

LIFE IN FELLOWSHIP

SUMMER 2016

PROPOSED 2016-2017 MINISTRY PLAN

PAGES 10-11



FROM THE EXECUTIVE PASTOR

Charlie titled this year as “The Year of Inconvenient Joy.” We knew going into the year, because of all the construction, limited parking, and anticipated growth, it would both excite and frustrate us. Well, that has proven to be true.

Construction began in late summer. We lost some of our parking spaces; guests keep coming to check us out and many are staying. Construction is about two weeks behind schedule due to the weather. We anticipate being able to move into the new buildings sometime in January 2017.

Parking continues to be an issue, especially during the second service. (Just a suggestion: if you can move to the first or third service to help us create additional space for our guests and those who must attend the second service, it would be much appreciated.)

Attendance continues to grow. Total attendance is up over 3.6 percent for the year. During the month of May, attendance was up over 200 from the same time last year. (So if it seems more crowded than before, that's because it is!)

But, God continues to provide us with staff and volunteers who disciple others with enthusiasm and a heart for people, students, and children. God continues to provide us with the resources to make him known in our city and around the world through our many partners in ministry.

This year you have given to our General Fund almost exactly as had been budgeted. **Thank you so much!** Our expenses are less than budgeted and we anticipate finishing the year well over \$100,000 in the black. This money stays in the bank as “retained earnings” and can be used to cover short falls or other uses as determined by the Elders.

Through the end of May, you have given the following to our various funds.

- \$4,300,000 to the General Fund
- \$450,000 to Outreach
- \$85,000 to Benevolence

In addition, we have received almost \$2,200,000 toward the Building Fund this fiscal year.

Plus, through your previous support for City Lights, we have completed our four-year financial commitment to them. We continue to give guidance and oversight for their next steps, as they install their first group of Elders and begin planning the Odom

Circle property for future use.

As we look forward to a new year, we want to look back and give you a glimpse of what is happening in the ministry and then ask you to support the plans that the staff and Elders are proposing for the upcoming year. In a church our size it is hard to fully understand all that takes place each week. We hope our new magazine, *Life in Fellowship*, gives you an appreciation for all God is doing through you and your faithful support.

We realize this upcoming year needs to be a continued year of faithful stewardship in order to accomplish all that we need to accomplish. For this reason we are proposing the budget outlined on pages 10-11, with these notes:

- » We are proposing a General Budget increase of eight percent above last year's budget. The staff has examined every area of their ministry and feel they can accomplish all that is needed with the amount proposed and still provide for the expanding needs during the year.
- » This new budget anticipates the additional costs the second half of the year will bring as we begin to use our new facilities.
- » We are not anticipating additional staff, but are including a modest three percent increase in salaries and have covered some of the increase in the costs of benefits for our employees.
- » We have added a new ministry this year to our college and young 20-somethings, headed up by Brian Haase (see page 14). This has been a needed focus for several years.
- » We are in the process of planning some changes in the Commons to make it easier for our guests and regulars to take a next step into the life and ministry of the church.

We continue to seek to hear from God as to how we may join him in ministry here on this campus, in the Upstate and around the world. Thank you for your faithful part in making this ministry one that is effective and accomplishing all to which God has called us.

L. Arthur Ringger

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We 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 drawn back to Jesus, seeing him and the life he offers in a fresh, new way.

LIFE IN FELLOWSHIP TEAM

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#ASHERMEANSHAPPY

BY BETH BEUTLER, WITH JOSEPH AND RACHELLE ADAMS

When Joseph and Rachelle Adams named their son Asher, it was intentional. In addition to "Asher" having a connection to his birth mother, in Hebrew, "Asher" means happy, or blessed. Genesis 30:13 reads, "And Leah said, 'Happy am I! For women have called me happy.' So she called his name Asher." His name is a constant reminder of God's loving leading of their journey of adoption and their hopes for their son's own walk with the Lord.

But the journey wasn't always easy. As many adoption stories go, there were—and are—periods of intense emotion, questions, and faith-polishing moments. It has also been an adventure of incredible joy for this part of the Fellowship Greenville family. Joseph has been on staff at the church for 11 years, and currently is the Director of Worship Tech and the Senior Multimedia Designer.

Rachelle has shared specific details of the waiting period, the adoption process, and Asher's early life on her blog (RACHELLEADAMS.COM) and on their social media pages (search #ashermeanshappy) I wanted to go in depth with a few elements and asked Joseph and Rachelle to choose some questions to answer to further flesh out what they've learned and are learning in processing this daily experience.

What piece of advice would you give any couple considering adoption?

Wait until you're both certain God is calling you to adopt. If you're ready but your spouse isn't, don't try to pressure your spouse. Wait. PRAY! Ask God to work in your heart and your spouse's heart to make it clear when you're supposed to step into adoption. I (Rachelle) was ready sooner than Joseph, and that's ok! The topic was always up for discussion, but I tried not to pressure Joseph or guilt him into starting the adoption process. Through a series of events, God confirmed for both of us on the same day that it was time to adopt, and that was so special for us. We were filled with peace and

joy, and the adoption process was so much more fun than it would have been if one of us had entered into the process reluctantly.

Also, while we all have to show wisdom and good stewardship with finances, if finances are your *only* hesitation, I encourage you to step out in faith and trust God's provision. God used the financial generosity of people over and over again to affirm we were on the right path with adoption. He reminded us repeatedly that he is sovereign and generous. The adoption process was an excellent classroom for learning to trust the Lord with all of our needs.

What was the biggest challenge to living out the purpose and personality of Jesus during the waiting period to have a child placed with you?

I (Rachelle) had some dark days during our waiting. The process was taking longer than we expected and hoped (we were really hoping for a quick adoption process), and I questioned

"And Leah said, 'Happy am I! For women have called me happy.' So she called his name Asher." GENESIS 30:13

God on why things were taking so long. During those dark days, I closed myself off from other people. I didn't seek ways to serve others, often even Joseph, and I grew very self-centered.

Describe Asher in five words.

joyful, content, social, curious, active

You have a unique relationship with Asher's birth parents. Can you tell us how that came about? What does it look like now?

We're thankful for our relationship with Asher's birth parents (shown right, in second photo from the top, with Joseph and Rachelle at the hospital before the birth). When we started the adoption process, open adoption was appealing to us. (An open adoption

STAFF
NOTES



includes sending regular updates about the child and staying in contact with the birth family. That can look quite different depending on the situation.) Asher's birth mother wanted an open adoption as well. She knew how difficult it would be to place Asher for adoption, and the thought of being able to see him from time to time and have a relationship with his adoptive family gave her a better peace about the process. Once she chose us and we said "YES," we met with Asher's birth mother and birth father about three weeks before he was born. We were all amazed by the peace we had that day, by how well we all clicked and got along. We each left our time together with a sense of affirmation that we were all moving in the right direction.

We cherish the ability to have a relationship

with Asher's birth parents, and love seeing what God is doing in the lives of Asher's birth parents through the adoption process.

You've chosen to share a lot about your adoption journey and Asher's life through your blog and social media. Tell us about what led you to that decision.

When we were researching adoption and waiting to be matched, we spent a lot of time on the Internet, particularly reading blogs written by adoptive parents. Reading other people's stories was encouraging, helpful, informative, and even challenging at times. We wanted to be a part of that voice for adoption, advocating for adoption simply by sharing our experiences and everyday life.

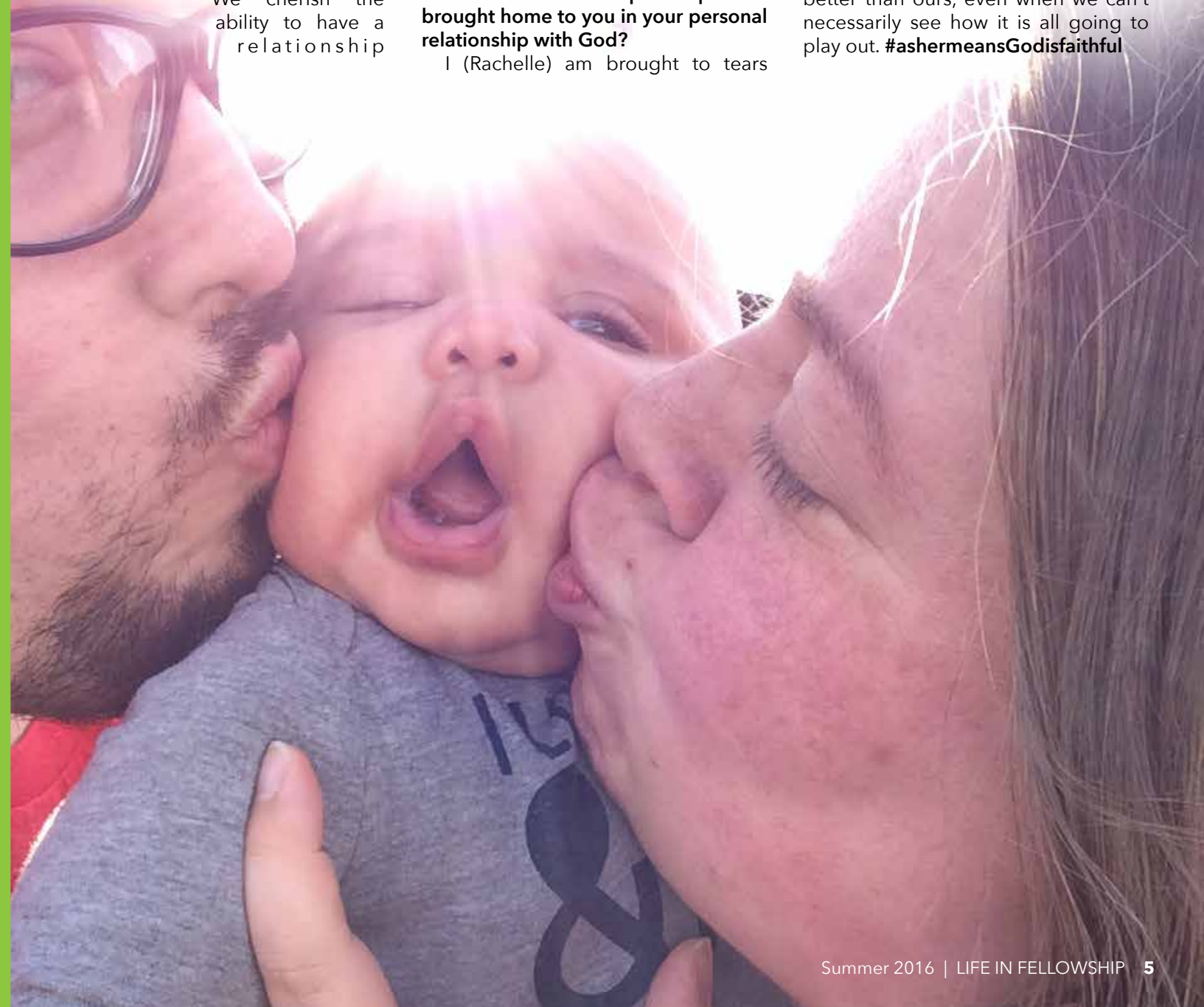
What has the adoption process brought home to you in your personal relationship with God?

I (Rachelle) am brought to tears

almost every time we sing about God as our father, especially the fact that he adopted us to make us his children. I know how much I was willing to endure to adopt a baby, and I know how much we love our son. That's just a glimpse into how much God loves us. It's breathtaking.

Asher is a daily reminder to us that when God leads you to something, he is faithful to bring it together. When I (Joseph) see Asher, I think of God's provision and blessing.

Indeed, what stands out in a story such as this is God's eternal faithfulness. Whether we are raising our kids, working our jobs, planning our days, or figuring out how to pay for it all, God can be trusted to carry us through. His methods are always 100 percent better than ours, even when we can't necessarily see how it is all going to play out. #ashermeansGodisfaithful



FALL STUDY PREVIEW

BY TRENTON STOKES

Caught in the cycle of trying to keep life's plates spinning without everything crashing to the ground? Family, friends, church, your spouse, even God—you just can't find the time it takes to focus on relationships that matter... or, at the least, you don't have the energy.

What if things could be different? What if our church and our small groups all focused on doing just that—strengthening relationships? In September and the following months, Fellowship Greenville will focus on parenting and, in the process, we'll discover how our most important relationships can help us with our parenting.

Reimagine Parenting

On Sunday evening, September 25, FG will be hosting a celebration of parenting. This will be a time to rejoice in our roles as parents as well as consider how our church can come alongside you as you seek to parent well. We will explore the multifaceted role parents can play as we help to develop our child's faith.

"How trustworthy we are as parents is much more important for their (our child's) growth than how trustworthy they are."

—Parenting Beyond Capacity

As a follow-up to this celebration, we are asking all parents to commit to a four-session study called Parenting Beyond Your Capacity, to:

- » Rediscover your family's role in a bigger story
- » Widen the circles of influence in the lives of your sons and daughters
- » Stay focused on what really matters for your children's future
- » Create healthy rhythms in how you interact with one another
- » Learn how to lead yourself as a parent

This study will take place through our community groups and growth groups. We feel like this synergized approach to focusing on parenting will produce a great yield—not just for you as parents but also for your children.

Of course, effective parenting is difficult to do if there are not also healthy marriages supporting it.

Married People's Night Out

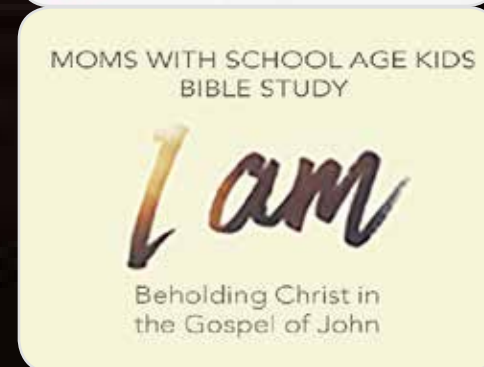
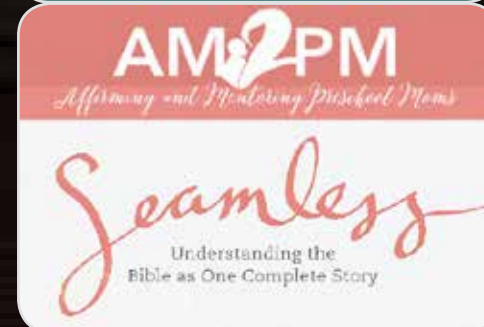
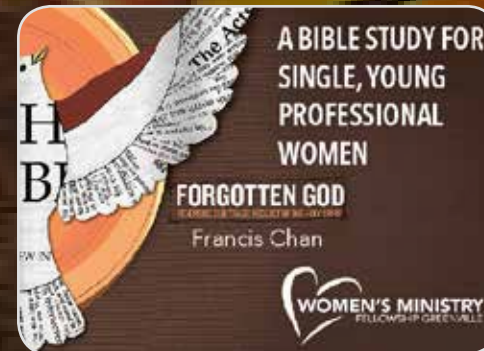
God's way for marriage might not be easy to live out, but it is certainly understandable and, in the end, the best that God wants for each couple. What trips so many of us up is we believe having a healthy, vibrant, great marriage is VERY complicated. The reality, however, may be as simple as drilling down on four core habits that can breathe life into the most fragile of marriages and continue to reinforce those marriages already on firm footing:

- » Have serious fun
- » Respect and love
- » Love God first
- » Practice your promise

Coming February 12, 2017, Fellowship Greenville will host our first ever Married People's Night Out. This is part of an intentional effort to focus on marriages. Whether you've been married for one week, one year, or one hundred years, we believe your marriage will benefit no matter where you are on the spectrum.

Fall Bible Studies

The following graphics preview some of our fall adult Bible studies. Find details at FELLOWSHIPGREENVILLE.ORG/ADULTSTUDIES.



YOURVIEW about Fellowship Greenville

Thank you for your leadership and care for God's word and God's people. My wife and I have been visiting for about a month and a half or so and have not left one Sunday without saying how blessed and equipped we felt for the week. It is funny, we served for 23 years in ministry, left to pursue other opportunities, got sidetracked, and then when we finally got back in church, it is some 15-20 minutes away from our home.

I remember the first Sunday driving to Fellowship, complaining the whole way how I wasn't driving that far to church and I wasn't going to listen to all that contemporary

music and if they didn't have some hymns I wouldn't go back and blah, blah, blah... all the way there. Five minutes into the service I started crying, my wife and kids did the same, and when Charlie started preaching I was so overwhelmed by God's presence, his truth, and the way you guys love the Word. **We love the way you point us to Jesus**, the way you handle Scripture, the use of hymns and choruses, and even the way you gave love and grace to the staff member who left on our first day at Fellowship.

So thanks for being people of faith. We pray God will continue to use you to point us to him.

You NEVER stop learning. After 53 years of marriage, this enrichment class was different from any we have attended. Francis and Lisa Chan share very practical, everyday ways to serve each other but, most importantly, direct your eyes to Jesus, to serve him first. Age or length of marriage doesn't matter—**this class is a must for every couple.**

MARRIAGE GROWTH GROUP PARTICIPANT

Thanks so much for all your work. This [app] is the best ever! I am not particularly tech savvy but it is so easy to use. **It allows me to get all Charlie's "pearls" and really listen to the sermon, instead of trying to write as fast as I can.** Great job!

FG CHURCH APP USER

EMAIL USER



Get your copy of A Prayer Collective at the Faith@Home Center, or online at A PRAYER COLLECTIVE.COM.

Every day on my way to work I listen to the prayer for that day [on the A Prayer Collective CD]. It takes me approximately 10 minutes to get to work, so I get to listen to it several times. A couple of weeks ago I realized that I was not paying attention as much as I should and would start daydreaming in the middle of it. So now I quote the prayer as it is being said. Day 27 has been especially meaningful to me. It talks about putting on the armor of God to fight against satan's attacks. **I actually listen and quote that particular prayer several times each day and anytime I am entering into a situation I feel would be a trigger for discouragement or despair.** That particular day's prayer has been especially beneficial to my walk with the Lord.

A PRAYER COLLECTIVE USER

We love our church family here at Fellowship Greenville! A big church with the small church warmth of believers living out the Gospel.

FACEBOOK USER

From our family's first visit, Fellowship Greenville felt so welcoming, warm, and friendly. At one point my son asked me whether everyone at the church was paid to smile, because **everyone seems so happy to be at church.**

GUEST

WHAT'S YOUR VIEW?
WE LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU.
WRITE US AT COMMUNICATIONS@FELLOWSHIPGREENVILLE.ORG.

As I sought out leaders for our worship program, I was looking for someone willing to lead our female vocalists who would pour her life into these girls and help them in their walk with the Lord.

One of my drummers told me about a young lady, who led worship with him at Anderson University, by the name of Alie Gutshall. As we were leading worship that week, a small group leader came up and introduced me to—you guessed it—Alie. She was very quiet at first but I could tell she had a passion to serve people and lead them in worship. I grabbed her information, told her the process, and she went on her way.

As I watched audition videos later, I prayed over all the people God led to us. I decided to ask Alie to join us on a retreat for high schoolers. Through her participation in this trip, I knew God had sent us someone who was going to be able to lead others. I also felt God was wanting to use Fellowship Greenville as a home for Alie to learn and work through some of her layers.

Over the past 10 months, I have noticed God using our church to help Alie navigate her journey, as she serves and helps equip our NextGen female vocalists. During our Bible studies and small group discussions, she shared her story of redemption. One of the first things I noticed about Alie is that she is a “words person.” She considers herself very introspective and loves to think through things. While Alie grew up in a loving Christian home, she says she didn’t “jive” with her parents as a child and was easily influenced by negative tendencies from those around her.

As a teenager, Alie wanted to be brave and confident but instead felt very misunderstood and isolated. “My natural instinct is to go to this closed up, insecure way of interacting with people,” Alie shared.

“I made plans to take my life... but was going to give it one last summer—God’s last chance to get in my life if he wants to be.” Alie felt like a waste and wondered why God even created her.

That summer, when she was 15, she went to a Bible camp and heard one of the speakers say, “If you were to die right now, are you confident you would go to heaven?”

Alie thought through that statement very hard. Even though she knew all about salvation, she didn’t have the type of relationship with God the pastor referenced. You see, to Alie, the Bible was poetry. She knew it and could analyze it, but *she didn’t believe it*.

When she heard the gospel presented that night, she decided to completely turn her life over to Jesus and live the life she always read about in Scriptures, thinking all of her problems would go away and life would be perfect. She soon learned that life and Jesus did not operate that way.

In her early twenties she felt God saying she was going to marry and start a family with her boyfriend of three years. But their relationship was rocky and they fought all the time. Alie didn’t think anything was wrong with that because she had witnessed much of the same with her parents’ marriage.

Then one day, he cut off all communication and she never heard from him again. No explanation, he was just gone. She was devastated. What she thought was God’s plan was now a disaster, and she didn’t know why. “Why would anyone do something like this?” she asked. She loved him and depended on him for a lot of her self worth and affirmation. She had given him all of who she was, emotionally and physically. He was everything to her.

Losing her “everything” left her angry and depressed, feeling worthless and unwanted. What happened to the perfect life she thought she would have when she accepted Christ that day? It took her almost two years to heal, primarily because she turned away from the Lord and tried to cope in ways that were detrimental, both spiritually and physically. She depended on things like alcohol and the attention of others to sustain her. Even though she learned so much from her mistakes, she still deals with the consequences today.

“God didn’t just have me go through a valley for no reason. He wanted me to learn something.”

Alie believes the Lord allowed her to go through those things, to grow and draw closer to him. She eventually came to a place where there was nowhere else to run, except to Jesus. Putting all

her faith in him, in the midst of all her circumstances, was all she could do.

During this time she was teaching high school English, while still having to deal with the insecurities and problems she faced because of past mistakes. After two years of teaching, she made the difficult decisions to move to Greenville and pursue other careers. Finding her identity in Christ and not in her past, she was able to focus her attention on leading students in a different way.

Only God could take heartache and misery and turn it into something beautiful, with opportunities to lead others through their own battles. Alie now uses her voice not only for singing songs of praise, but also helping others sing through their emptiness with words of brokenness, joy, and completeness in Christ. What once was empty and worthless is now overflowing with joy, thankfulness, and worth.

Alie has also developed forgiveness with her family, as they begin to rebuild their relationship. Not only has God been faithful in her personal situations but also in showing her parents how to lead Alie, and Alie how to be led by them. He took what was broken and restored it to be right and whole.

She now firmly rests in the fact that his plan is greater, his idea is better, and his control is where she can place her faith, no matter what. Through all of this she can really identify with the story of Jonah. “It didn’t matter how far he tried to run... [Jonah] told God, with his actions and his words, he didn’t want anything to do with what he told him to do. But God was with him anyway.

“And that’s what God does for us. He loves us so much, even though we completely deny him and say, ‘no I don’t want to do it your way. I’m going to do it my way, my imperfect, puny human way instead of your mighty God-like way.’ That’s crazy to think about, but it’s what we do.”

Being here has really impacted Alie and helped her grow in faith. She gets choked up as she reflects on the love and encouragement she receives through the NextGen worship team. “It’s awesome to be around, because I have not experienced that before at a church.”

FROM WORTHLESS TO WORTHY

BY CHASEN CALLAHAN



DON'T MISS a video of Alie sharing her story: FELLOWSHIPGREENVILLE.ORG/STORYFILMS-SUMMER16

+13.8% OPERATIONS (FROM 2015-2016)

Personnel: \$1,133,945
Expenses - facilities: \$689,504
Expenses - communications: \$33,600
Expenses - administration/IT: \$387,140
\$2,244,189

Ministry in action: pages 2-3, 20

-7.81% ADULTS (FROM 2015-2016)

Personnel: \$425,592
Expenses: \$48,525
\$474,117

Ministry in action: pages 4-6, 13, 20

+6.08% OUTREACH (FROM 2015-2016)

Personnel: \$206,968
Expenses: \$51,500
Missions giving: \$550,000
\$808,468

Ministry in action: pages 16-17

+5.27% NEXTGEN (FROM 2015-2016)

Personnel: \$811,684
Expenses - students: \$98,375
Expenses - children: \$73,840
Expenses - college, early 20s: \$22,065
\$1,005,964

Ministry in action: pages 12-15, 18-20

-1.68% WORSHIP (FROM 2015-2016)

Personnel: \$527,984
Expenses: \$50,660
\$568,951

Ministry in action: pages 8-9, 20

+12.98% HOSPITALITY (FROM 2015-2016)

Personnel: \$211,790
Expenses: \$78,380
\$290,170

Ministry in action: page 7, 20

+11.88% CARE (FROM 2015-2016)

Personnel: \$178,841
Expenses: \$12,800
\$191,641

Ministry in action: pages 12-13

Questions? Contact Art Ringger (ARINGGER@FELLOWSHIPGREENVILLE.ORG) or call the church office.

PROPOSED 2016-2017 BUDGET



PUTTING THE GOSPEL ON DISPLAY

ONE MARRIAGE AT A TIME

BY JESSICA SATTERFIELD

Out of all the ways Yahweh could have described his love for us, he chose to portray that love through marriage—a relationship so intimate, we are truly known by him. His love for us never hinges on our actions or his feelings, but rather a covenant, a lasting promise. His love is pursuing and relentless when we choose other things, even when we hurt him. His love is serving and always selfless, considering our needs as more significant. The Creator of heaven and earth desires that kind of intimacy with us. The intimacy we only find in marriage.

God's design for our marriages is for him to be known, not only to our spouses, but to the world. Our marriages should put the gospel on display for the world to see. However, more often than not, even in the church, this isn't the case. Marriage joins two imperfect people, bringing with them loads of baggage. Without community, without someone speaking God's truth into marriage, it is easy to fail.

Our church has seen this desperate need and created a ministry in which engaged couples are more equipped with truth to start their lives in this covenant love. The ministry began as Mike Hawkins, Fellowship Care Pastor, realized there were so

Shown left: Chris and Donna Corley (on either end) congratulating Ginny and John Gerber at their wedding, November 8, 2015. Chris and Donna mentored the Gerbers during their engagement and are continuing into their first year of marriage, as a part of Fellowship Greenville's premarital mentors program.

Shown right: Chris and Donna Corley at their wedding, May 8, 2005.

“Pre-marital counseling with Chris and Donna Corley was a great experience for us. We really enjoyed the sessions and time we spent with them. It helped us to prepare for marriage and understand what it actually means to love someone sacrificially.”

—GINNY AND JOHN GERBER

many young couples getting married and in need of premarital counseling. He alone was not able to keep up with the demand. This led to several mentor couples being trained and equipped to counsel and mentor couples who were getting married.

One of these couples is Donna and Chris Corley. Each being widowed, they bring many years of marriage experience to their 11-year marriage. “For myself, I can see how these experiences are extraordinarily helpful because I am able to use them as an example, admitting that even the best relationships can be challenged...

...Marriage doesn't solve problems, it creates them. We are tempted and often fall into sinful behaviors against each other like pride, selfishness, anger, and bitterness, to name a few. But marriage should be a way that I (as the husband) can show off God in my love and devotion for Donna and my commitment to being faithful to her and to him,” Chris said.

Mike Hawkins gives each engaged couple a questionnaire to complete. He uses this to match young couples with mentor couples. The mentor couples then use this same questionnaire as a springboard for their counseling. Each mentor couple commits to come alongside these young couples for a period of time once a month before and after marriage. They have them over to their houses. They dine together and really get to know one another. They work through two books together, *Love That Lasts* and *Called Together*.

As these relationships grow, the young couples are often able to ask questions to the mentor couple they wouldn't feel comfortable asking their parents. The Corleys say some of the conversations are often awkward but are necessary for building healthy foundations to marriage. Donna and Chris feel this ministry is so important because so often young couples “are all about the wedding. And then there is this marriage standing in front of them.”

The Corleys feel it is important to be open in their personal struggles in marriage because the young couples they mentor have the opportunity to

watch as they navigate through those struggles applying the truths of the gospel. Not only do they have the opportunity to pour into other young couples in our church, but they have seen this ministry strengthen and deepen their marriage as well. Chris says, “Our experience mentoring couples helps us in our marriage because God uses it to point out areas that we still need to work on. We try to be honest about these things with our couples.”

The Father delights in our love for one another. It moves his heart seeing us love and serve our spouses well. He is a proud Daddy when we love and serve our brothers and sisters in this way. This ministry is bringing glory to the Father and laying strong, biblical foundations so that his love, his covenant love for us, might be on display for the world to see.

If you are interested in becoming a mentor couple, to come alongside a young couple starting their marriage, or if you are planning a wedding, contact MARRIAGE@FELLOWSHIPGREENVILLE.ORG.



MarriageSUPPORT

Our goal is to inspire, empower, and equip the church, to help build stronger marriages, for stronger families, and stronger communities, for the glory of God. From pre-marital counseling to growth groups and support systems for along the journey, couples are finding strength to weather the storms.



GROWTH GROUPS

The next session of our marriage growth group, *You and Me Forever*, begins Sunday, August 28, at 10:10am.

PRIVATE COUNSELING

Some of our pastors are available to counsel couples or individuals, and/or provide recommendations for licensed marriage therapists.

For details about all of our marriage support options, and a video overview, visit FELLOWSHIPGREENVILLE.ORG/MARRIAGE.



INTRODUCING: CE20s

BY BRIAN HAASE

THIS PAGE (Z-FORM, FROM TOP LEFT):
Bethany Borton, Allen Meadows, Brian Haase,
Thomas Hastings, Brentley Williams, Davy Hall,
Lawson Young, Shaun Stokes, Stephen Whitacre

OPPOSITE PAGE, TOP PHOTO:
Brian Haase, Bolumani Sondah

OPPOSITE PAGE, BOTTOM PHOTO:
Jaz Mackey, Sarah Scott



So, the question is... have you met Bolumani (shown right)? He's here from Liberia, staying with Monty and Karen Rigsby while he works on his education degree at North Greenville University. He has a heart-warming smile that goes from ear-to-ear, and he is part of... our new College and Early 20s (CE20s) community. What is the CE20s community? It's a new ministry at Fellowship Greenville to support, encourage, and reach folks in the 18-24 age bracket.

The college-age part is pretty self-explanatory, but what about the early 20s? Early 20s is that life stage where you finish college or start working a "grown up" job, but you're still not sure if you qualify as a "full-fledged adult." We want to assure you that you are, indeed, a full-fledged adult, and help you get connected in community here at Fellowship Greenville.

During the week, we combine social media technology, local groups, and regional college visits to encourage and maintain vital fellowship with God and others. We also provide some events, such as seasonal retreats, during the course of the year to reinforce connections with one another and daily dependence on God.

This past year, the new CE20s group agreed to attempt a scripture reading plan that wouldn't add another "assignment" to already stretched college students. We decided to target a walk through the Gospel of Matthew that was never more than one chapter of the book each day, often less.

Several college students participated in the reading plan and even contributed their own thoughts, insights, and takeaways from the daily passages.

One student asked part-way through the plan if I could confirm where we were in our reading of Matthew. Thinking perhaps she had missed some days, I told her the reading for that day and then asked her, "Why do you need to know?" She responded, "I started reading one day... and as I read, it got addictive! I'm way ahead!"

Oh God, I pray you always give us hungry hearts for you and your word!



"I'm so blessed to have Jasmine as my friend. She has taught me more than she knows, in school and in life."

—SARAH SCOTT

Another part of this ministry is supporting students who want to share their faith on their campus or in their workplace. Jasmine Mackey, "Jaz," is a long-time member of Fellowship Greenville and a recent graduate of Clemson University. She has an infectious personality and a compelling love for Jesus and the people he loves... everyone! This past year Jaz befriended a Clemson classmate, Sarah, who recently moved to Greenville with her family after living her whole life in Michigan.

Over the next semester, Jaz studied with Sarah, had lunch with Sarah, introduced Sarah to her family and friends, and included Sarah in her life at school and at home. As a result, Sarah became active in our CE20s group. She found herself reading and studying God's word with other Clemson students from Fellowship Greenville, and enjoying becoming a part of this Christ-centered community.

Jaz's obedience in Christ, to love her neighbor as much as she loves herself, spreads life and love to whoever God

"I enjoy the fellowship and fun times with guys of my same age group. In some ways... I've been challenged and inspired by the daily scriptural readings and have grown in many facets of life."

—BOLUMANI SONDAH



brings her way. This led the rest of us to challenge each other, saying,

"Who could be the 'Sarah' God has recently brought into your life to love with the love of Jesus?"

This school year, I visited our students at Clemson University, Anderson University, and North Greenville University, and made additional contacts at the University of South Carolina (Columbia). I plan to grow the ministry to reach our students at Furman University, USC Upstate, and Wofford in the coming months.

We also seek to encourage our students who attend college outside of Greenville and help them connect to on-campus ministries at their school and nearby churches. Then, we also get together when students are home during school breaks.

For more information about the CE20s ministry, contact me at BHAASE@FELLOWSHIPGREENVILLE.ORG.

MANUPSTATE.org

Do your part. Sign the pledge.

BY CHELSEY BRILLIANT

Jonathan Parker, our Director of City Involvement, recently introduced a new local partnership affiliated with Safe Harbor, called ManUpstate. One of the coordinators of this movement is Julie Meredith.

Julie has always had an interest in working with women and children who have come out of violent situations. Originally from Spartanburg, she went to Furman University and then to Princeton Seminary for graduate school. She and her husband moved back to the Upstate and have been in Greenville for 9-10 years. Julie began working at Safe Harbor eight years ago as their Volunteer Coordinator and is now the Program Director. Safe Harbor's mission is to provide a continuum of services for victims of domestic violence and their children, and to eliminate cultural acceptance of domestic violence through a coordinated community response, prevention, and education.

South Carolina is one of the highest ranked states for domestic violence and leads the nation in women's deaths by men. Nationally, every nine seconds, a woman is assaulted or beaten, and one in three women and one in four men have been victims of some form of physical violence by an intimate partner within their lifetime.

Because Safe Harbor seeks to find a way to call men in the upstate to help in ending a culture of domestic violence in our community, they planned a special event for October 2015. The breakfast, to educate men regarding domestic violence against women, was a huge success with over 200 people in attendance. Julie tells me, "We realized that was the beginning of something

much bigger. Men wanted to know how to be part of the solution to domestic violence and needed resources to do so." Thus, ManUpstate was born.

ManUpstate is a community movement engaging men in ending violence against women and girls.

Men are encouraged to take the following pledge: "I pledge never to commit, condone, or remain silent about violence against women. I pledge to learn about how I can help to end violence and discrimination against women and girls, and to work towards creating a community where all people are valued and safe."

Julie explains, "This is a grassroots movement. It is dependent upon men speaking up and challenging them to speak in their circles to help spread this culture of ending domestic violence." They have several initiatives that help equip men to do this. The main piece is *10 Things Men Can Do To Prevent & End Violence Against Women & Girls*. This includes: lead, speak out, challenge, talk, remember, educate, express, give, re-learn, and learn more. They also have a national curriculum they have started sharing with athletic coaches called, *Coaching Boys Into Men*, that teaches young boys to not only be good athletes but be good men. ManUpstate's newest undertaking is engaging faith leaders to speak about it in their circles of influence. This is where our partnership with them plays a big role. Julie met Jonathan Parker when he was facilitating a

community conversation in 2014 at the Warehouse Theater. They continued having conversations about how our church could engage with ManUpstate. Jonathan is now part of the Faith Leaders Committee, strategizing how to specifically target faith leaders and how to make churches a safe place.

When I followed up with Jonathan, he explained the rationale for our partnership. James 1:27 (NLT) says, "Pure and genuine religion in the sight of God the Father means caring for orphans and widows in their distress and refusing to let the world corrupt you." Jonathan adds, "Widow meant more than just not having a husband, it meant they were *unprotected*, it meant that their children were unprotected, and we as a church have a responsibility to protect those that cannot protect themselves. Roughly 15 percent of men participate in domestic violence. That means the other 85 percent of men have a significant part to play in ending this culture of violence within our community. We have to acknowledge there is violence within our walls and that these statistics are true despite whether you claim to be a believer."

Julie has a question for us, and men specifically: "What are your daily interactions like with daughters, wives, and other women. How can you help change a culture of oppression toward women that leads to violence?" Go to MANUPSTATE.ORG to take the pledge and find out ways to get involved.



DON'T MISS videos of each of these partners: FELLOWSHIPGREENVILLE.ORG/STORYFILMS-SUMMER16

NATIONAL MISSIONS

"There have been so many instances throughout our journey that you've blown us away with generosity and support. We are so thankful to be part of a church family that cares so deeply about knowing God and making him known!" —Patrick Emery

Patrick and April Emery serve with Coalition for Christian Outreach (CCO), an organization that strives to "transform college students to transform the world." Patrick and April recently relocated to Poland, Ohio, with their three children: Grace, Abigail, and Gabe.

Fellowship Greenville is Patrick's sending church and we launched him into ministry in 2005. He had been volunteering with our student ministry before heading off to work with CCO. Patrick has been a part of CCO's Experiential Designs team for 10 years. As part of this team, he specializes in facilitating team building as well as leading wilderness trips which help students learn more about God, themselves, and others.

Anyone who had the privilege of meeting Patrick during his recent visit to FG got a chance to witness his passion and joy for ministering to college students. Through this ministry, students get to see God at work and come to depend on him in a whole new way.



PATRICK AND APRIL EMERY

JES ARELLANO

GLOBAL MISSIONS

Jessica (Jes) Arellano came to Fellowship Greenville in 2008 to work with our student ministry. During that time she led student teams to Dominican Republic. In June of 2015, the Lord called Jes into full-time ministry in La Vega, Dominican Republic, to serve with T.E.A.R.S. Ministries (True Evangelism Always Requires Sacrifice) alongside Rod and Twila Davis.

T.E.A.R.S. works with the poorest and most vulnerable Dominican and Haitian communities. Jes' job is to build relationships, as she teaches informal English classes, co-leads a Bible study for women in a local church in La Vega, and also meets with local teachers for morning devotions. She continually looks for ways to build relationships with women in both La Vega and Maria Auxiliadora, a barrio in Santo Domingo. Her passion for discipleship, teaching, and equipping women and students continues to be her sweet spot, as she wholeheartedly believes nothing will stop this next generation from changing the world!

FG has been supporting Jes financially each month since we commissioned her to the mission field last summer. We funded several trainings to help her get ready for the field, including two biblical counseling training sessions. Many of our staff walked beside her as she has raised support and transitioned to the field, praying with and coaching her along the way.

We are raising funds to purchase solar panels for T.E.A.R.S. If you would like to donate to this project, please contact Jana Johnson (JJOHNSON@FELLOWSHIPGREENVILLE.ORG). All donated funds will be matched, dollar for dollar, by FG.

CONNECT THE DOTS
TO COMPLETE THE PICTURE

نامي
Arabic

fe
Spanish

რწმენა
Georgian

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English

信仰
Chinese

FELLOWSHIP
KIDS

imani
Swahili

















Bipa
Ukrainian

NOW FAITH IS
CONFIDENCE IN
WHAT WE HOPE FOR AND
ASSURANCE ABOUT
WHAT WE DO NOT SEE
HEBREWS 11:1

MOVIES@HOME

Stop by the Faith@Home Center this summer to borrow these and other family-friendly movies. Each movie contains a conversation card intended to guide parents as they connect the movie theme to faith.



MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
30	31	1 June	2	3	4	5 
6	7	8 	9 	10	11 	12 SUNDAY SERVICES Senior Lake Retreat (cont.)
13 Senior Lake Retreat (cont.)	14	15 Proverbs Summer Study (cont.) Merge Fun in the Sun	16 Graduating Senior Send-Off Dinner	17	18	19 SUNDAY SERVICES
20 	21 Camp in the City (cont.)	22 Proverbs Summer Study (cont.) Camp in the City (cont.)	23 Camp in the City (cont.) Rising Senior Kick-off Dinner	24 Camp in the City (cont.)	25 	26 SUNDAY SERVICES
27	28	29 Proverbs Summer Study (cont.) Student Worship Experience	30	1 July	2	3 SUNDAY SERVICES No programming for grades 1-8
4 	5	6	7	8	9	10 SUNDAY SERVICES Starting Point
11	12	13 	14	15	16	17 SUNDAY SERVICES
18	19	20 	21	22 	23 Merge Summer Retreat (cont.) Single Parents Night Out	24 SUNDAY SERVICES Merge Summer Retreat (cont.) Connecting Point
25	26 	27 Look Up Lodge (cont.)	28 Look Up Lodge (cont.)	29 Look Up Lodge (cont.) Rising Senior Retreat Downtown Worship Night	30 Rising Senior Retreat (cont.)	31 SUNDAY SERVICES Connecting Point (cont.)
1 August	2	3 9 Rise Freshman Event	4	5 College Send-off Retreat	6 College Send-off Retreat (cont.)	7 SUNDAY SERVICES College Send-off Retreat (cont.)
8	9 	10 Weekly High School Worship resumes	11	12	13 	14 SUNDAY SERVICES Promotion Sunday (school-year schedule resumes)
15	16	17	18	19	20	21 SUNDAY SERVICES
22	23	24 	25	26	27	28 SUNDAY SERVICES You and Me Forever Growth Group begins
29 	30	31 	EVENT CALENDAR For details, visit FELLOWSHIPGREENVILLE.ORG/CALENDAR			