

# COVENANT *Member*

CAVE SPRING BAPTIST MINISTRY PLAN 2024-2025







## **COVENANT** *Member* 2024-25 Ministry Plan

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# PROMISED LOVE AND CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

What does it mean to be a church member? It means that we have accepted the promised love of God the Father who sent his beloved Son to make us his own. Jesus Christ loved the church so much that he—as the ultimate Bridegroom—sacrificed himself for his bride (Mark 2:19–20; Eph 5:25). He promised himself to us, now we promise ourselves to him. We are the bride of Christ!

But sadly, people today seem to prefer a dating relationship with the church over commitment to the bride of Christ. Why is this? Many things keep people from promising themselves to God *and* to his church but the most common reasons are: 1) fear of commitment, 2) resistance to authority, 3) a modern sense of independence or individualism that denies the need for others, and 4) a self-centered, consumer mindset.

Unfortunately, our churches have also contributed to the problem. We have minimized the relational promises and covenant responsibilities of membership. In some churches, one can attend on Sunday morning, walk forward, answer a few brief questions, and then be voted in. They don't know the church and the church doesn't know them. In some cases, we have seen church members join and disappear within a matter of weeks or months.

This is why we are focusing on covenant members in our 2024–25 Annual Ministry Plan. We want to rediscover the value of promise in church life—promising ourselves to God *and* to one another as “the church of the living God” (1 Tim 3:15).

We also hope this year's theme will help our Polity Review & Renewal Committee as they continue to explore “the development of an Elder-led, Deacon-served, Congregational model of Baptist church leadership and governance” (CSBC Minutes of July 9, 2023). For the past two years, we have given a fair amount of attention to the unique roles of both elders and deacons. Now we will focus on the responsibility and gifting of every member.

Our new sermon series will also focus on covenant members—identifying the key elements of our CSBC Membership Covenant included in our guiding documents and affirmed by each new member before joining.

Our ministry plan, therefore, is titled Covenant Member and has three main parts: covenant members in worship, in community, and on mission.

# COVENANT MEMBERS IN WORSHIP

Christian worship is the gathering together of God's people for the purpose of worshiping him. It has two main elements: we commit ourselves to the Lord *and* we commit ourselves to one another.

## We Commit Ourselves to the Lord

First, we commit ourselves to the Lord. Starting with God means we allow him to determine how we worship. In a culture that promotes self-glory, the gospel calls us to give our greatest affection to God and to glorify him rather than ourselves. Worship is our joyful and humble response to who God is and what he has done for us through Jesus Christ. Jesus has given us access to God through his atoning death. He is our true worship leader.

In other words, we worship God through Jesus. He alone can make our worship acceptable to God. Jesus' life, death, and resurrection are the unifying themes we rehearse every time we gather. We gather for worship because we love Jesus!



## We Commit to Worship with One Another

Second, we commit ourselves to worship with one another. Our love for God fuels our love for one another. Therefore, worship is not a solitary event.

In recent years, it has become all too easy to assume online worship is about the same thing as being present at church. But that couldn't be further from the truth. We were made to worship the Lord together. You may hear the same music and message online, but you will not experience the real-time, life-giving, heart-changing, Spirit-led gathering of God's people.

Every disciple needs encouragement from others to follow Christ. That's why each element of Christian worship is important. We welcome one another as Christ welcomed us! We are strengthened by the voices that sing behind us and over us. We unite our hearts in prayer for those on short-term mission trips or a grieving family. We listen openly and receptively to God's Word as it is read and preached. Finally, we respond to God in humility, repentance, and obedience.





# COVENANT MEMBERS IN COMMUNITY

## **Commit to Grow in Christ-Likeness**

God has designed His church as the means by which we grow in spiritual formation (1 Thess 5:11). We become more like Christ when we study God's word together with God's people regularly (2 Tim 3:16-17; Titus 2).

Spiritual formation in the church can occur in several types of gatherings: Bible study classes, small groups, and discipleship pairings. Within these structures, mature believers teach and model gospel transformation to new and growing Christians.

## **Commit to Serve the Body**

Healthy congregationalism finds its true expression in service, for every member has been gifted and assembled together for the building up of the church (1 Cor 12). The church is filled with a diversity of members of all ages, ethnicities, socio- and economic levels, which demonstrates the greatness and beauty of the God we worship.

Church members delight in serving others within the church—caring for preschool children, greeting and showing hospitality before worship services, maintaining the church grounds and building, delivering meals and visiting the hurting, serving on committees and ministry serve teams, etc.

## **Commit to Do Life Together**

We walk with one another in the good times and hard times. The Christian life is filled with milestone moments (weddings, birth of children, baptism, overcoming illness, restored relationships, etc.) and also the challenges of life in a broken world (grief, sorrow of sin, life with disease, difficulties of aging, etc.) Church members grow together into a spiritual family and commit to know others well and live in close proximity with one another to be able to "rejoice with those who are rejoicing and mourn with those who mourn" (Rom 12:15).





# COVENANT MEMBERS ON MISSION

What happens when people experience the covenant love of God? We are changed by that love. And naturally, we want others to experience that same transforming love and grace of God. That's where missions comes in. We make disciples and we plant churches because the love of God has captured our hearts.

## We Make Disciples

The reason disciple making is a key part of being a covenant member of the church is that Jesus commanded us, in his final words: "Go and make disciples of all nations." (Matt 28:19-20) Therefore, we go to our neighbors. We each live where we do because God has placed us in our family, in our community, and in our occupation as a light for the gospel. Covenant members share the gospel with their neighbors. We also go to the nations with the gospel. We partner with others to take the gospel to Puerto Rico, Marseille, France, and Vancouver, Canada. We go in obedience to Christ's Great Commission. We go to the nations because there are still far too many who have never experienced the love of God.



## We Plant Churches

As covenant members, we also plant churches to establish more kingdom outposts where he is not known. It is not enough just to hear the good news. We want those who have trusted in Jesus to experience all the blessings and benefits of being a part of his family. Without planting new churches, new believers can't experience covenant community with others. We send out church planters to Blacksburg and to Chicago. We partner to plant churches in Ann Arbor, MI, in Puerto Rico, in Winston-Salem, NC, in Richmond and in Roanoke. As God has captured our hearts through his love, we make disciples and plant churches for his glory.



# PROPOSED ANNUAL BUDGET

Thank you for giving faithfully! All of our giving is fueled by the undeserved mercy of Jesus Christ. In Paul's words, "you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by his poverty might become rich" (2 Cor 8:9). Your generous giving is a demonstration of what Christ first sacrificed for you and it encourages others to give also.

| Annual Budget           | 2023-2024          | 2024-2025          |
|-------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Missions                | \$269,909          | \$280,828          |
| Personnel               | \$941,762          | \$1,008,780        |
| Pastoral Ministry       | \$31,450           | \$37,450           |
| Music & Worship         | \$14,550           | \$15,150           |
| Children & Students     | \$26,000           | \$28,500           |
| Bible Study & Community | \$9,900            | \$9,850            |
| Adults                  | \$2,800            | \$3,200            |
| Support Ministry        | \$78,235           | \$95,930           |
| Publications & Media    | \$7,250            | \$7,650            |
| Facilities              | \$334,500          | \$357,650          |
| Unanticipated           | \$5,000            | \$5,000            |
| <b>TOTAL</b>            | <b>\$1,721,356</b> | <b>\$1,849,988</b> |



## Garden City CHURCH



After four years of ministry preparation through our Bonhoeffer Haus partnership, Sam & Emily Copeland and their family moved to Chicago to plant Garden City Church. Through your faithful

giving, we were able to send them to a city desperately in need of the good news of Jesus Christ. They hope to see a community renewed by the life of Christ as they make disciples who love God, love people and seek the good of Chicago.

# INCREASING GENEROSITY

One reason to practice the habit of giving and tithing is to help create a culture of generosity in the church. And, by God's grace, that's been happening over the past 12 months at CSBC. Generosity is on the rise!



**new giving families**

## Member Giving Profile

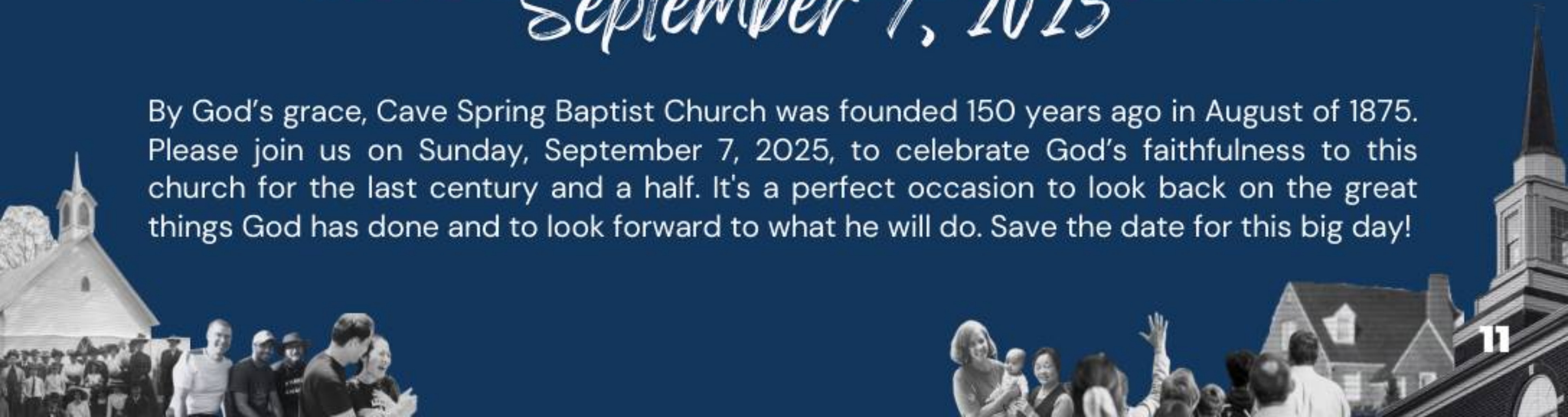
| 2022-23                                                                             |     |                  | 2023-24 |                                                                                     |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|------------------|---------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  | 33  | \$10,000+        | 35      |  |
|  | 54  | \$5,001-\$10,000 | 53      |  |
|  | 39  | \$3,001-\$5,000  | 45      |  |
|  | 75  | \$1,001-\$3,000  | 77      |  |
|  | 27  | \$501-\$1,000    | 24      |  |
|  | 147 | <\$500           | 167     |  |

375 families from Sept. 2022-Aug. 2023  
401 families from Sept. 2023-Aug. 2024

# 150TH ANNIVERSARY

*September 7, 2025*

By God's grace, Cave Spring Baptist Church was founded 150 years ago in August of 1875. Please join us on Sunday, September 7, 2025, to celebrate God's faithfulness to this church for the last century and a half. It's a perfect occasion to look back on the great things God has done and to look forward to what he will do. Save the date for this big day!



# NEW MEMBERS



Brian, Diana, & Bella Alexander



Michael & Caitlin Bagnoli



Xian Cao



Donna Christian



Chad, Rosie, & Alena DeMott



Jayda Donahue



Mason Dyer



Jennifer Gainey



Mike & Susan Gardner



Max Holthouser



Karen Jacobs



Abigail Johnson



Jonathan Kincade



Mimi Kollman



Yan Liu



Bob Martinet



Lyle & Teresa McLaren



Reagan Nash



Sam & Mackenzie Newcomb



Christian Ostrom



Chase Schillinger



Matthew Schutter



Scott & Kathy Shirley



Samantha Simkins



Joshua & Allison Sizemore



John & Barbara Smith



Landon Snyder



David Summers



Linda Taylor



Tsui Hung Tu

New members and remembrances from Sept '23 thru Aug '24



Maggie Wang



Gail Weavil



Patrick & Susie  
Wilkinson



Leanne Wrenn

## REMEMBRANCES



Mike Barksdale



Darrell Branstetter



Ruby Caldwell



Gloria Carmichael



Steve Cheatwood



Bill Clark



Reba Craighead



Clara Eanes



Margaret Gurley



Diane Langston



David McKinney



Jane Metts



Barbara Newman



Matthew Padgett



Nelson Richardson



Mary Lou Richardson



Dan Saunders



Barbara Thornhill



Lorna Wyatt



Jerry Young

Not Pictured: Sonia Tamraz

# OUR MINISTRY TEAM



Pete Schemm  
Lead Pastor



Chuck Stanley  
Pastor of Administration



Jon Rice  
Pastor of Worship & Music



Chip Baggett  
Pastor of Children,  
Students & Families



Allen James  
Pastor of Community &  
Missions



Michael Wu  
Pastor of Chinese Fellowship



Amanda Dalton  
Weekday Preschool  
Director



Susan Stanley  
Children's Director



Cora Esparza  
Student Director



Sue Munson  
Worship Associate



Hunter Bolton  
Communications  
Director



Linda Marceau  
Ministry Assistant



Stepheny James  
Ministry Assistant



Patsy Clear  
Bookkeeper



Dean Cupp  
Facilities  
Coordinator



Blake Allen  
Pastoral Intern



Makenzie Bolton  
Preschool  
Coordinator



Al Bradley  
Worship Accompanist



Pam Elgin  
Choral Accompanist



Zach Schemm  
Pastoral Intern

**Since we have committed  
ourselves to Jesus Christ  
and have experienced  
the acceptance, forgiveness,  
and redemption of  
God our Father,  
we covenant together  
as members of this church that...  
we will seek earnestly  
to live to the glory of God,  
who brought us out of darkness  
into His marvelous light.**



**A People Changed**  
*By The Gospel*