

# LIFE IN FELLOWSHIP



FELLOWSHIP  
GREENVILLE

SPRING  
2017



*Grace*  
ON TOP OF  
**GRACE**





ROB MARKS

## FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF MINISTRY

C.S. Lewis said, "The more we let God take us over, the more truly ourselves we become—because he made us. He invented us. He invented all the different people that you and I were intended to be... It is when I turn to Christ, when I give up myself to his personality, that I first begin to have a real personality of my own."

At Fellowship Greenville, we desire to let God take us over, to transform us into a community of grace passionately pursuing life and mission with Jesus. This year's first edition of our *Life in Fellowship* magazine is a wonderful example of how God is doing just that in and through us.

To begin... did you see the cover?! The whole staff got together in the new auditorium to take this photo, to express our gratitude for God's grace and faithfulness. It wasn't very long ago that we gathered, in this same spot, before the final beam was put in place. We signed that beam and prayed for these new buildings and all that God would do in and through them. **We are so excited to finally be moving into our new worship and student space this month.**

Pages four and five give a high-level overview of what's happening over the next four months. Details for all of those events can be found in our mobile app and on our web site. Speaking of the web site... here's a teaser: we're working on a complete overhaul to our online presence. You can expect to see a brand **new fellowshipgreenville.org coming in May!**

Johnathan North helps set our focus for 2017 on page eight, where he references something we've fondly been calling "the FG Triangle." This is **a visual representation of how we do ministry**, as we seek to equip and grow you in discipleship (Life with Jesus), relationship (Life in Community), and service (Life on Mission). That article also contains a link to a short video presentation I gave to our staff, to help further explain the FG Triangle.

On page 10, Mary Beth Williams talks about the vision she and Sharon Thomas had for a special Christmas discipleship opportunity for women and how **God provided beyond their dreams.**

Switching gears a bit, on page 11 Tara Quint shares her interview with a family who comes to us from South Africa and how they have been able to **find community** through our church.

Our center spread covers how we, as your church,

want to support and encourage you in your marriage relationship. We're getting ready for a **fun kick-off event called Married People: Big Night Out** on February 12 and we look forward to seeing you there.

You'll notice Karen Rigsby has written several articles in this magazine, but her job title is missing from her byline. Although we wish it weren't so, this was not a mistake. After seven years as our Director of Family Ministry, we said good-bye to Karen in December. She and her husband, Monty, felt God calling them to France, where Monty was offered a job. Karen has left an enormous mark on this church and we are so grateful to have had her all this time. Her development of **the Faith@Home Center and its wealth of resources will continue to bless families** for years to come. We will miss her here, but trust the plans God has for her and Monty abroad.

Speaking of Family Ministry, pages 14-15 offer insights into how our families are using the provided resources. Be sure to check out those articles, then stop by the Faith@Home Center for your own copies of the resources mentioned.

In March, we're hosting our **first Trauma Competent Care Training**. This is specialized training for anyone who cares for a child from a hard place. We're excited to welcome our ministry partner, Back2Back, to lead the training, particularly since it is so highly sought-after and important for fostering and adopting families. Find details on page 16.

If you've been here for a while, you've likely heard about Liberia. *But maybe you haven't ever really stopped to consider how Liberia affects you?* When Mary Wilson did, she was quite surprised by what she felt God saying to her. Read her story on page 17.

The second half of the magazine contains highlights from our student and worship ministries, plus a note about our new Student Ministry Pastor, Matt Densky (page 20). And, what family magazine would be complete without some fun for the kids? Parents, pages 22-23 give **a glimpse into what this season holds for students in our FG Kids area.** We close this edition with details about additional ways we can live a "Life on Mission," through some of our 2017 GO Journeys.

*Rob Marks*

## INSIDE

From the Director of Ministry	2
Event Calendar	4
Connections Ministry Update	6
Fixing Our Eyes on Jesus	7
Mentoring	8
Senior Adults Calendar	9
Women's Ministry Update	10
Finding Community	11
Supporting Marriages	12
It's Just a Phase	14
Fully Engaged	15
Trauma Competent Care	16
When God Pulls...	17
Student Ministry Update	18
Staff Notes	20
Worship Ministry Update	21
FG Kids	22
2017 GO Journeys	24

[FACEBOOK.COM/  
FELLOWSHIPGREENVILLE](https://www.facebook.com/fellowshipgreenville)

[TWITTER.COM/FELLOWSHIPGVL](https://twitter.com/fellowshipgvl)

[INSTAGRAM.COM/FELLOWSHIP\\_  
GREENVILLE](https://www.instagram.com/fellowship_greenville)

[FELLOWSHIPGREENVILLE.ORG](https://www.fellowshipgreenville.org)

**FELLOWSHIP  
GREENVILLE**

3161 S. Highway 14  
Greenville, South Carolina 29615-5906



**W**e live in an age and culture full of misconceptions about Christianity. As a result, many people are left with negative impressions of Christians and the church as a whole. At Fellowship Greenville, we want to live in such a way that others can't help but see what authentic Christianity looks like. Our hope is that the misconceptions people might have carried for a long time will begin to fade away as we seek to become a community of grace, passionately pursuing life and mission with Jesus. We long for people to be reintroduced to Jesus, seeing him and the life he offers in a fresh, new way.

## LIFE IN FELLOWSHIP TEAM

<b>EDITOR</b>	Wendy Willard
	Chelsey Brilliant
	Chandler Patterson
<b>PROJECT MANAGER</b>	Josh Amos
	Chasen Callahan
<b>MEDIA PRODUCER</b>	Matt Densky
	Jana Johnson
<b>STAFF CONTRIBUTORS</b>	Johnathan North
	Rachelle Adams, Photographer
<b>VOLUNTEERS</b>	Tammy Aul, Writer
	Karen Rigsby, Writer/Photographer
<b>CONTACT</b>	Jessica Satterfield, Writer
	Caeli Willard, Photographer

[COMMUNICATIONS@FELLOWSHIPGREENVILLE.ORG](mailto:COMMUNICATIONS@FELLOWSHIPGREENVILLE.ORG)



EVENT CALENDAR

For details, visit [FELLOWSHIPGREENVILLE.ORG/CALENDAR](http://FELLOWSHIPGREENVILLE.ORG/CALENDAR)

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				January is Sanctity of Human Life Month and Fellowship Greenville celebrates the work Piedmont Women's Center is doing, helping women choose life for themselves and their babies. Sample bricks and order forms for the Walk of Life Brick Campaign will remain available at the Welcome Center through the end of the month. (More info: <a href="http://PIEDMONTWOMENSCENTER.ORG/PRODUCT/PWC-WALK-OF-LIFE-BRICKS">PIEDMONTWOMENSCENTER.ORG/PRODUCT/PWC-WALK-OF-LIFE-BRICKS</a> )		
1 SERVICES (10:10/11:45) Happy New Year! JR	2	3	4	5	6	7
8 SERVICES (8:30/10:10/11:45) Community Group Leader TRAINING BEGINS (CGLT) ABF, DC, GS, E20s, CGE FGK, JR Merge Merge Forward	9	10	11	12	13	14
15 SERVICES (8:30/10:10/11:45) ABF, DC, GS, E20s, CGLT FGK, JR Merge FG Kids Volunteer Training	16	17	18	19	20	21
22 SERVICES (8:45/10:45) New Service Times Begin IN TWO AUDITORIUMS ABF, DC, GS, E20s, CGLT, CGE FGK, JR Merge NextGen Baptism	23	24	25	26	27	28
29 SERVICES (8:45/10:45) ABF, DC, GS, E20s, CGLT FGK, JR Merge	30	31	1	2	3	4
5 SERVICES (8:45/10:45) Coffee and Chat WITH THE AUTHOR OF PRAYING TOGETHER ABF, DC, GS, 20s, CGE Potluck FGK, JR Merge FIT Appreciation Breakfast	6	7	8	9	10	11
12 SERVICES (8:45/10:45) Marriage Conference ABF, DC, GS, E20s FGK, JR Merge Starting Point, Start Here	13	14	15	16	17	18
19 SERVICES (8:45/10:45) Group Connect TO JOIN A COMMUNITY GROUP ABF, DC, GS, E20s Stepping In FGK, JR Merge	20	21	22	23	24	25
26 SERVICES (8:45/10:45) Married People GROWTH GROUP BEGINS ABF, DC, GS, E20s FGK, JR Merge Merge Forward	27	28	February 14 is the annual Julie Valentine Center Luncheon at the TD Convention Center. Consider volunteering or attending to help our community partner meet its fundraising goals. The Julie Valentine Center is a non-profit organization offering free, confidential services to sexual assault and child abuse survivors and their families. (More info: <a href="http://JULIEVALENTINECENTER.ORG/LUNCHEON-2017.HTML">JULIEVALENTINECENTER.ORG/LUNCHEON-2017.HTML</a> )			

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p><b>March 2 is Safe Harbor's annual Fashion with a Passion event to raise awareness and funds. Consider volunteering or attending to help our community partner meet its goals. Safe Harbor is a non-profit organization dedicated to helping victims of domestic violence in the Upstate of South Carolina. (More info: <a href="http://SAFEHARBORSC.ORG/FASHIONWITHAPASSION">SAFEHARBORSC.ORG/FASHIONWITHAPASSION</a>)</b></p>			1	2	3	4
			WBS, PC, MWSK, AM2PM TGS HSM College-Age	MWSK, AM2PM	<b>March</b>	
5 SERVICES (8:45/10:45)	6	7	8	9	10	11
ABF, DC, GS, E20s, Married People FGK, JR Merge	EMWG	Stephen Ministry Training SYP	PC MA, TGS Screens & Teens HSM College-Age	Senior Sweep		
12 SERVICES (8:45/10:45) Daylight Savings Time BEGINS	13	14	15	16	17	18
ABF, DC, GS, E20s, Married People FGK, JR Merge	EMWG	Stephen Ministry Training WBS, SYP	In the Beginning w/MIKE QUINT PC, WBS, MWSK TGS Screens & Teens HSM College-Age	Senior Adults	Trauma Competent Care Training	
19 SERVICES (8:45/10:45)	20	21	22	23	24	25
ABF, DC, GS, E20s, Married People FGK, JR Merge Grow, Zero to One	AM2PM, EMWG	Stephen Ministry Training WBS	AM2PM, WBS TGS Screens & Teens HSM College-Age	AM2PM, MWSK	FG Band Performance Swamp Rabbits Hockey Faith & Family Night	
26 SERVICES (8:45/10:45) Membership Class	27	28	29	30	31	1
ABF, DC, GS, E20s, CGE, Married People FGK, JR Merge Merge Forward	EMWG	Stephen Ministry Training WBS	WBS, MWSK TGS Screens & Teens HSM College-Age			
2 SERVICES (8:45/10:45) Membership Class	3	4	5	6	7	8
ABF, DC, GS, E20s FGK, JR Merge	AM2PM	Stephen Ministry Training WBS	AM2PM, WBS EMMG, TGS Screens & Teens HSM College-Age	Senior Sweep AM2PM, MWSK	<b>April</b>	
9 SERVICES (8:45/10:45) Palm Sunday	10	11	12	13	14 SERVICE (7:00pm) Good Friday Church Office Closed	15 SERVICE (6:00pm)
ABF, DC, GS, E20s, CGE FGK, JR Merge		Stephen Ministry Training	MWSK MA, TGS HSM College-Age			
16 SERVICES (8:45/10:45) Easter!	17	18	19	20	21	22
ABF, DC, GS, E20s FGK, JR Merge			Late-Night Bowling HSM TGS College-Age	AM2PM, MWSK Senior Adults		
23 SERVICES (8:45/10:45)	24	25	26	27	28	29
ABF, E20s, CGE FGK, JR Merge Merge Forward	AM2PM	Stephen Ministry Training	Kickball Tournament HSM MWSK, AM2PM TGS College-Age	AM2PM		
30 SERVICES (8:45/10:45)	<div><div><b>KEY:</b> ABF: Adult Bible Fellowship AM2PM: Affirming &amp; Mentoring Preschool Moms CGE: Community Group Experience DC: Divorce Care, Divorce Care for Kids E20s: Early 20s Coed Group EMWG: Early Morning Women's Group</div><div>FGK: FG Kids (Grades 1-5) GS: Grief Share HSM: High School Student Ministry JR: FG Kids Jr. (Preschool, Nursery, K) MA: Man Alive (Monthly Men's Group) MSM: Middle School Merge</div><div>MWSK: Moms With School-age Kids PC: Precept Bible Study (Women) SYP: Single Young Professional (Women) TGS: The Gospel Story (Men) WBS: Women's Bible Study (All ages)</div><div><b>AUDIENCE:</b> Adult Women Adult Men Birth-Grade 5 Grades 6-12 College-Age</div></div>					





## THERE'S PLENTY OF NEW IN 2017 FOR FG'S CONNECTIONS MINISTRY INTRODUCING...

BY JOSH AMOS AND TONYA WILSON, CONNECTIONS TEAM

Fellowship Greenville is excited to welcome the presence of a Safety Team to our worship experiences on Sunday mornings and special events throughout the year. For many, the idea of a Safety Team may conjure up an image somewhere between Paul Blart, Mall Cop, and a gruff military sergeant. Rest assured, none of these is reflective of this team. While our church's security is of great importance to this new team, the primary mission is to assist those in need during times of atypical circumstances, including medical, weather, fire, and security-related emergencies.

Essentially, the Safety Team is a group of men and women who are keenly aware and observant of any unusual circumstances that might arise in our worship environments on campus. They are trained to communicate quickly and efficiently, and use appropriate response protocol to deal with any special circumstances that might occur. It is our expectation that having these teams of trained individuals will greatly enhance the overall safety of our campus.

The Safety Team is part of our First Impression Team (FIT), whose purpose it is to welcome and assist our guests and regular attendees as they move around

the halls and various worship venues.

You may be reading this and thinking what a blessing you could experience by being a part of caring for the safety of our fellowship on Sunday mornings. If that is you, you're not alone. Over 20 people have already participated in the initial training and are currently serving as Safety Team members

one Sunday a month in both services. The requirements for the team are simply to have a welcoming presence and a willingness to be trained to assist others should an emergency arise. Several of the Safety Team members are professionally trained in the medical, fire and rescue, meteorological, and security fields, but this is not a prerequisite.

To be considered for the Safety Team, please contact Josh Amos, at [JAMOS@FELLOWSHIPGREENVILLE.ORG](mailto:JAMOS@FELLOWSHIPGREENVILLE.ORG), who would be happy to introduce you to our Safety Team leaders, Frank Fuller and Tim Dallas, who have made tremendous investments into preparing the way for this new team's success. By the way, if you see Frank, Tim, or any of our Safety Team members—you'll know them by

their lanyards—around the buildings, please thank them for serving our fellowship in this new capacity.

### FG SAFETY TEAM:

Shown above, left to right, front row—Kseniya Lynch, Sarah Lynch, Mark Lynch, Deb Gray, Bruce Gray, Frank Fuller; back row—Karl Trump, Cole Lynch, Joel Watson, John Barthel, David Whiting, John Hopper, Blake Hinton, Selik Hopper, Toby Greenleaf, Tim Dallas, DeAnn Walpole, Josh Amos, and Chip Walpole.

## NEXT STEPS

Over the past year, the Connections Team and volunteers have seen the need to provide you with real time information and answers. And now we will be able to do just that!

You may have heard the buzz about some changes in the area around the Fellowship Information Desk... here's the scoop. We removed the desk and transitioned it into an open space with high-top tables, staffed with plenty of volunteers to help you on your journey of faith. Tonya Wilson, shown right, leads the team as our new Director of Next Steps.



**James 2:14 says, "To walk any path means we need to take the next step." Whether you are a first-time guest or a long-term member—everyone at Fellowship Greenville has a next step.**

What might someone's next step look like? We're glad you asked:

- » Asking for help
- » Changing or updating your information in our database
- » Requesting a tour of our buildings
- » Registering for one of our many classes or studies
- » Giving to the Capital Campaign or General Budget
- » Pursuing church membership
- » Joining a Bible study to grow in your faith
- » Getting connected within the church community
- » Leading a Community Group
- » Sharing a need
- » Receiving counseling
- » Starting a Bible reading plan
- » Serving with us
- » Going on a mission trip
- » Volunteering in the community
- » Getting help downloading our mobile app or logging in to the website

Or maybe you aren't even sure what is the next step of your walk with Jesus. That is why we are here.



With the new auditorium, our First Impressions Team (FIT) is growing! We're adding ushers and door greeters, cafe attendants (like those shown above) and parking teams. In addition, we're increasing the number of people who welcome and support our first-time guests... all to share God's love with everyone who walks through our doors. We'd love to have you join us!

### What is God calling you to do next?

Here's how you can get started:

- Stop by the new Next Steps area (near the entrance to Auditorium One from Parking Lots D and E).
- Email [NEXTSTEPS@FELLOWSHIPGREENVILLE.ORG](mailto:NEXTSTEPS@FELLOWSHIPGREENVILLE.ORG).
- Call 864.234.7033 x1575.

### UPCOMING CONNECTIONS EVENTS

- **Starting Point**—Get to know Fellowship Greenville, 2/12
- **Group Connect**—An evening for those interested in getting into a Community Group, 2/19
- **FIT Appreciation Breakfast**—For all those serving on our First Impressions Team, 3/5
- **Membership**—Join Fellowship Greenville, 3/26 and 4/2





# FIXING OUR EYES ON JESUS

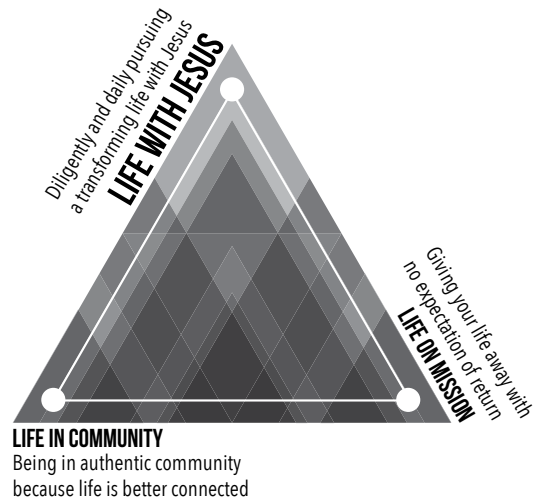
BY JOHNATHAN NORTH, DISCIPLESHIP PASTOR

Nobel Laureate Herbert Simon made this observation in 1978: “A wealth of information creates a poverty of attention.” The vast amount of information to which we have immediate access can easily consume our attention. According to an article in Time Magazine (May 4, 2015), the attention span of the average human has diminished from 12 seconds in the year 2000, to eight seconds in 2015 (just to put that into perspective, the attention span of a goldfish is nine seconds!). The primary reason behind this decrease, according to the [TIME ARTICLE](#), is related to “the effects of an increasingly digitalized lifestyle on the brain.” Our portable devices—smartphones, tablets, smartwatches, etc.—are now considered less of a luxury and more of a necessity. Does this mean, in the next 15 years, we are destined to lose all social skills, stop working, and just stare at our screens?

No, I think we are going to make it. There’s a way out of this declining attention span, and Steven Stagg is a great example of that. In 2011, Steven “Stare Master” Stagg went 40 minutes and 59 seconds without blinking in a Staring Contest. How did he do it? Stagg says, “We can focus when we want to.” But with everything competing for our attention, sometimes we are afraid that if we blink we are going to miss something we just can’t live without.

It’s not easy to resist the temptations that distract us. Whether it’s using our phones, trying to be available to everyone, getting too caught up in our worries, staying too busy with our work, or just keeping up with the world that doesn’t slow down, we can spread ourselves thin rather quickly. Everything gets blurry when we are too afraid to blink. However, life comes into focus when we open our eyes to what matters most.

We all find ourselves in a rhythm of life that will never feel balanced, often feels divided, and leaves us exhausted. But when we fix our eyes on Jesus and pursue him, he will prune our passions until our hearts, our affections, and our



**FIND OUT MORE ABOUT WHAT IT MEANS TO PASSIONATELY PURSUE CHRIST, LIVE IN COMMUNITY, AND BE ON MISSION:**  
[FELLOWSHIPGREENVILLE.ORG/STORYFILMS2017](http://FELLOWSHIPGREENVILLE.ORG/STORYFILMS2017)

attention rests on him. He has not only given us himself, but a community who will cultivate within us what no other connection can offer. In this community, we learn to love one another the way Christ loves us and we experience the love of Christ through the way others love us.

It is this love that compels us to share Christ with others and give our lives away with no expectation of return. **Life on mission with Christ is a call to purpose, not performance; it is a life of intention in a world that demands all of our attention.** We are not in a staring contest, but through Christ we are able to focus on what matters most. As Tim Keller said, “It’s not the *strength* of our focus, but the *object* of our focus that saves us.” That’s why, at Fellowship Greenville, we want to be transformed into a community of grace passionately pursuing life and mission with Christ. ☕

## MENTORING:

### THE POWER OF INVESTING IN

### SOMEONE'S LIFE.

Men investing in one another's lives can take place in a variety of settings, from community groups, small groups and fire pits, to tailgates and one-on-ones. You can ask your friends and neighbors to join you and it doesn't take much to make it happen. You could get started with a few chairs in your backyard and a campfire. It's a simple, but powerful, way to build great relationships. Here are a few testimonies of the impact of mentoring.

To be honest, deep down we knew we needed real, raw time together, with no hidden agenda. I've seen authentic friendships blossom that otherwise wouldn't have. [Connecting with men around a fire pit] has been a HUGE blessing in my life.

**JOHN WILBURN**

Al Rhea's investment in my life has been critical in helping me grow as a Christian. Having a mentor has provided a measure of accountability and wisdom I would not have had access to otherwise.

**MATT BROAD**

Getting connected to Tim this summer came at the perfect time. He's been where I have been. He affirmed my struggles were real, but took me beyond the struggles to the light on the other side. **Through this relationship God brought healing and a fresh start for my life.**

**BRAD FULTON**

## Senior ADULTS

Meet monthly from 10:30am-1:00pm in the Fellowship Greenville Cafe.

Cost: \$5/person. Contact Cheri Sass (627-9336) or Amy Allen (aallen@fellowshipgreenville.org) to RSVP. Check [fellowshipgreenville.org/events](http://fellowshipgreenville.org/events) for additional activities and events.

\*Catering: Crafted by Jessica

Date	Speaker	Music	Menu
1/19	Clayton Allen	Sharon Gerber	Beef and Bacon Chili with Corn Bread*
2/16	Josh Amos, Tonya Wilson ( <i>Newlywed Game</i> )		Homemade Meatballs and Sauce with Spaghetti*
3/16	<i>Breakfast and Movie</i>		Mike's Breakfast
4/20	Jim Thompson	Whitney Rexford, Lauren Jonker	Meatloaf and Loaded Mashed Potatoes*
5/18	Jonathan Parker	TBD	Grilled Chicken and Garlic Green Beans*



## From South Africa to South Carolina, One Family's Adventure in

# FINDING COMMUNITY

BY TARA QUINT, DISCIPLESHIP AND COMMUNITY LIFE MINISTRY ASSISTANT, WITH ANDY AND CLAIRE PIGOTT

## MIGHTY DREAMS & Answered Prayers

BY MARY BETH WILLIAMS, WOMEN'S GROUPS COORDINATOR

We had little idea what God had in mind when we met one hot August morning. We began to dream that morning of what it would look like to offer a women's study during the Advent season. It would be the first time we'd ever offered a study like this, so we left that first meeting hoping for around 30 participants.

We met and dreamed a little bigger, invited a few volunteers into the vision and begin praying that God would handpick the women he knew needed to be in the room to hear the content we'd settled on.

The content was unique in that it offered a look at the Christmas story from a different perspective—that of some of the shady characters in the

family tree of Christ. As we listened and let the message of Andy Stanley's series, *An Unexpected Christmas*, sink in, two things became evident—this was content our women could feel confident inviting neighbors and friends to, and it pointed our hearts toward the Christ-child in a distinctive way. We added these thoughts to our prayers.

As the holiday season grew close, it became evident God intended to take our little dream and make it more than we could've ever envisioned (Ephesians 3:20). It was a joy to watch volunteers step into their gifting and excel in serving other women! One volunteer facilitated the study, another few decorated each week (in different

themes!), others baked, and some created favors for each participant to take home. Still others worshiped with us, led games, facilitated table discussion, and set and cleaned up each week.

Over one hundred women gathered for four sessions to sing carols, exchange decorating ideas, eat some really good food, and open God's word together. It was fascinating to see women from all generations connect around one table. Because many of our regular studies are divided by "stage of life," we don't get to see this often.

*There was such beauty in seeing young moms laughing with empty-nesters, forty-somethings encouraging grandmothers, and retirees reaching out to touch the hands of other hurting women.*

What began that August morning as a little vision, God took and made into a beautiful picture of the body of Christ. While we may never know the eternal impact this little dream had, we do know that God honored the prayers we whispered over those months of planning—he brought specific women to that room each week to hear the gospel clearly and love each other deeply. ☘

[In South Africa] we drive on the other side of the road, and the best thing is we don't have to put our own petrol (yes: petrol, not gas) into our cars. We use the metric system, so everything from the weather to measuring distance has been a huge challenge for us.

**So, what are you doing for work now?**

Before we had the twins, Claire worked as a grade two teacher for 10 years. She is now a "Home Executive" and everything else between, serving all three of us. Andy works for a company called Tvision LTD based out of Mauritius and South Africa, specializing in the sourcing, development, marketing, and distribution of innovative, high-quality products. He works from home, but travels frequently.

**What are some things your family enjoys doing in your free time?**

We love to "Kuier" (KAY-ER), which is an Afrikaans' term meaning to visit with friends, usually over a cup of tea. This often includes "a Braai" (Bry), which is a South African version of a barbeque.

From left,  
Oliver, Andy,  
Claire, Ella



Andy enjoys cycling and doing DIY projects around the house. This suits Claire's avid love of Pinterest, as she provides projects! She also loves anything crafty and spending time with our twins.

**Let's switch gears... What brought you to Fellowship Greenville? What attracted you to the church?**

Someone at a church we were visiting suggested we try Fellowship Greenville, as they thought it would be a good fit for our family. We were instantly impressed by the warmth of the greeting team, especially Tonya Wilson (Next Steps) and Missy Schrader (FG Kids, Jr.).

**What made you decide to join a community group?**

We both believe community groups are an essential way to get connected into the life and heart of the church. Being new, we really needed to make friends and feel like a part of the local community. So, we attended the Group Connect in September.

**What did you enjoy about Group Connect?**

The Group Connect was very well organized and allowed you to "choose" a group that suits your family's needs. Plus the dessert was amazing and Andy won a prize!

**How has your experience been so far in a community group?**

We have really enjoyed getting to know the people in our group, especially as we start to share our stories with each other. Our leaders have been very warm and welcoming, doing their utmost to make us feel a valued part of the group. This is a big part of our transition to a new country and new community.

**What would you say to someone who is considering joining a community group?**

Jump right in and get involved. You won't be sorry! ☘





# marriedpeople

## THE CHURCH: SUPPORTING MARRIAGES

BY KAREN RIGSBY

Recently, I participated in the Growth Group Study, *You and Me Forever*, with Ron and Bonnie Stokes (and 50 other people). It was intriguing to see the Stokes participating in *You and Me Forever*, having been married for over 53 years. I wondered, didn't they already have it all figured out? When asked the "why" behind their participation, they answered simply: "you never quit learning about marriage."

So, over the course of seven weeks, as I listened to the Stokes talk about marriage, I realized a good marriage is not just something that happens after a certain number of years of marriage. It is studied, cultivated, and invested in over time. A good marriage is when two people set aside their own agendas, comforts, and desires to submit to each other and focus on a forever life with God.

When asked about the impact of the study, Ron said, "If I had done this study as a young husband and father, my focus on marriage and children would have been much different. I would have focused less on the cares of the here and now and more on preparing our lives for heaven." Bonnie response was similar, "My focus as a young wife and mother and even after the children were grown, was on the present, not on the eternal. Even though I knew I was going to heaven and enjoyed spiritual things, I was absorbed in getting my needs met for now and retirement. This study has totally changed my thinking. I realized I needed to be eternally-minded."

As your church, we believe marriages matter and are worth the fight against culture, busyness, and lack of initiative. We have been thinking a lot about how to support marriages at FG. And, while we don't have it all figured out, we have defined a place to start (see table, right).

State of Marriage	Engaged/Newlywed	Growing/Surviving	Surviving/Struggling	Struggling
Support Strategies	<i>Marriage Mentors:</i> couples working with couples to strengthen and grow marriages in the early years.	Short-term Community or Growth Group Studies, <i>You and Me Forever</i> and <i>Married People</i> .	<i>Stephen Ministry:</i> One-on-one individual support for those walking through a difficult time (not counseling).	Individual and/or couples pastoral counseling, with possible referral to professional counselor(s), as needed.

## BIG NIGHT out

On February 12, 2017, we are inviting all married couples to join us for a **Married People Big Night Out of fun, celebrating, and conversation.** We'll begin exploring four core principles for healthy marriages: respect and love, practice your promise, love God first, and have serious fun. I asked Ron and Bonnie which core principles were the most and least challenging for them. Ron responded, "Love God first because when I was young I focused more on my work and earning a living." And, Bonnie said, "Have serious fun because I tend to be 'low maintenance' and don't need a lot of entertainment to be happy." For the two of them, respect and love is the easiest, because, in their words, "God has been so good to us!"

For all of us striving to have a better marriage, Ron and Bonnie had some small words of wisdom. Ron suggests husbands figure out the little things that please their wives and do them. He elaborates, "Serve your wife in simple things like emptying the trash without being asked, clearing the dishes after meals, and putting them in the dishwasher. Keep your areas of the house straight." Bonnie suggests wives learn thankfulness, "Be sensitive to the pressures our husbands are facing. We are living in a world where everyone is trying to get more and better. The most important thing in life is our eternal future. Pray for satisfaction with what you have, a fervent desire to please God, and a desire to love your husband well."

Keep an eye out for specific programming to move you along in your pursuit of a God-honoring marriage. ☒

## STARTING A MARRIAGE, BUILDING A HOME

BY JESSICA SATTERFIELD

Caleb and Anna Cox (shown right) are newlyweds, just starting their lives together. Caleb is an electrical engineer, working in a family business and Anna spends her days teaching fourth graders. They are the cutest couple you'll ever meet, and you can tell immediately after meeting them, they really love Jesus.



Caleb and Anna both grew up in church. Their parents made church a priority for them, and they knew the real value of community. When they visited Caleb's church, everyone knew Anna as "Caleb's wife." When they visited Anna's church, everyone knew Caleb as "Anna's husband." Soon after becoming married, they decided to find a church of their own, a church they would call home as a new family. A friend invited them to visit Fellowship Greenville.

Even though our church is quite large, they were so impressed with how welcomed they felt. They visited for a few weeks and started to feel they were missing something. In a large church, if you just come on Sunday mornings, it's very hard to meet people. They desperately wanted other believers pouring into their new marriage. Caleb and Anna also knew they had been given gifts that they could use to encourage and serve the Body.

Their need for connection and community drove them to action. One Sunday, they walked up to the Welcome Desk and said, "We're new here: we want to get plugged in, and we want to serve. Where do you have a need?" They soon began serving together in the Connections Ministry, welcoming others into their new church home. Caleb and Anna now welcome people at our doors, greet them with smiles, help them find their seats, and are available if there are any questions. They began to meet new faces, and surprisingly, ran into old friends.

Serving in the Connections Ministry allows them to use their gifts of encouragement to welcome people into our church, making them feel valued, wanted, and special. Serving in this capacity has also provided them a way to give back, to feel a part of the church.

As Johnathan North talks about on page eight, Fellowship Greenville believes there are three keys to living healthy as believers. Caleb and Anna knew in addition to giving their lives away through serving, and worshiping God daily, they needed to be in community. So they joined a community group and are excited and eager to begin living life with others. They would tell you serving as ushers on Sundays has been more of a blessing to them than they are to the ones they welcome. They have found where they fit in our body. Caleb and Anna are receiving and giving back... all while laying the foundation of their marriage brick by brick, a foundation built on knowing and serving Jesus together. ☒



# IT'S JUST A PHASE

BY KAREN RIGSBY

While 9,434,880 minutes seems like a long time, 936 weeks seems terribly short. One measurement seems like you have forever and the other puts it all in perspective... time will quickly fly by. As a church, we don't want you to miss what's happening during the critical phases of your kid's growing up. We believe when parents understand and leverage what is happening in the phases of a kid's life, it changes how they see God, themselves, and their worlds.

Recently, Chad Schaffer, a single dad at FG, emailed and shared the challenges he was experiencing trying to connect and guide his boys, ages 8, 11, and 14, both relationally and spiritually. In addition to balancing crazy schedules, homework, and care, he was not sure of the best ways to interact with his boys while guiding their hearts. There were lots of questions running through his mind: "Am I being a good parent?," "Now that I have a teenager, how do I parent?," and "How do I show

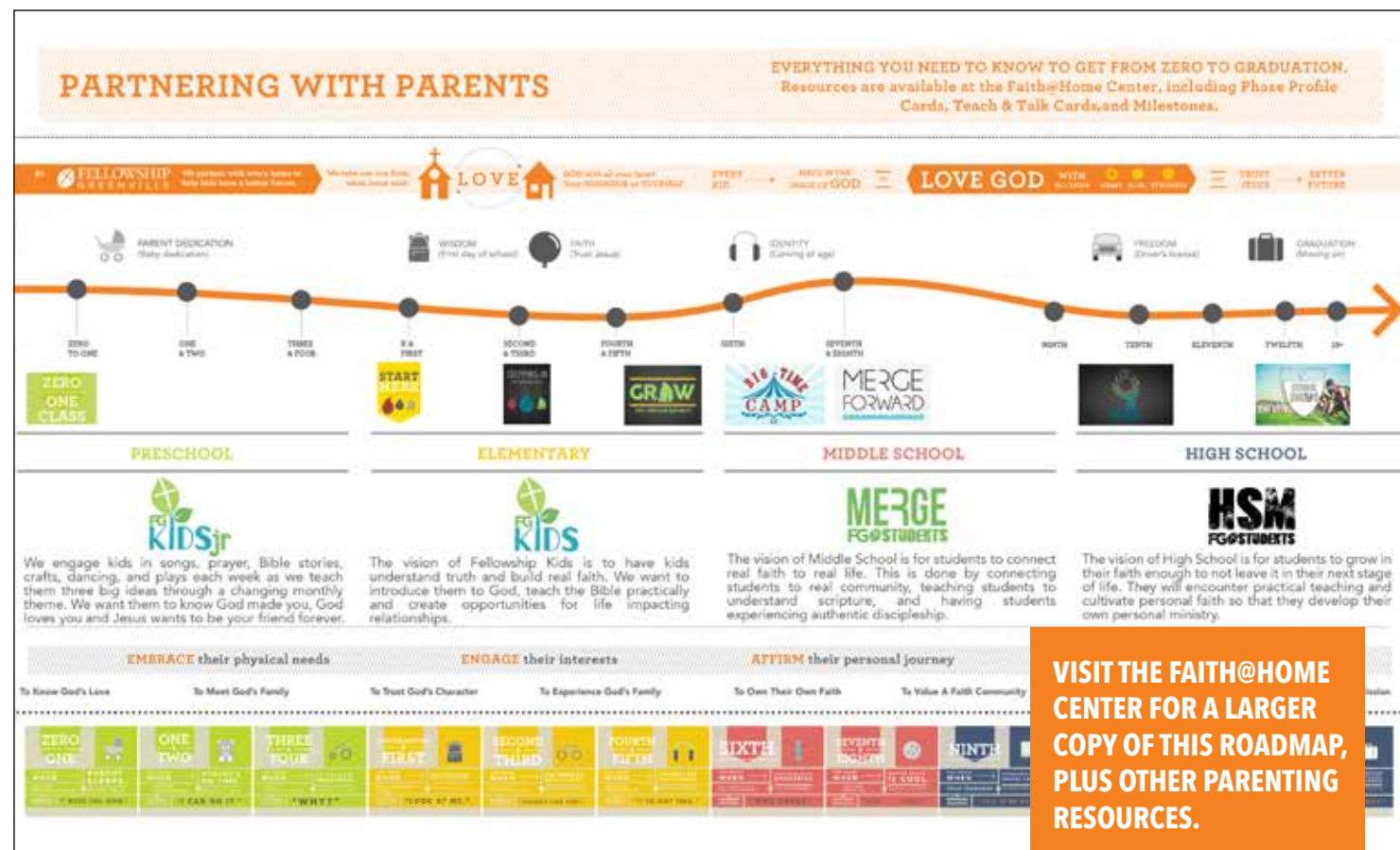
grace?" After an exhaustive search on the Internet and perplexity as he searched for the right answers, he decided to stop by the Faith@Home Center and was pleasantly surprised to find resources to point him in the right direction.

The Faith@Home Center is stocked with *It's Just a Phase* and *Teach and Talk* cards for the 13 phases kids will go through from birth to 12th grade. Chad read the cards applicable to his boys and immediately found some guidance. For example, in the phases card for second grade, Chad read, "In this phase your kid is learning to compare. It's why fairness matters, why clubs form, and why competition can sometimes lead to heartbreak." Later in the week, Chad observed his son saying "that's not fair." Having read about the phase, Chad was not surprised. Instead of reacting negatively, it gave Chad an opportunity to speak to the heart of fairness. He also read that second graders are motivated by fun—so now he and his son have a standing game

of Monopoly going.

Chad recently read the book *Parenting Beyond Capacity*. As a single dad, he has struggled to find his place in Christendom. The book addressed the idea of "Stock Family Syndrome," and the realization that there are no perfect families. All families look different. This gave Chad some comfort in knowing it is not just his family that doesn't fit the "stock family" image—no family does. Based on his reading and research, his two big takeaways were that he needs to focus on parenting his boys' hearts and model faith by the way he lives. He realized it is less about what he says than what he does. When you find yourself seeking to answer the questions that sent Chad on his search, remember—it is never too late to hit the reset button and be intentional.

As your church, we've mapped out a plan for intentional parenting from birth to 12th grade. Stop by the Faith@Home Center to pick up your Family Ministry Roadmap (shown below) and other parenting resources. ☘



## ONE MOM TELLS HOW SERVING WITH HER SON CHANGED THEIR ENTIRE WORSHIP EXPERIENCE

# FULLY ENGAGED

BY TAMMY AUL

It all started in August of 2015, when Hudson and I (shown left, with my husband, Danny) volunteered to help get the FG Kids classrooms set up before Sundays. When the curriculum changed a few months later, the resources were dramatically different and Hudson became very intrigued with the items we were putting out each week.

One week we put out plastic cups with permanent markers so each child could write one word of the memory verse, and then work together to stack cups and complete the verse. He loved stacking the cups so much he had the memory verse down pat in no time.

Another week we gave each class masking tape to create a tic-tac-toe game board on the floor, cotton balls to represent clouds for O's, and a picture of a candle for X's. This was a review game to drive home what they were learning about God leading Moses and the Israelites through the desert.

### SUNDAY MORNINGS

After getting the resources set each week, I figured I was done serving, but Hudson was too excited about what he was learning to let it end there. He kept saying he needed to be at church earlier so he could help serve in worship. This prompted us to sit in on one of the large group worship times to see what it was all about. Upon inquiring, we learned Director Casey Callahan was eager to involve kids in leading worship... so we decided to let him give it a try.

From our first experience sitting through an entire session of FG Kids' Sunday morning programming together, we were delighted to see how the activities, music, video stories, and crafts all work together cohesively

to drive home the message. Our active, easily-distracted son became fully engaged in learning Biblical foundational truths. This sounded like a winning program to us, and we realized it was time for us to join the FG Kids Sunday morning volunteer team. We now serve both by helping put out the resources during the week and leading a fourth grade small group on Sundays.

### THROUGHOUT THE WEEK

We have found the Parent Cue app instrumental in peppering our week with truths taught on Sunday. The app enables parents to see the Bible story video, bottom-line truth, memory verse, and life application taught or played on Sundays in FG Kids, along with meal-time discussion guides and hang-time activities. Just one of the many ways we use the app is to learn the words for praise songs sung during worship time. Hudson loves music and wants to know all the words to the songs we sing, so we quickly look it up on the Parent Cue app, and he is off singing again.

The curriculum also provides weekly *God Time* cards. As a family, we use the cards for our morning devotional time together. We are thankful to the FG Kids Team for working together to ensure each child encounters Jesus, reflects his character, feels valued, and discovers his unique plan for his/her life. ☘



Register: [fellowshipgreenville.org/events](http://fellowshipgreenville.org/events)

MORE WAYS FOR YOU TO HELP YOUR KIDS BECOME FULLY ENGAGED...

**START HERE**  
*Friendship with God*

30-minute class where the Gospel is presented in clear and simple language.

**STEPPING-IN**  
*Baptism*

45-minute class where kids learn what baptism is and is not, and the one thing that has to happen first.

**GROW**  
*Owning your Faith*

30-minute class where kids talk about what it means to own and grow your faith.

**THE PARENT CUE APP IS A GREAT WAY TO ENGAGE YOUR CHILD IN FAITH, AROUND WHAT HAPPENS AT FG ON SUNDAYS. FIND IT IN THE APPLE AND ANDROID APP STORES.**





# TRAUMA COMPETENT CARE

BY KAREN RIGSBY

Last June, I traveled with more than thirty moms, dads, and kids to Monterrey, Mexico, on a Back2Back mission trip. We spent the week doing life side-by-side with the Back2Back staff, caregivers, and orphans, as we painted, shared meals, fixed things, played games, watched a movie, and enjoyed life together. In the midst of all of the meaningful things we experienced with our hosts, each morning we participated in Trauma Competent Care Training (TCC).

Initially, I was perplexed as to “why” we were having to do the training. But as the week progressed, the pieces of the puzzle began to fall into place. Slowly, I began to understand that Trauma Competent Care Training was intended to give, those of us who were guests of Back2Back, a glimpse of what could be hiding behind the beautiful smiling faces we were interacting with each day.

The kids Back2Back serves come from hard places. Their lives have not been easy or free of struggle. Some have faced abuse, neglect,

abandonment, difficult health issues, and family upheaval. Because they have lived through such challenges, their hearts are more tender and fragile. What may seem like bad behavior, noncompliance, or disobedience is really an outward expression of inward turmoil, fear, and uncertainty.

By the time the week drew to a close, I realized the “why” behind the training—through the Back2Back staff, I received a glimpse into the heart of a child from a hard place.

*God showed me how the need for love and grace remains first and foremost for everyone—it just may look a little different for certain kids.*

I left Mexico with a new understanding of what it means to care for the “least of these.” And while my experience had been with the beautiful faces of Mexico, God showed me that

there were plenty such kids right here. In our FG community, our people care for more than 100 kids from hard places. These kids have arrived through foster, adoption, and family upheaval. In many ways, the needs of our kids are just as great as the needs of the kids I met in Mexico.

Because God has given us (Fellowship Greenville) the opportunity to care for kids from hard places, **we are hosting a Trauma Competent Care Conference here on March 24 and 25.** Trainers from Back2Back will be here for a day and a half to help us gain a better understanding of trauma, its long-term impact, and how to support caregivers. These kids walk our halls every Sunday. They sit at dinner tables in our homes most evenings. They are part of our community.

If you would like to know more about how to care for their hearts and make a difference in their lives, plan to attend the Trauma Competent Care Conference in March. Only 50 spaces are available, so register quickly at [FELLOWSHIPGREENVILLE.ORG/EVENTS](http://FELLOWSHIPGREENVILLE.ORG/EVENTS). ☒



# WHEN GOD PULLS...

BY JANA JOHNSON, OUTREACH MINISTRY ASSISTANT

In 2012, Fellowship Greenville (FG) member Mary Wilson's heart began to feel a pull towards Liberia, West Africa. Fellowship Greenville was sending its sixth team to Liberia to work in the village of Vonzua. While there, this team planned to run vision clinics, equip pastors, train teachers, and care for local women and children. Mary was invited to support this team financially and through prayer. So she began to pray—for the team, for the individuals the team's work would impact, and for a country she had never visited.

As the next year passed, Mary felt what she can only explain as the Holy Spirit pulling her towards Liberia, so she made the choice to join the team FG would be sending in 2013.

FG had made plans to work in Liberia to train local teachers in order to gain the necessary certification—a C-certificate—to teach in Liberian government-funded schools. This team was comprised of certified teachers or people in the process of becoming certified to teach. Mary had a background in formal education, but had since let her certification lapse, and so she was unable to do the C-certificate training. However, the previous year of praying and an invitation from team leader, Karen Rigsby, served as a catalyst for Mary immediately saying yes to this unique opportunity.

## IT ALL STARTED WITH PRAYER

Just because Mary would not be able to do the C-certificate training didn't mean God wouldn't use her in incredible ways. While in Monrovia, Mary had the opportunity to teach the Bible to every single teacher who came for the training. While serving in Liberia, she met a young teacher named Jefferson Gbhainea. Mary felt drawn to Jefferson because of his intelligence, curiosity, and humility and formed a connection with him.

Jefferson is a young man who had faced many trials in his life. He had a

father who left him, his mother, and his four siblings. He was forced to carry the financial burden of providing for his family, on top of finding the funds he needed to attend school. After graduating from high school, both his mother and father passed away within five years of each other. Jefferson persevered and earned an associate's degree. After that, he was able to move on to teacher training being offered in Vonzua, and it was there he gained his certification and also met Mary.

## IT GREW INTO SO MUCH MORE

Since her trip in 2013, Mary and Jefferson have made it a point to communicate weekly through phone calls and emails. Mary and her husband Jim have become like a surrogate family to Jefferson, his wife Annie, and their children. Once again, Mary feels God pulling her heart towards Liberia and Jefferson, but now, in a different way. The cost of university in Liberia is a fraction of the cost of university in the US, but it would be difficult for Jefferson to come up with the funds on his own. Through the relationship that's been built, Mary and Jim decided to step into funding Jefferson's return to university. This not only allows Jefferson to grow as an individual, but also gives him greater opportunity to provide for his family.

In May 2016, Mary was able to go back to Liberia with a group from FG to set up libraries in different schools. While there, she had numerous opportunities to visit with Jefferson and his family. After nearly three years of not seeing each other in person, it was a sweet reunion.

Mary acknowledges Jefferson has become like a son to her. What started out as praying for people she didn't know has turned into something so much more. Praying was a catalyst for Mary to go, which ultimately enabled her to give. Giving sacrificially has created a whole new world for both Mary and Jefferson. ☒



## Student Ministry Vision

We believe in a handful of values that we prioritize for students in our ministry:

**Family Focus**—Even though we are a student ministry, we believe the healthiest approach is keeping our focus on the family as a whole. We desire to partner with parents, acting as helpers and resources during these especially formative years.

**Strong Teaching**—The Bible is the only book God has ever promised to inspire and we don't take that lightly. From the series themes to the 'one liners' in messages, we desire to bring passionate teaching to students because we believe the Word of God changes lives.

**Atmosphere of Worship**—Throughout the Scriptures we see God engage us through all of our senses and we try to offer the absolute best environment for students to worship. From the songs we sing to the lighting of the room, we think through every element to usher hearts into the presence of the living God.

**Relational Discipleship**—Transformation doesn't happen overnight. It happens over months and years of intentional, focused relationships centered around the resurrected Jesus. We desire our students to enter into this kind of journey. Whether it's through small groups or having mentors invest in their lives, we want each of our students to be discipled.

**Mobilized Faith**—This is where we put faith into action. It's moving beyond the *what* into the *why*. The world is hurting, suffering, and in need of physical and spiritual rescue. We want to develop a 'Kingdom Worldview' within our students so they engage in the mission of God, not just now, but for the rest of their lives.

## Spring 2017

### HIGH SCHOOL

In the second semester of this school year, here's what you can expect from Student Ministries:

- ➔ **Weekly Meetings**—On Wednesday nights we offer our high school students a rich and dynamic worship experience with passionate teaching centered around a series specifically customized for teenage students.
- ➔ **Small Groups**—We believe small groups are the perfect setting for people to engage on a deeper level and dig into the issues of life much more effectively than we can in a larger worship setting. In February we will launch quality small groups, led by trained volunteers, who have a vision of offering a place to belong and grow.

# STUDENT MINISTRIES

## UPDATE

BY MATT DENSKY  
STUDENT MINISTRY PASTOR

- ➔ **CHILL Winter Retreat (January 27-29)**—A time to come together in worship, transformational Bible teaching, and fun... lots and lots of fun! Take this break in the winter season to refresh and reinforce your faith.
- ➔ **Understanding Your Teen (UYT)**—We are excited about this new opportunity to partner with parents. If you have ever been confused by your teenager, desperate to understand why they do what they do, or even just need a little help on the path of parenting, then this is for you. High school is a crucial developmental stage in your child's life, redefining beliefs and behaviors, and a very strategic time, when having the right "outside voices" can be a huge help. Stay tuned for details about the first UYT event in May.

### MIDDLE SCHOOL

- ➔ **Open House Orientation**—On January 8, between Sunday morning services, we invite parents to tour the new space, meet our staff, and receive some helpful information on coming events.
- ➔ **Weekly Meetings**—Sunday mornings, during both church services (beginning 1/22) we offer a rich service for middle school students with engaging worship, strong teaching, and a breakout time for small groups.
- ➔ **Father/Son Retreat (January 20-21)**—Speaker: Shawn Brower, author of *We Became Men*. A great time for fathers and sons to bond and grow in their relationship together and with Christ.
- ➔ **Merge Forward**—Monthly 30-minute sessions, for both parents and students, which take place in between the two Sunday morning services.
  - February 26: **Friends and Boundaries**—How to choose the right friends and how to create healthy boundaries within relationships.
  - March 26: **Wired and Identity**—Discovering who God made you to be and how to find your ultimate identity in Christ.
  - April 23: **Purity**—Let's have the talk! God's view of holistic purity involves heart, mind, and body.



## New Space

Thanks to the enormous generosity of our church family we are able to provide a brand new student ministry area for our teenagers this year. This space consists of:

- ➔ **Gathering Room**—Dedicated to teaching and worship, this space (shown here) houses our middle and high school students every week, providing a relevant atmosphere and communal space that doesn't just accommodate the students we currently have but leaves room for growth.
- ➔ **Commons Area**—We believe connection is a desire of every person and this is the room to do just that. As students enter their new area they begin here. It is a large room designed for conversations, hanging out, interacting with one another, having fun, eating, and connecting.



- ➔ **Small Group Rooms**—We believe in the value of small groups and the bonds formed therein. They provide the intimacy and connection needed for groups to grow into deeper depths of their faith. We specifically designed this new space to accommodate the large number of middle school small groups that meet on Sunday mornings. As you enter, you find fourteen smaller rooms around the perimeter of our Commons Area dedicated for small groups to meet during our Sunday morning services.
- ➔ **Offices**—If for any reason you ever need to find one of our student ministry staff, our offices will be in this area as well. Throughout the week they use the Commons Area and the small group rooms as their work space.

## Connect Online

- f **FACEBOOK.COM/GROUPS/FGSTUDENTS** (High School)
- f **FACEBOOK.COM/GROUPS/FGSTUDENTSMSM** (Middle School)
- ig **INSTAGRAM.COM/FG\_HSM** (High School)



# MEET THE DENSKY FAMILY

STAFF  
NOTES

**M**att Densky joined the staff in the fall as our Student Ministry Pastor. He, his wife Lauren, and son Trent (shown right) come to us from Lexington, South Carolina, where Matt served as a Director of Student Ministry for three years. He studied locally at CIU, a biblical university in Columbia, SC, double majored in Youth Ministry and Bible in undergrad, and later earned his Masters Degree in Ministry Leadership.

He didn't grow up in the church and came to know Jesus at the age of 16, which is exactly why Matt has a heart for student ministry. He knows firsthand the transformation that can take place within the lives of teenagers when they truly begin to believe in Jesus and the radical effect that can have on families as well. Here's a little more about Matt's vision for student ministry:

I am passionate about three things: teaching, discipling, and families. One of my favorite things, as I teach the Word of God, is watching it transform those who begin to apply it and take it to heart. I love the process of planting seeds which later reap the harvest of change and maturity. All people, not just teenagers, need intentional spiritual relationships that are committed for the long haul. Discipleship is slow, messy, and unpredictable, but I believe it's what each and every one of us are called to. In student ministry, we have the privilege of making a difference during pivotal years that later define who a student becomes.

I believe in the power of healthy families. But the reality is we live in a broken world and we have broken families. Over the years, I have worked with all sorts of family systems and I know most parents need someone to tag in—a partner who can help in these formative years. As their positional influence decreases, their children are looking for relational influencers to fill in that gap. It is a beautiful thing when youth pastors can partner with parents (not replace them) and be a resource for the purpose of building spiritually healthy teenagers who are thriving in their faith, with the ultimate goal of holistically healthy families bonded by the grace of God. ☯



BY MATT REXFORD, WORSHIP DIRECTIONAL PASTOR

**T**he worship ministry continues to keep its focus on creating weekly worship services that remind us of who God is. In a sense you could say we have 52 unique "projects" ahead of us in 2017. Our goal is to invite the congregation into healthy expressions of celebration, lament, confession, reflection, giving, and meditation on God's Word. Over the next several months, we will finish our study in Exodus, remembering we were set free to live free.

Starting January 22nd, we move from three services to two, and from one auditorium to two. God has brought excellent musicians and technical volunteers, so we are organizing teams for each auditorium and ironing out the wrinkles this change brings. We are aiming for each room to be similar in style and feel, with the same songs, readings, and other elements being used. One auditorium will have a live speaker, with a high quality video of the message being broadcast to the other auditorium.

For the first time in many years, our worship staff will be together in our new offices (behind Auditorium Two). This should provide improved collaboration and community (or perhaps we'll find out we needed some space from each other all along!). Seriously, we are very

thankful for the chance to work closely in a new beautiful space, with our own printer, mini-kitchen, and green room space for our volunteers, as well as windows to the outside world!

God has been talking to us about the worship life of our people beyond Sunday mornings. We remind you often that your worship week is just getting started when you leave a Sunday service. One of the exciting additions in construction is some recording studio space. We don't have definite timelines or projects yet, but we are looking forward to creating resources for enhancing our worship outside the church walls. We will be able to record Sunday morning services for later editing and record new material in a professional environment.

We look forward to another great year of responding to God. While our culture and individual lives change, he never changes. He is always great and loving and deserving of our best efforts to honor him. Let's make it our goal every Sunday to encourage each other and to be people who respond well to God in reflection, lament, and celebration. The power and rhythm of this ritual will continue to shape us into a community of grace that loves Jesus and pursues life with him. ☯

## WorshipSERVICE



BY CHASEN CALLAHAN,  
NEXTGEN WORSHIP LEADER

**Have you ever considered serving in the Next Generation Worship spaces at Fellowship Greenville?**

Those consist of: Preschool, Kindergarten, grades one and two, grades three through five, middle school, and high school. In these spaces our goal is to help students feel like they belong, from the moment they arrive until they leave. We do this by engaging students and kids on their level with high energy worship, games, videos, and messages that help them through whatever they are facing.

Our goal is to shape each environment to match the phase students and families are in, so they can fully engage and respond to God. We want to help grow the thought in each student that **you have a mission and a purpose**. It is exciting to see students move from jamming in a garage (or a bedroom) or acting in a play to taking these talents into worship services where lives are forever changed by God. These gifts have been given by God to our students, and we love to teach them to partner with the church to grow the Kingdom of God.

We want our parents to feel comfortable allowing their students to be a part of the Next Generation Team, and our kids to hardly be able to wait to get to church. We're honored and excited to partner together with families, and we'd love to have you join us. If you can play an instrument and/or sing, we'd love to hear from you! Our biggest needs are drums, bass, piano, male vocalists, and tech volunteers. Email me at [CHCALLAHAN@FELLOWSHIPGREENVILLE.ORG](mailto:CHCALLAHAN@FELLOWSHIPGREENVILLE.ORG).

### HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS AND PARENTS

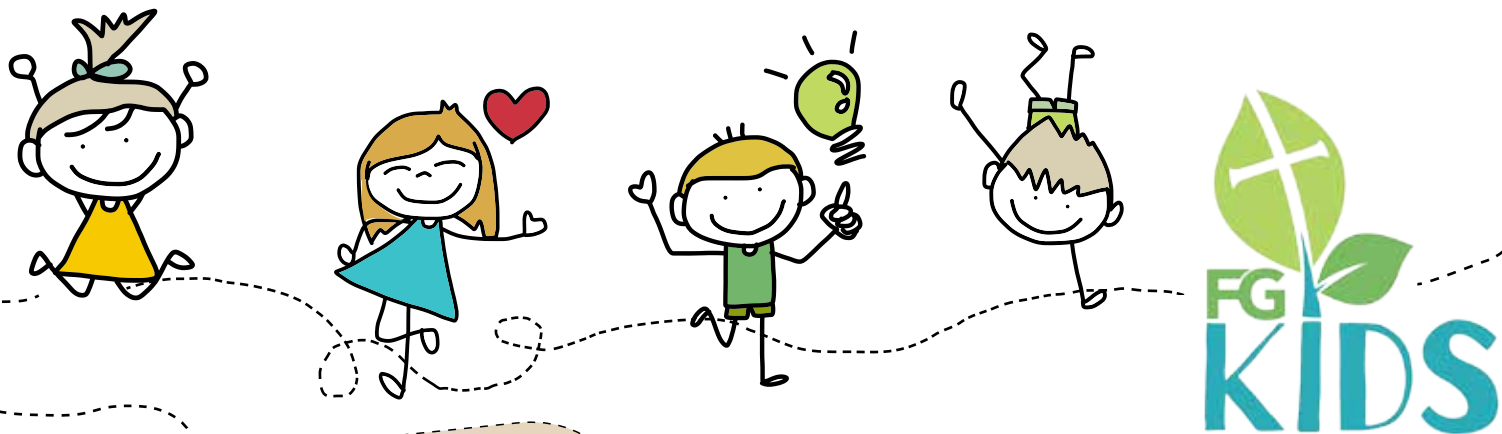
The clock is ticking through this final lap of high school and the NextGen staff wants to partner with your family through *Senior Sweeps*. Six times throughout the year, parents and students are invited for a meal and fellowship, to understand what it means to be launched: emotionally, spiritually, financially, relationally, and physically. All sessions stand alone, so attendance in all or some has benefit. The remaining dates for the 2016-2017 school year are as follows:

DATE	TIME	LOCATION	TOPIC
January 12, 2017	6:30-8:30pm	Avant Home	Health
February 9, 2017	6:30-8:30pm	Dallas Home	Faith
March 9, 2017	6:30-8:30pm	Lady Home	Relationships
April 6, 2017	6:30-8:30pm	Avant Home	Finances
June 15, 2017	6:30-8:30pm	Fellowship Greenville	Send-off Celebration

CONTACT BRIAN HAASE ([BHAASE@FELLOWSHIPGREENVILLE.ORG](mailto:BHAASE@FELLOWSHIPGREENVILLE.ORG)) FOR DETAILS AND DIRECTIONS.







Here's a glimpse at what  
we're learning in FG Kids...

## **FORGIVENESS**

Deciding that someone who has wronged you doesn't have to pay

FOLLOW US...

 [FACEBOOK.COM/FGKIDSATFG](https://www.facebook.com/FGKIDSATFG)

### **READ MATTHEW 18:21-22**

In the space below, write "I forgive you" as many times as you can in one minute. Ready, set, go!

Peter asked Jesus, "How many times should we forgive someone? Seven times?" "Nope, seventy-seven times," Jesus replied. Really? Seventy-seven times? That's a lot, isn't it? What if I lose count? Well, that's exactly the point Jesus was trying to make because the number seventy-seven isn't all that important. It's not as if Jesus was saying, "Okay, you should forgive up to seventy-seven times, but at seventy-eight well, no more forgiveness for you!" No. He wanted Peter to stop counting and simply choose forgiveness instead.

The truth is, no one wants to be friends with someone that always keeps score. Who would want to hang out with a person that constantly points out your past mistakes or refuses to forgive? So don't be that friend. When someone does something wrong and asks for forgiveness, forgive them. Don't keep track. Whether it's the first time, or the seventy-first time, choose forgiveness.

**ASK** God to help you forgive as He's forgiven you.

### **READ 1 JOHN 4:7-8**

Unscramble the words to complete the sentences below.

Leaves come from \_\_\_\_\_.

STEER

Rain comes down from the \_\_\_\_\_.

KSY

Warmth comes from the \_\_\_\_\_.

NSU

Love comes from \_\_\_\_\_.

DGO

Where does love come from? Love comes from God! As the creator of everything, love was His idea. God is the source of all love. His love is perfect, just as He is perfect.

And that's good news for us. If we know God, we know how to love. If we choose to follow Him, then He will help us love others the way He does. When you're having a hard time loving someone else, ask God to help you and He will. Because loving is what He's best at.

**THANK** God for loving you so that you can love others.



### **READ PROVERBS 20:15**

What is your most valuable possession? Why? How do you make sure to protect that possession? God's word is more precious and more valuable than your iPad or brand new bike or American girl doll. God's word is more precious than silver or gold. The Bible teaches us how to follow God and know who Jesus is. It shows us how we can have a relationship with God. As you read your Bible, remember that it is like a special gift straight from God to you.


Use the key below to fill in the missing letter from today's verse.

Th\_\_r\_\_ \_\_s g\_\_ld, \_\_nd th\_\_r\_\_ \_\_r\_\_ pl\_\_nty

\_\_f r\_\_b\_\_ \_\_s. B\_\_t l\_\_ps th\_\_t sp\_\_ \_\_k

kn\_\_wl\_\_dg\_\_ \_\_r\_\_ \_\_ pr\_\_c\_\_l\_\_ss j\_\_w\_\_l."

Pr\_\_v\_\_rbs 20:15

A - 

E - 

I - 

O - 

U - 

**LOOK** for ways to treat God's word like it's your most valuable possession.





THE WORLD  
AWAITS

## GO JOURNEYS '17

 <p><b>Slovakia</b> Sports Evangelism   Ages 18+   JULY</p>	 <p><b>Haiti</b> Orphan Care   Ages 15+   SEPT</p>
 <p><b>Mexico</b> Orphan Care   Ages 8+   JUNE</p>	 <p><b>Dominican Republic</b> Children's Evangelism   Ages 16+   JUNE Leadership/Training   Ages 19+   JULY</p>
 <p><b>New York City</b> Sports Evangelism/VBS   Ages 14+   JULY</p>	 <p><b>Liberia, Africa</b> Medical Evangelism, Wells   Ages 18+   NOV</p>
 <p><b>Colombia, South America</b> Medical, Evangelism   Ages 18+   APR,AUG,OCT</p>	 <p><b>Senegal, Africa</b> Business Training   Ages 21+   MAY,SEPT</p>

FELLOWSHIP GREENVILLE  
**Outreach**  
LOCAL • NATIONAL • GLOBAL



FACEBOOK.COM/FGOUTREACH