of John with a Panamanian college student English club in support of the local full-time IMB team.

During our initial in-Panama training, we learned our time was also to include working with a team of about 16 IMB college student interns, termed Sojourners, who had been serving in Panama for about 8 weeks, and a number of local Christian interpreters. The areas of service included the English clubs but also reading a gospel passage and portraying it in a skit to children in a Christian elementary school and to children in a church located in a Kuna village in the midst of an active solid waste landfill.

We also were able to do this in a remote Kuna village accessible only by a 1 1/2 Hr boat ride over Lake Bayano. We understand that we were the first church group from the US to be admitted by the tribal chief to present the gospel to their children. The ride was in open boats and the team got soaked in a thunderstorm on the return boat trip. Not a single member of the team complained.

We also were able to spend a morning meeting and sharing the gospel with those waiting outside of the Children's Hospital in Panama City. The hospital had no waiting room so the visitors and those waiting on news of loved ones

simply found a shady spot on the street outside of the hospital to wait to be called inside or to receive a report from the hospital staff.

On our last afternoon of service, we worked on maintenance items at the First Baptist Church of Panama City.

Throughout the trip, we saw God working through the team in meaningful ways. In each of the locations we visited and sought to share the gospel, the presence of the Holy Spirit and His call on each of us to be there at that time was evident. The children and adults in each location were receptive and attentive to our discussions and in each conversation.

We always think of Christianity in terms of the United States and how we live and worship. In Panama we were foreigners and in a tribal village where we didn't understand the language, but we saw God's people at work and receptive. We witnessed as Paul described in Ephesians 4:4-6, "There is one body and one Spirit - just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call - one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all who is over all and through all and in all."

The IMB missionaries in Panama coordinated and prepared an effective and meaningful time for the team. They know what they are doing and do it very well. They deserve our support.



Dan and Marsha Bunnell Overlooking Lake Bayano



Discussion Group of Kuna Children and IMB Sojourners



Children Watching the Group's Arrival

God also used the gifts, actions, and conversations of the team to impact others. Through interpreters, English to Spanish, and then at times to Kuna, the message of the gospel came through. During the week of service, the team presented the gospel to 500 people and prayed with 90 individuals as they made a personal acknowledgement and commitment of faith in Jesus. Marsha and I had never participated in a time of such reception of the gospel.

That experience also brought a challenge for fellow brothers and sisters who may be considering serving on a mission trip or engaging in local ministry: Consider it with specific intent, earnestly. Learn what you can about the ministry. Seek knowledgeable, experienced and faithful advisors, and then serve where you are led by the Spirit.

Then, be flexible. Conditions on the site may not be exactly as anticipated but God will use a willing heart and mind. Be prepared to share the gospel and what God has done for you. The experience will challenge you to grow in your faith and reliance on the Holy Spirit.

For anyone who feels hesitant or unqualified to participate in God's mission, there is an even greater word of encouragement: Do not let your feelings of limitations keep you from being of use.

What was a 71-year-old who didn't speak the language or have any experience in this situation, doing in a Kuna Village on Lake Bayano, Panama witnessing to an 18-year-old Kuna boy through an interpreter? A week earlier I could not have imagined that I would be there, but God was using me.

Marsha saw 8 little Kuna boys raise their hands to receive Christ into their hearts when the gospel was shared. What joy! God will use you even with the limitations you think you have. It is not you; it is the Spirit in you that is at work.

God is not limited.

s— Dan and Marsha Bunnell



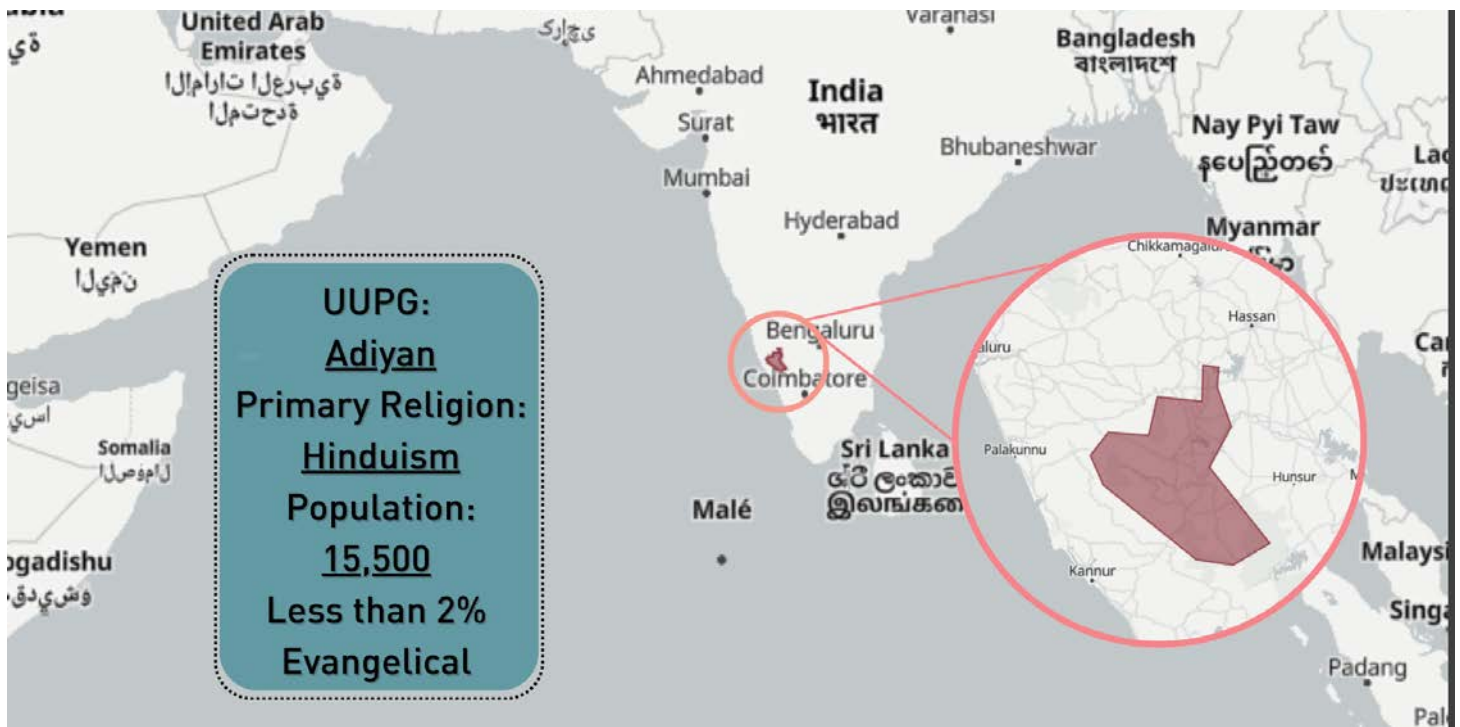
Marsha with Panamanian Interpreter and Kuna Child who had Attended

Over the summer, I had the incredible opportunity to serve on an IMB mission trip to Panama. Throughout the week, we experienced so many amazing moments, from sharing the gospel with Indigenous communities to helping



The Marietta First Baptist Church 2026 Panama Team

college students practice English through Bible stories. We were blessed to be part of more than 200 gospel conversations and see 90 salvations. This trip changed my life in more ways than I can express, and I am beyond grateful that God called me to go. Panama will forever hold a special place in my heart, and I pray that the seeds planted during our time there continue to grow. — Hannah DeWease



Monthly Prayer for Unengaged Unreached People Groups

The Adiyen are an unreached, unengaged people group that have a population of 15,500. Their main religion is Hinduism. They have a small percentage 0.69% of believers. The Adiyen speak Ravula, but also speak Malayalam, Kodava and Kannada. They are primarily located in the hills and coffee growing regions of the Kodagu district in Karnataka. Women primarily work in coffee plantations.

Pray that the believers in this community will receive strength and boldness from our Lord to go and share with their neighbors/family members. Pray that our national partners involved in making coffee will be able to use their coffee business to find these people. Pray for the Adiyen people to hear the good news and respond in faith unto salvation. "Pray also for me, that words may be given to me in opening my mouth boldly to proclaim the mystery of the gospel." Ephesians 6:19

UUPG
PRAYER TIME

**Sunday,
October 4**
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

**October
6, 13, 20, 27**

Join us in the
**Taylor's Rec Center
Room 3**
for an informal,
scripture-driven,
and spirit-led time of
prayer for the harvest.

**Time
in the
Harvest**

Thursdays
5:00 - 7:00 pm

**October
1, 8, 15, 22, 29**

Meet in the
**Taylor's Rec Center
Room 3**
as we go into the harvest
to prayer walk, share the
gospel, and make disciples
in the community!

**WOMEN'S
MISSIONARY
UNION**

**Tuesday,
October 20**
10:45 am

Register by Wed. Oct 14

Meet in the
Taylor's Ministry Center
as we discuss missions
education and support.
Sign up in the Church
Center App or at
taylor'sfbc.org/events



Single Moms' Oil Change

Back in August we hosted our Single Moms' Oil Change. This event is always a great way for our church body to come together to serve those in need in our community. We served close to 60 mothers and their families, with teams changing oil, checking tire pressure, and performing other minor mechanical tasks. While our outside teams served mechanically, we also had incredible men and women inside ministering to the mothers and children that came. Through breakfast, shared conversation, prayer, activities for kids, packed backpacks for students to start the school year with and everything in-between, we made sure families left feeling like they were seen and cared for, not only by our church family, but by our Heavenly Father.

Our Engage Team is always looking for ways to use our campus, resources, and the gifts and talents of the Body to make a Kingdom impact in our community. Single Moms' Oil Change is a prime example of how we do this. We are able to come together to meet a true need for many of our neighbors, and glorify the Lord as we do it. That is the heartbeat of all our Love Taylors ministries and initiatives - to make God known among our neighbors and within our community as we serve, partner, and share!

Thank you to everyone who took the time to come out and serve with us. A special thank you to Warren and LeAnn Smith, and Cal Moreland for faithfully leading out for this event and making it happen. The investment of those who served goes far beyond a Saturday morning! We pray that those who served were just as blessed as those we served as there is great joy in coming together for a reason like this. For those who couldn't join us this year, we hope to see you next year!

ESTABLISH THE CHURCH.



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

Grant Miller, Establish Network Resident

My name is Grant Miller and I just completed my first year of the residency program. I am originally from Springfield, MO, and started my degree at Southwest Baptist University. While in my undergrad I worked at Fuge Camps each summer, which is where I met a girl named Kristen who lived in South Carolina. I eventually moved from Missouri to South Carolina and transferred to North Greenville University. Kristen and I got married entering our last year at NGU. I graduated with a bachelor's degree in Christian studies and Kristen with a bachelor's degree in elementary education. Kristen and I have been married now for two years and we're expecting our first child at the end of March.



As I was getting ready to graduate, I heard about this program where I could go to seminary and work in the church at the same time. When I first heard about this, I had no desire to go to seminary right after graduating. I knew God had called me into ministry and I knew that I would go to seminary one day, but I wanted to get a job in a church and worry about seminary later on. As I was praying about where God wanted me after graduation, He kept putting this program on my heart.

During this first year of the residency program I have grown a lot in knowledge, experience, and most importantly closer in my relationship with God. God has used this first year to clarify my calling, to give me experience in the church, and to be mentored by others in our church. I have been able to serve mainly with our student ministry at the church and have learned and seen many things that have helped prepare me for my future ministry. I am very thankful for this experience so far and thankful that this program does not just allow me to serve now, but is preparing me for many more years to serve in the church. As this second year of the program is starting, I am looking forward to my added responsibilities with the student ministry and how God will use me here at Taylors First Baptist and to best prepare me for the future.

Establish Network Internship Applications Open

Equipping and sending multiplying leaders who abide in Christ, make disciples, and develop leaders to Establish the Church. 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. Taylors FBC offers 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



Connor Aldridge
Joined August 30, 2026
by Baptism



Randy Blackburn
Joined September 6, 2026
by Letter



Gene and Colette Groves
Joined September 6, 2026
by Statement



Charles Loop
Joined September 13, 2026
by Letter



Caleb and Brooke Murphy
Joined August 30, 2026
by Letter



Cole and Sara Parker
Joined September 6, 2026
by Statement



Jonathan and Whitney Poitevint
Joined August 30, 2026
by Statement



Emily Ross
Joined August 30, 2026
by Baptism



Sophie Whitley
Joined September 13, 2026
by Baptism

In Memoriam

Joe Martin

June 18, 1957 - August 29, 2026

Bill Barbary

February 11, 1936 - September 8, 2026

Bonnie Powell

January 14, 1946 - September 8, 2026

Sam Barton

February 25, 1947 - September 16, 2026

Stewardship

August

Budget Receipts.....	\$578,649
Actual Receipts	\$444,551
Actual Spent.....	\$459,953

Year to Date

Budget Receipts.....	\$4,050,544
Actual Receipts	\$3,680,043
Actual Spent.....	\$3,878,167

Sunday Statistics

	8/30	9/6	9/13	9/20	9/27
Nursery	42	37	36	30	39
Preschool	47	41	50	50	42
Elementary	98	70	104	95	91
Students	89	62	88	101	84
College	70	55	63	33	75
Adults	702	700	750	577	602
Life Group Total.....	1180	1073	1232	1014	1063
Morning Worship.....	1541	1346	1485	1348	1430
Lord's Supper Service			306		

Baptisms

We welcome to the Body of Christ through believer's baptism: Connor Aldridge, Marah Chelzeban, Destiny Brown, Emily Ross, and Sophie Whitley

October Staff Anniversaries

16 Years of Service

Nancy Slice, Publications Associate

2 Years of Service

Tom Berg, Director of Facilities and Grounds

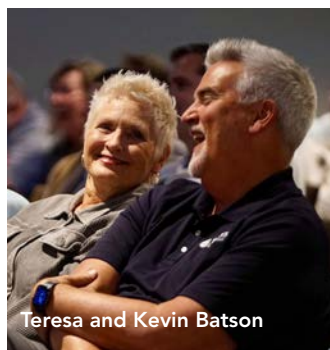
Celebrating Our Lead Team Pastors During October



Ashley Eskridge and Josh Powell

Privileged to Serve with Josh Powell!

I am thankful for the opportunity to serve and work alongside Josh Powell as his assistant. His faithfulness to God's Word and love for people is evident in all he does. It's a privilege to support the vision of our church and serve on his team! — Ashley Eskridge, Lead Pastor's Ministry Assistant



Teresa and Kevin Batson



Grateful for Kevin Batson's Leadership!

Looking back over the last 18 years, it is amazing to reflect on all the experiences of worship, rehearsals, mission trips, planning sessions, and times of fellowship and joy I have shared under Kevin Batson's leadership. I have watched him lead our congregation with unwavering integrity, humility, and a true worshiper's heart through every season. His constant encouragement, patience, and the way He always point our team back to Jesus has been a true blessing. Kevin, thank you for your tireless dedication to the Lord and to this ministry. God has blessed me with the privilege of serving as your assistant and I will always be thankful for your friendship. — Diann Greer, Worship Assistant and Coordinator for Student and Children's Music



What a joy it is to work alongside Chris DeWease.

We have this synergistic alliance that makes us the perfect duo.

I respect his leadership and I continue to learn from him daily.

He's stern, steady and a strategic thinker, but just when you think he's way too serious for a great belly laugh—out it comes!!

Thank you for all you do, the graciousness you extend to me as your assistant and the way you demonstrate your love for your family and God's kingdom. — Anita Tolliver, Assistant to Executive Pastor of Operations

Steven C., Thank You for Being an Amazing Boss!

For more than a year, I've had the honor of serving as Steven's assistant, and one of the greatest privileges has been getting to see firsthand the way he leads and cares for the people around him. He doesn't just lead a team—he invests in the people on it.

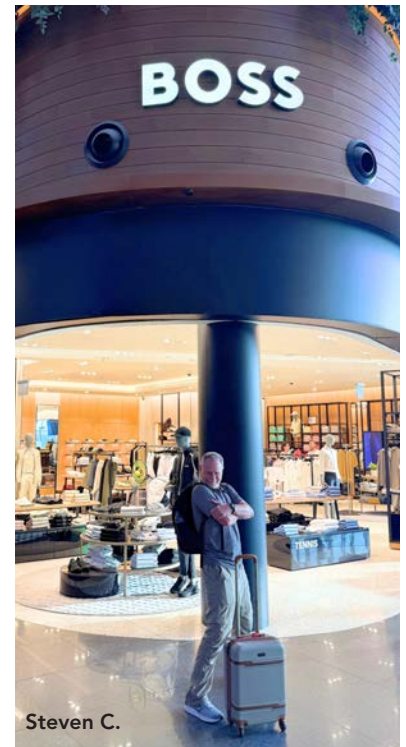
Steven genuinely cares about the people he leads, and I think that's one of the things that makes him such a special leader. He checks in, he listens, he encourages, he prays, and he takes the time to know what's going on in our lives—not because it's part of his job, but because he truly cares. He cares about our families, our faith, our joys, and even the things that may be weighing on us. He has a way of making people feel known and cared for, and that means more than he probably realizes.

That kind of leadership creates a team that feels more like a family. Steven is quick to celebrate others, recognize a job well done, and remind us that what we do matters. He gives people confidence, makes room for laughter, and brings a genuine sense of encouragement to the team. He makes you want to give your best because you know you're not just a person filling a position—you're someone he genuinely values.

He also loves our church family deeply. You can see it in the way he talks about our church members, prays for them, and genuinely wants to see them grow in their relationship with Christ. And his heart for missions is one of the things I admire most about him. He leads our missions ministry with such a deep love for the gospel and for the people who still need to hear it. Whether he's talking about reaching people across the world or helping someone right here at home discover how they can be part of God's mission, his passion is evident. It's a privilege to watch someone pour so much of his heart into a ministry he truly loves and believes in.

And while Steven takes his calling seriously, he definitely doesn't take himself too seriously. Whether it's him speaking in one of his accents, a perfectly timed Dad joke, or occasionally catching him skipping down the hallway, (yes!! Actually skipping!!) he has a way of bringing joy and lightheartedness to the people around him. One of my favorite things about him is that he's completely comfortable being himself. He can move from a serious conversation about ministry to making the whole team laugh without missing a beat. And honestly, seeing Steven skipping down the hallway never fails to make me smile, and somehow it perfectly captures who he is—joyful, genuine, and completely unafraid to be a little goofy sometimes!

Steven, thank you for being an amazing boss, but more importantly, thank you for being a genuine friend to me, our team, and our families. Thank you for the way you care for people, encourage our faith, love our church, and pour your heart into missions. Thank you for making us laugh, for reminding us that we're valued, and for leading with so much heart. You are appreciated more than you probably realize, Boss. I'm incredibly thankful to be part of your team. I've learned a lot from watching you lead, but I've probably learned even more from watching the way you love people. Happy Pastor's Appreciation Month! You're truly the best! — Tatiana Dolan, Missions Ministry Assistant



Steven C.



Steven and Debbie C.
Tatiana and Matt Dolan



Shining a bright spotlight on Jeremy Thompson!

In honor of Pastor Appreciation Month, the Equip team wants to shine a bright spotlight on Jeremy for his years of dedicated leadership, faith, and friendship. Serving in multiple roles, holding various job titles, and leading ministries across many different offices at Taylors First Baptist Church, Jeremy has proven to be an incredibly versatile and devoted leader. Here is why we are so grateful for him:

A Passion for the Word: Jeremy doesn't just preach; he equips. He loves teaching others how to unpack the Bible for themselves. One of his favorite verses is 2 Corinthians 3:18, focusing on transformation through Christ's glory.

Joy Through Every Change: Navigating years of growth means changing offices and titles frequently. Through every shift, Jeremy keeps our team laughing and brings authentic joy to the workplace.

Family-Focused: Jeremy loves his family fiercely. Alongside his wife,

best friend, and ministry rock, Cyndi, he is about to embark on a beautiful new chapter as Jeremy and Cyndi become grandparents!

A Heart that Listens: Anyone who interacts with Jeremy walks away feeling deeply seen, heard, and appreciated.

I am so grateful to work with and for Jeremy, and I am proud to call him a brother and a friend. Thank you for your years of exceptional leadership! — Beth Caskey, Assistant to Executive Pastor for Ministries

October is Pastor Appreciation Month

We are honored to recognize the ministers who serve Taylors FBC and are thankful for their ministry!



Josh Powell
Lead Pastor



Kevin Batson
Worship Pastor



Steven Crittendon
Missions Pastor



Chris DeWease
Executive Pastor
of Operations



Jeremy Thompson
Executive Pastor
for Ministries



Joseph Eskridge
Minister of Sports
Outreach



Nathan Finn
Teaching Pastor



Lea Hardy
Minister of Children



Wes Henderson
Minister of Pastoral
Care and Adult
Ministries



Matthew Kilgore
Minister of Students



Scott Norman
Minister of Worship



Alex Smith
Minister of College
and Young Adults