



**LIFE IN
FELLOWSHIP**

SHARING THE LOVE OF JESUS WITH
OUR NEIGHBORS NEAR AND FAR...

HOPE

Challenge '17



TODD DEVANEY

HOPE '17
PAGES
12-17

FROM THE DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS

Fall is upon us and the craziness of back-to-school and start-up of fall programming here at FG is in full motion! In some ways, fall is like the beginning of a new year, making new commitments to do this or to be involved in that—only without involving diet and exercise. Perhaps some of us *should* consider improving our diet and exercise, but we'll save that for January!

We recently wrapped up our summer series on *Gospel Fluency* (see page 10), focusing on how to apply the gospel to different aspects of our lives, not only in areas on which we may have already begun working, but also those on which we haven't been allowing or purposefully bringing the gospel to bear. The conversations around the intersection of the gospel into everyday life have both challenged and encouraged us. From where we work to personal issues—such as pride, marriage, singleness, identity, and anger—the challenge of bringing the gospel to bear on each and every area of our lives is critical to living gospel-fluent lives. A question we should consider is, when I encounter my wife, kids, or neighbor, is there anything about our interaction that would connect me to Jesus? Or are they left wondering what matters most to me?

As we kick off the fall, we are excited to be introducing some new ideas, such as a new focus on the singles ministry (see page 9), and welcoming other returning activities like the HOPE Challenge (see pages 12-17). In this issue, like always, we want to give you a glimpse into the many things going on here at Fellowship Greenville as we seek to live intentionally in relationship with Jesus and others, giving our lives

away with no expectation of return.

In August, our NextGen staff did an amazing job of calling us to "Say Yes" to the next generation, which means the ball is in our court! How are we going to step into giving our lives away to serve the generation behind us (see pages 18-19)? FG Kids and FG Students are just a couple of examples of places to plug in and serve.

Speaking of serving, the Outreach staff has put together some incredible opportunities for this year's HOPE Challenge. If you're new to our church, let me give you a little background: the HOPE Challenge is our annual invitation to the entire church to collectively serve the community through tangible gifts and transformative experiences. We are once again being challenged to reach some lofty goals!

As we launch fall ministry, we also want to look back at the lives of some of our people who responded to God's call to go. FG's GO Journeys provide the church with opportunities to serve outside of Greenville and around the world using their gifts and talents. You will read stories about how God has used our people to serve with no expectation of return in the DR, Greece, Liberia, and other places (see pages 22-24).

We are excited about new beginnings this fall with new relationships, new studies and new opportunities to re-introduce people to Jesus and the life he offers.

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GREENVILLE**
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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 reintroduced to Jesus, seeing him and the life he offers in a fresh, new way.

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EVENT CALENDAR

For details, visit FELLOWSHIPGREENVILLE.ORG/CALENDAR

September

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2
3 SERVICES	4	5	6	7	8	9
ABF, GS, DC, E20s FGK, JR Mom & Me			Equipping Night: The Big Ideas of the Bible COL	LIBERIA TRIP DEPARTS 🛫	FG Singles Launch	
10 SERVICES Start Here Parents & kids ages 6-11 ABF, GS, DC, E20s, RE, SGL—Lunch FGK, JR FGS-MS (AM) , FGS-HS (PM)	11 AM2PM	12	13 Man Alive Kick-off COL WBS, PC, MWSK	14 AM2PM, MWSK	15	16 HAITI TRIP DEPARTS 🛫
17 SERVICES + COMMUNION Starting Point ABF, GS, DC, E20s, RE, SGL—H&H FGK, JR FGS-MS (AM), FGS-HS (PM)	18 LIBERIA TRIP RETURNS 🏠	19	20 Understanding Your Parenting COL WBS, PC	21 Senior Adults	22 Grounds of Faith with Carolyn Rice Premarital Weekend Seminar for engaged and seriously dating couples	23 HAITI TRIP RETURNS 🏠
24 SERVICES Membership Class ABF, GS, DC, E20s, RE FGK, JR FGS-MS (AM), United Night (PM)	25 AM2PM	26	27 COL WBS, PC, MWSK	28 AM2PM, MWSK	29	30
1 SERVICES Transformation Walk HOPE Challenge, Week One ABF, GS, DC, E20s, RE, Membership Class (cont.) FGK, JR FGS-MS (AM), FGS-HS (PM)	2	3	4 Equipping Night: The Big Ideas of the Bible COL PC	5	6 Night of Worship TD Stage at the Peace Center	7
8 SERVICES Poverty Simulation HOPE Challenge, Week Two ABF, GS, DC, E20s, RE, CGE FGK, JR, Stepping-In FGS-MS (AM), FGS-HS (PM)	9 AM2PM	10	11 COL WBS, PC, MWSK MA	12 AM2PM, MWSK	13	14
15 SERVICES Food Drive HOPE Challenge, Week Three ABF, GS, DC, E20s, RE, SGL—Lunch FGK, JR, Zero to One FGS-MS (AM), FGS-HS (PM)	16	17	18 COL WBS, PC	19 GCSD Fall Break Begins (10/19-10/22) Senior Adults	20	21
22 SERVICES + COMMUNION S.W.A.P. HOPE Challenge, Week Four ABF, GS, DC, E20s, RE, CGE Stephen Ministry Info Meeting FGK, JR FGS-MS (AM), FGS-HS (PM)	23 AM2PM	24	25 COL WBS, PC, MWSK	26 AM2PM, MWSK	27 SGL—Game Night	28
29 SERVICES ABF, GS, DC, RE, E20s FGK, JR, Grow FGS-MS (AM), FGS-HS (PM)	30	31 500th Anniversary of The Reformation	October			

November

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2	3	4
			Equipping Night: The Big Ideas of the Bible COL WBS, PC			Christmas Market Women's Cafe
5 SERVICES	6	7	8	9	10	11
NextGen Baptism ABF, GS, DC, CGE, RE, E20s FGK, JR FGS-MS (AM), FGS-HS (PM)			COL WBS, PC, MWSK MA	MWSK		
12 SERVICES [ORPHAN SUNDAY]	13	14	15	16	17	18
Parent Dedication Celebration ABF, GS, DC, RE, E20s, SGL—Lunch FGK, JR FGS-MS (AM), FGS-HS (PM)	AM2PM		COL	Senior Adults AM2PM	CULTURELink Training (Outreach)	
19 SERVICES + COMMUNION	20	21	22	23	24	25
Baptism Main Services ABF, E20s, RE, CGE FGK, JR FGS-MS (AM), FGS-HS (PM)				SGL—Serve GIVE THANKS		
26 SERVICES	27	28	29	30	1	2
ABF, E20s JR			COL WBS-Christmas Study			
3 SERVICES	4	5	6	7	8	9
ABF, E20s, RE, CGE FGK, JR FGS-MS (AM), FGS-HS (PM)			Equipping Night: The Big Ideas of the Bible COL WBS-Christmas Study	FGS-MS Christmas Party		
10 SERVICES	11	12	13	14	15	16
Single Parents Night Out ABF, E20s, RE FGK, JR FGS-MS (AM), FGS-HS (PM)			COL WBS-Christmas Study	Senior Adults		
17 SERVICES	18	19	20	21	22	23
ABF, E20s, RE FGK, JR FGS-MS (AM), FGS-HS (PM)			GCSD Winter Break Begins (12/20-1/2) COL SGL—Christmas Party			
24	Christmas A TRADING IS BORN NO SERVICES		26	27	28	29
CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SERVICES: 3PM & 5PM JR						30
31 SERVICES	KEY: ABF: Adult Bible Fellowship AM2PM: Affirming & Mentoring Preschool Moms CGE: Community Group Experience COL: College-Age Coed Gathering DC: Divorce Care, Divorce Care for Kids E20s: Early 20s Coed Group FGK: FG Kids (Grades 1-5) FGS-HS: High School Student Ministry FGS-MS: Middle School Student Ministry FGS-United: Student Ministry - All Grades GS: Grief Share JR: FG Kids Jr. (Preschool, Nursery, K) MA: Man Alive (Monthly Men's Group) MWSK: Moms With School-age Kids PC: Precept Bible Study (Women) RE: reJengage (Married Couples) SGL: Singles (Coed) WBS: Women's Bible Study (All ages) AUDIENCE: Adult Women Adult Men Birth-Grade 5 Grades 6-12 College-Age					

December



THE PASTORS' CARETAKER

BY LAURA SMITH

Sometimes it's hard to find the right words to sufficiently describe someone special who has touched the lives of so many people. Even the word "special" seems far too ordinary for someone like Raydell Tedder (shown above, with her husband, Ralph), who has served God and the people around her in such extraordinary ways.

This summer, Raydell retired from her position as Executive Assistant to Charlie Boyd. She began working with Charlie when he first joined the staff in 1996. Prior to that, Raydell served as Walt Handford's secretary for 11 years and also managed the church bookstore during that time. She says the most rewarding part of her job was the privilege of serving two very godly men. "My joy was to do whatever I could to make it easier for them to do what God had called them to do. It's been very exciting to be a part of a ministry where we've seen people saved, lives changed, and families restored."

When asked to share his thoughts about Raydell, Charlie said, "There is no way to adequately express how much Raydell means to me. She most certainly made it 'easier for me to do the work God called me to do.' That was her calling and she lived out that calling joyfully, faithfully, and competently. She served me, supported

me, encouraged me, empathized with me, and I know she prayed for me through good times and not so good times. She was honest with me when I asked her for feedback on how I was handling things. She had the ability to know what I needed before I needed it. She would take the initiative to act on my behalf because she knew me so well. She knew what I would say and do. At times, people would call the office wanting to talk with me, and she would probe a bit to find out if I was, in fact, the person they needed to speak with. They would open up to her and she would listen and share her wisdom with them. And by the end of the conversation, they would say, 'Thank you, Raydell. I don't think I need to talk with Charlie. You really helped me.' Raydell was much more than an administrative assistant; she was a God-send and a good friend. She still is."

The Southern Draw

Raydell was born in New Jersey, but grew up in Michigan. She attended Bob Jones University and graduated in 1962 with a B.A. degree in Sacred Music and in 1963 with a B.S. in Elementary Education. Early in her career, a teaching opportunity drew Raydell back to Michigan where she met her future husband, Ralph, when he was a seminary student. After they married, Ralph pastored churches in Michigan, Connecticut, and Massachusetts. In 1980 they moved to Greenville with their three young children and Ralph's mom so the children could attend Southside Christian School (SCS) and also to be closer to Raydell's widowed mother who lived in North Carolina.

Raydell joined the staff of SCS in 1981 as the seventh and eighth grade English teacher. Then she managed the school office from 1982 to 1985 before stepping into her new role supporting Pastor Handford. Through the years, Raydell witnessed and experienced great seasons of change and growth in the ministry. When asked

about the challenges this presented, she said "In recent years, the greatest challenge in my work has been trying to keep up with the ever-changing technology. When I started, I had a basic typewriter—it was an exciting day when we got typewriters that had correcting capabilities!"

Full Hearts

Ralph and Raydell have three married children—Paul, Karina, and Amy—and they are the proud grandparents of six grandchildren ranging in ages from 11 to 23 years (*some of whom are visible in the photo below, taken at their 50th wedding anniversary party*). All of their children graduated from SCS, and all of their grandchildren have also attended (or are currently attending) SCS. The children all live within a mile of each other and within five miles of Ralph and Raydell! Being an only child (and married to an only child), Raydell treasures the time she spends with her energetic family, particularly the grandchildren. Now that she will have a bit more freedom with her schedule, she looks forward to even more time shared with them.



When asked about the highlights of retirement so far, Raydell (a self-confessed "night owl"), says she enjoys the fact that if she wants to stay up super late, she can! And if she and Ralph decide on the spur of the moment to go somewhere, they can. Raydell also learned to swim recently and plans to enjoy water classes at the YMCA. Some of her other interests are reading, word games, and playing the piano. She and Ralph recently enjoyed a three-day trip to Atlanta to visit the new Braves stadium with a Christian tour group, and they look forward to many other adventures. A travel destination that sits high on her bucket list is the Grand Canyon.

Raydell says the hardest part of transitioning into this new chapter is missing the contact with wonderful coworkers and the daily part of the ministry. She feels very blessed to have been able to work as long as she did at a wonderful ministry and to see God at work, particularly in moving us toward a community of grace.

Raydell says, "I certainly had no idea when I began working at SCS in 1981 that I would still be there 36 years later." She recalled this promise in 1 Thessalonians 5:24: "Faithful is he who calleth you, who also will do it."

Loved and Respected

I had the privilege of being on staff with Raydell for 19 years, and I quickly grew to love her as a highly respected coworker, mentor, and friend. She served as a godly example to me and all of the women on staff, as well as to many women she befriended in the congregation. I watched her utilize her God-given gifts of compassion, wisdom, and administrative skills as she served wholeheartedly with integrity, humility, and a sweet sense of humor. She was always willing to listen and ready to offer gracious, valuable

(continued on page 8)

(continued from page 7)

feedback and encouragement to other staff members or to those in the congregation who were struggling. I have heard many comments from others to Raydell that echo my sentiments. Here are just a few of them:

"Raydell, you are part of the beautiful fabric of Fellowship Greenville."

"You are loved and have touched so many by your sweet spirit and caring heart."

"As you reflect on the years of faithful service, may you experience great joy knowing the Lord used you to bless so many of us. Many times you encouraged me and our family. Thank you, Raydell."

Welcome Lynda

As we extend warm gratitude and congratulations to Raydell, we would also like to welcome a wonderful new addition to our staff! We are happy to have Lynda Moldrem (shown right) serving as Charlie's new Executive Assistant. Some of you might already

be acquainted with Lynda through her years of service at Southside Christian School.

Lynda was born in Idaho but lived in the Denver, Colorado, area until she moved to Greenville in 1967 to attend Bob Jones University. She also joined Southside Baptist Church that year (which eventually grew into Fellowship Greenville), and she's been a member here ever since. After finishing college, Lynda taught in Florida and then North Carolina before joining the staff at SCS as a Middle School science teacher in 1974. She advanced to serve as MS Vice-Principal for three years and then MS Principal for 14 years. After retiring, she returned to SCS as a substitute teacher.

In her spare time, Lynda loves reading mysteries and sipping a great cup of coffee with lots of cream (especially cold coffee). She also appreciates a good Italian meal. She has written eight novels that are available online, and she has also written poetry and musical lyrics. She's an avid football



fan, both pro and college. Go Broncos and WVU Mountaineers!

When I ran into Lynda at Raydell's staff retirement gathering and congratulated her on her new position, she was quick to say, "I can't possibly replace Raydell, but I look forward to serving the church to the best of my ability." Lynda brings valuable experience, strong organizational skills, and a servant heart to our ministry. We're so grateful to have her on staff! ☒



BY TRENTON STOKES

- ➔ Check the calendar on pages 4-5 for events marked SGL to find all the upcoming Singles events!
- ➔ Connect with us on Facebook: facebook.com/groups/fgsingles.

Have you ever sat listening to the announcements on Sunday morning and thought, "Great! Couples and kids are taken care of. Where are the opportunities for single adults?" If you have, you're not alone. Community Life is launching FG Singles—a new emphasis focused on helping single believers in all stages of life participate more completely in the life of the church.

Over the past several years, it's become apparent—through repeated conversations with those who are single and through general inquiries at both the Welcome Center and Next Steps Center—that there is a growing opportunity to be more intentional in reaching out to those who are single.

A singles town hall meeting in April validated the need and gave the needed direction. Singles felt disconnected from one another and from the larger church body. Singles wanted to know what opportunities were available to serve and to grow. Singles wanted to nurture their gifts, talents, and passions as much as anyone in the congregation.

We have worked with a dedicated team of volunteers over the summer to develop a plan for FG Singles to respond to the needs expressed at the town hall meeting. The focus came down to three areas: connection, communication, and cultivation.

- » The *connection* focus will help single people attending FG recognize that they are not alone, and that both couples and other singles want them to join in the active community of faith.
- » The *communication* focus will make it clear that service and growth opportunities are not just for married couples, but for every willing heart and pair of hands.
- » The *cultivation* focus will foster an environment in which the gifts, talents, and passions of single believers can bloom for the glory of God.

Now, it's time to launch. Come join us, on September 8 at 7pm, as we launch FG Singles together. We will worship, play, fellowship, and hear what FG Singles may become. ☒



GOSPEL FLUENCY

SPEAKING THE TRUTHS OF JESUS INTO THE EVERYDAY STUFF OF LIFE

BY TARA QUINT

This summer was a year of growth for Fellowship Greenville. No, I don't mean growth in the amount of people walking through our doors every Sunday; I mean spiritual growth! Inspired by a book written by Jeff Vanderstelt of Doxa Church in Bellevue, WA, our church went through an 11-week series called *Gospel Fluency: Speaking the Truths of Jesus Into the Everyday Stuff of Life*. Through this series, we discovered how the gospel should affect every area of our lives.

Fluency. What initially seems like an elementary idea turns into a radical way of understanding the Christian life. Think about any language classes you may have taken in middle or high school. In order to develop fluency in that language, you would have to spend significant time learning, studying, and practicing the language. You would need exposure to others who spoke the language as well, so you could hear how it sounded and become familiar with the phrases, metaphors, and different ways of saying similar sentences. If you continued in your classes, you would start finding yourself in classes where you could easily express yourself in the language, talking with your teacher and classmates comfortably and communicating articulately. You'd find yourself developing fluency in that language!

WHAT IS GOSPEL FLUENCY?

This idea of gospel fluency is very similar to learning another language. By familiarizing yourself with what the gospel really is, learning and studying the gospel alone and with others, and talking about the gospel regularly with other believers, it starts to become a filter through which you process and understand everything you experience in your life. And the more you understand it, the more easily you'll be able to talk about it to other people. In other words, gospel fluency is being able to express and communicate the good news about Jesus easily and articulately to yourself and others, for the purpose of applying the Gospel to every area of life.

In our introduction to the idea of gospel fluency, Jim Thompson (Teaching and Equipping Pastor) gave us a great summary of the Jesus story that is the gospel:

He came. He is God in the flesh.

He lived, giving us a perfect example.



He died, forgiving our sin.
He rose, conquering death.
He ascended, proving his work is done.
He gave the Spirit, for us to continue his life.
He will return, to finally right all wrongs.

He went on to teach that, "Each piece of the Jesus story matters if we're seeking to fully understand the gospel. An abbreviated view of the gospel will result in an abbreviated life experience with God or an abbreviated participation in God's mission." If we're going to be a community of grace, passionately pursuing life and mission with Jesus, we need to have a full understanding of the gospel—in other words, we need to be gospel fluent!

OUR GOSPEL-FLUENT SUMMER

During our 11-week study in *Gospel Fluency*, we dove into the deep ideas of the gospel and learned how to live out the implications of the gospel in everything we do. The main topics we covered were how the gospel speaks to: Culture, Identity, Pride, Anger, Worry, Marriage, Singleness, Community, and Serving. As a church, we also wanted to provide additional support to people who were interested in diving deeper into the main ideas of the sermon series. During the months of June and July:

- » Men's, women's, and community group leaders received copies of *Gospel Fluency*, so they could lead with intentionality as we become more fluent in the gospel;
- » The Community Life and Discipleship ministries partnered to provide Becoming More Gospel Fluent, a smaller group experience to help others dive deeper into the concepts of the book and Sunday morning sermons; and
- » We offered *Gospel Fluency* books to all churchgoers, for a suggested donation of \$10, so they could read more from Vanderstelt about this idea and how it can affect them.

Summer of 2017 was a summer of growing in gospel fluency, and we hope to see our fluency flourish as we study Romans this year. ☕



Did you miss a message?

Replay them at

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

HOPE

Challenge '17

*This is how we know what love is:
Jesus Christ laid down his life for us.
And we ought to lay down our lives for
our brothers and sisters.*

—1 John 3:16 (NIV)

BY SUSAN SALAMONE

The HOPE Challenge is an annual invitation for Fellowship Greenville to collectively serve our community through tangible gifts and transformative experiences. We are excited to present the church with four diverse opportunities in October with great potential to impact our local and global communities, and our own hearts. God has blessed Fellowship Greenville and compels us by his love to share with those in need. As individuals, families, and small groups accept the challenge to live out gospel fluency through good works, we hope they will identify with Christ in giving themselves away sacrificially with no expectation of return. Here's an overview of what this year's HOPE Challenge entails:

10/01 Join in United Ministries' 28th annual **Transformation Walk** to raise awareness about the challenges of living in poverty and raise funds to serve and empower those on the life-changing journey to self-sufficiency. (Refer to page 14 for details.)

10/08 Participate in an interactive **poverty simulation** to better understand poverty, so we can respond with wisdom and compassion. (Refer to page 15 for details.)

10/15 **Stock the pantry shelves** of The Center for Community Services in Simpsonville. (Refer to page 16 for details.)

10/22 **Switch with a purpose (SWAP)** to help FG care well for our missionaries, especially at Christmas. (Refer to page 17 for details.)

We will wrap up the month with an End-of-the-Month video highlight and offering on October 29. Your offering funds the Outreach Budget, which is separate from the General Budget, helping us to continue serving and supporting our partners in accomplishing their missions in Greenville and around the world.



transformation
WALK
Take a Step. Change a Life.

REGISTER NOW @ [TRANSFORMATIONWALK.EVERYDAYHERO.COM/US/TEAM-FG-MOVES](https://transformationwalk.everydayhero.com/us/team-fg-moves)

Week one of our 2017 HOPE Challenge we launch the month's activities in a big way by participating as a church in the Transformation Walk. Everyone is invited to join Team FG MOVES as a walker or a donor, so grab your family, your adult small group, or even your kids' small group, and *Take a Step to Change a Life*.

The event begins at noon with a block party at Fluor Field including live music, a food truck rally, and family-friendly games and entertainment. The celebration will be followed, at 2:30pm, by United Ministries leading a three-mile walk "in the shoes" of those who seek assistance from service agencies in downtown Greenville.

Fellowship Greenville has sponsored the Transformation Walk with a \$1000 donation, plus we've set a goal for our congregation to raise an additional \$3,000 and be 300+ walkers strong on the day of the walk.

WHY ARE WE WALKING?

- » To raise awareness about the challenges of living in poverty and the various ways United Ministries offers a "hand-up" to those among us who are struggling to make positive transitions in their lives.
- » To raise funds benefiting United

Ministries' mission to serve and empower those on the transformative journey to self-sufficiency through job skills training, adult education, financial stability programs, shelter for homeless families, as well as emergency assistance and day shelter for homeless individuals.

Want to see everyone in Greenville have a chance to thrive? Join Team FG MOVES!

WALKERS...

- ➔ Join Team FG MOVES using the link above.
- ➔ Then, use their easy social media tools (or print the forms) to raise funds for United Ministries.
- ➔ Finally, show up on October 1 ready to eat, play, and walk!

DONORS...

- ➔ Visit the FG team page using the link above and click on the "give now" button.
- ➔ Then, select a team member you want to donate to.
- ➔ Choose the amount, method of payment, and add an encouraging message to the team if you'd like.

WEEK ONE
HOPE

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 1
12-4PM

LOCATION

The Walk begins and ends at Fluor Field. Please park in Greenville County Square at 301 University Ridge, Greenville, SC 29601.

FREE

There is no registration fee; simply register for the walk and join the FG Moves team, then start fundraising! All proceeds benefit United Ministries.

TIPS

- » Rain or shine
- » Please walk, no running.
- » Compete for top fundraising prizes!
- » Be creative to raise more money - car washes, competitions, games.
- » Share your efforts online with #fgmoves and #transformationwalk
- » Visit [JOIN.QUIZIZZ.COM](https://join.quizizz.com) and enter the game code provided by October 1 to play an interactive game along the route. Winners will be announced on United Ministries' Facebook page.
- » Set a fundraising goal! *\$100 helps cover childcare for a parent who is working toward high quality employment; \$300 leases an interim housing unit for a homeless family for a month; \$1000 provides car repair for a homeless family; and \$2200 sponsors someone for Certified Medical Billing and Coding training!*

POVERTY SIMULATION

Week two of our 2017 HOPE Challenge, we will partner with Our Eyes Were Opened to offer an interactive poverty simulation in Auditorium One. Our purpose for bringing the simulation here is to help our church body understand poverty so that we can respond with wisdom and compassion.

This unique learning resource provides a window into poverty, creating insight into the state of chronic crisis that consumes so many working poor families. In the hour-long simulation on **Sunday, October 8**, participants experience one month of poverty (comprised of four fifteen-minute weeks). Afterward there will be a time to debrief the impact of the simulation.

WHO IS THIS FOR?

Space is limited to 80 participants. Due to the type of discussions and nature of the event, attendance is for adults, ages 18+. (Registered Childcare is available during this event.)

WHAT IS THE COST?

A \$5 non-refundable registration fee per person will be collected at registration.

HOW TO PARTICIPATE:

Reserve your spot by registering at [FELLOWSHIPGREENVILLE.ORG/EVENTS](https://fellowshipgreenville.org/events).

WEEK TWO
HOPE

STOCK THAT PANTRY!

Week three, Fellowship Greenville will hold our fourth annual HOPE Challenge Food Collection. This year, donations will help stock the pantry shelves of our newest local partner, The Center for Community Services. Located in Simpsonville, CCS provides access to health care, education, and emergency assistance on one campus for people living in southern Greenville County.

Sharing resources with families in the Golden Strip who are in crisis is so convenient! On your weekly shopping trip, just purchase several additional items from the CCS shopping list, bring them with you to church on October 15, and place the items in one of the donation bins located near key entrances to the building.

 Learn about the CCS:
FELLOWSHIPGREENVILLE.ORG/STORIES



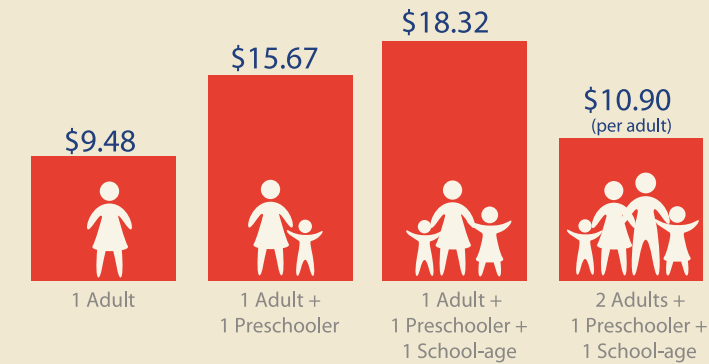
THE SELF-SUFFICIENCY STANDARD AT A GLANCE

HOW MUCH IS ENOUGH IN GREENVILLE COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA?

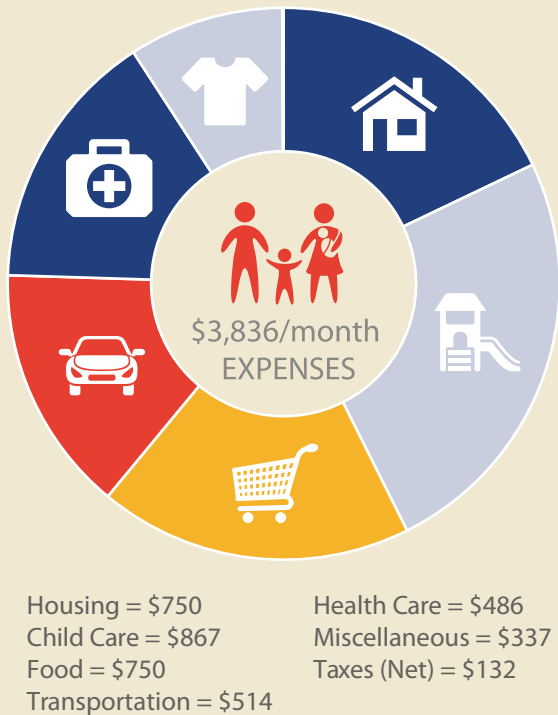
THE SELF-SUFFICIENCY STANDARD DEFINED

The Self-Sufficiency Standard calculates how much income families of various sizes and compositions need to make ends meet without public or private assistance.

HOURLY WAGE TO BE SELF-SUFFICIENT VARIES BY FAMILY TYPE



HOUSING AND CHILD CARE TYPICALLY ACCOUNT FOR ALMOST HALF OF THE FAMILY BUDGET



To download the full report and data for all 152 family types visit selfsufficiencystandard.org/south-carolina



THE GIFT OF MUSIC:

Our house is filled with so much joy (literally there is some kind of music going all the time ☺). With the money you gave, we bought a digital camera with video, an amplifier, snare drum, and a guitar and finally a yearly subscription to iTunes music. We didn't NEED these things, but the children were thrilled. Thank you for choosing to bless us in this way!

THE SHEPPERSONS



WEEK FOUR
HOPE



SWITCH WITH A PURPOSE

Week four of the HOPE Challenge gives us an opportunity to care well for our missionaries, especially at Christmas. Here's how it works: each person/family prayerfully selects something they normally spend money on in October and, instead, forgoes that item in order to give that amount of money to our SWAP (switch with a purpose) fund.

Last year, SWAP funds equipped one missionary family's children to step into a musical ministry (see inset). Another family received a Lowe's gift card allowing them to do a few needed home-improvement projects. FG's generosity always amazes our missionaries. Thank you for "switching" with a purpose so generously. A little self-sacrifice on our end can equal a huge blessing for our missionaries. Thanks for caring so well for a part of our church family who serve others with no expectation of return.

➔ Bring your SWAP funds on October 22 and place the money, in an envelope marked SWAP, into the offering or any of the designated baskets.

THE GIFT OF TRAVEL:

For 20 years or so Debbie has wanted to go to the winter Snow Festival in Hokkaido. Your gift gave us a fabulous two day, three-night vacation in Hokkaido! Thank you for your generosity! This is something we will remember and treasure for years to come.

THE MELTONS



WHY THE CHURCH NEEDS LESS VOLUNTEERS AND MORE MENTORS

I've been a huge advocate for mentoring for about 10 years and have been blessed to experience being both a mentor and a mentee for the last several. Concurrently, I've been working in children's ministry in the local church and now oversee an elementary ministry that consists of about 300 first-fifth graders and nearly 100 volunteers on Sunday mornings.

Believe it or not, I used to keep these two worlds separate from one another.

The work I did in the mentoring community was about developing ongoing, long-term relationships between caring adults and at-risk youth. Some might say managing volunteers in children's ministry is less about relationship and more about Bible trivia and goldfish. If we're really honest, others might even say it's more about keeping kids in control for an hour while their parents attend church,

giving them a much needed break from a busy weekend of soccer games and sleepovers.

The investment is different too. Mentoring oftentimes happens several times a month for a couple hours at a time. Teaching a Sunday school class happens for one hour, once a week (given the volunteer shows). For decades, teaching Sunday school has been seen as information transfer, while mentoring has been about forming authentic relationships.

One is transactional. The other is transformational.

But, as many of today's children's and student ministry leaders know, times have drastically changed. In recent years, the landscape of next generation ministry has slowly begun to evolve, mainly in response to the rising number of kids who are growing up in church and walking away from

their faith after high school.

Children's ministries across the nation are realizing that they have to be about so much more . . .

- ➔ More than packing forty kids in a classroom with a couple well-meaning adults.
- ➔ More than a drop-off ministry for parents or silly games.
- ➔ More than random volunteers rotating in and out every week.
- ➔ And, yes, even more than the creative reimagining of Bible stories and the memorization of Scripture.

These things certainly have their place, but if not presented within the appropriate context, there is simply less of a chance a child's church experience will be meaningful in the long term. Their faith will be less sticky.

Upon discovering this truth, I was forced to realize that my two worlds, which used to be kept at a safe, comfortable distance, must collide in a big way.

The key is relationship. And not just any kind of relationship.

- ➔ The kind that stays alive.
- ➔ The kind that doesn't just show up for an hour once a week, but whose presence lingers during math tests, custody battles and faith crises.
- ➔ The kind of relationships that will see kids who will attend college one day with a fistful of phone numbers from real people they can count on when life gets hard.
- ➔ The kind of relationship that leads to transformation.

More and more churches are realizing the need for every child growing up in their ministries to have a mentor. A buddy. A small group leader.

No matter the title they are given, this person needs to be someone who is willing to show up time after time, Sunday after Sunday, year after year even, for the same small group of kids. Sure they might lead an activity, sing along to a worship song, or teach a verse from Scripture, but this person's primary goal would be that, over time, they would build real relationships with these children and be their advocates...

They're not just volunteers. They are mentors who say "yes" to the task of helping every child feel known and giving them a place to belong.

Of course, many ask, "How exactly do you do this?" In short, it's a ton of work. A lot must change, including attitudes, language and expectations. Some might say it's too much work. But if this way of doing church has the potential to strengthen and solidify our kids' relationship with Jesus for the long term; connect the next generation to a community that truly knows and values them; change, and in some

cases, save lives; then it's worth every minute... When relationships are actually the priority, church is going to look and feel much different than many would expect.

Here's my point: The rising children's/student ministry small group culture is built on principles not so different from mentoring. In order to thrive . . .

Both require showing up.

Many kids today are struggling with abandonment. They need loving adults to be present in their lives. Not just physically, but mentally and even sometimes when they least expect it.

Both require speaking in.

Many kids today are struggling to discover who they are in light of the way God sees them. They need loving adults to speak love, truth, and affirmation over them. They need to be reminded who they are and whose they are.

Both require living out.

Many kids are trying to live up to false expectations set by parents or celebrities and have no idea what it means to live out an authentic faith. They need loving adults to model it...

Diana Garland said it best when she wrote, "To be a volunteer means being free to give service—or not. It implies an optional role—something we can choose to do, and when we're tired, choose not to do. But service is not 'optional' in the life of a Christian. We are called to care for one another, not invited to volunteer when it's convenient for us."

When life throws its curveballs, it is a thriving mentor relationship that will give our kids something to tangible to hold onto before they are lovingly pointed back to their Heavenly Father.

Daniel De Jesus is married to his high school sweetheart and lives in Dallas, Texas, with their two sassy daughters. He serves as the elementary pastor at Bent Tree Bible" and also works with Orange. Reprinted with permission from orangeblogs.com

WHY WE SAY YES:

Makayla (age 9): "Serving helps me strengthen my relationship with God and it helps others too!"
Jeremiah (age 12): "I like using my love of tech to help kids worship God."
Josiah (age 14): "I tried it out and fell in love with it. I learn just as much from the kids and the lessons as they do from me."
Tiffany: "We are called to use whatever gifts we are given to serve others. I love serving the families that God brings through our doors by serving in FG Kids each week!"
Ben: I serve because Jesus demonstrated and said I should, but what I experience in return - that's truly a gift from the Lord!"



THE HANGEN FAMILY

WHY I SAY YES:

A friend was leading a group of sixth-grade girls and asked if she could host a get-together for them at my house. Little did my friend know, I had been praying about how God could use me in the lives of young girls. During the party I was asked to step in as a leader for the group and it has been such a blessing. They have brought me so much joy. It is such a privilege to be a part of the work God is doing in young people's lives.



LAUREN WINSTEAD

WHY I SAY YES:

It is my great joy and desire to serve and love our future generation, in hopes of making a lifetime impact by showing and teaching them who Jesus is.



AMANDA MELTON

WHY WE SAY YES:

First, to show our kids what serving looks like, to give them a taste for serving others. Second, it's such a joy to watch our kids step up and take leadership, and then to see them grow in that. And third, we love getting to know these preschoolers so much every week!



THE JONES FAMILY

SAY YES:
 FELLOWSHIPGREENVILLE.ORG/
 SERVING

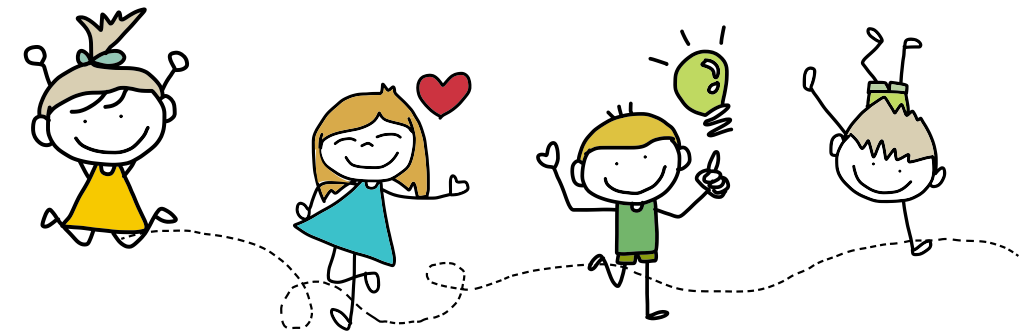
Senior ADULTS

2017-2018 Meeting Schedule

Meet from 10:30am-1:00pm in the Fellowship Greenville Cafe. Cost: \$5/person. Register online or contact Amy Allen (aallen@fellowshipgreenville.org) to RSVP. Check fellowshipgreenville.org/events for additional activities and events.

*Catering: Crafted by Jessica

Date	Speaker	Music/Special Speaker	Menu
9/21	Matt Densky	Rodrigo Rodriguez	Bacon Cheeseburger Meatloaf and Loaded Mashed Potatoes*
10/19	Jim Thompson	Jonny Brush	Beef and Bacon Chili with Corn Bread*
11/16	Doug Whitley as E.M. Bounds	Matt Rexford	Citrus and Rosemary Turkey with Sausage Stuffing*
12/14	White Elephant Gift Exchange	Sharon & Anya Gerber	Brown Sugar Glazed Ham with Green Bean Casserole*
1/18	Stephen Whitacre	David Farrell (Comedy)	Shepherd's Pie and Salad
2/15	Josh Amos, Tonya Wilson (Newlywed Game)		Homemade Meatballs and Sauce with Spaghetti*
3/15	Breakfast and Movie		Mike's Breakfast
4/19	Jonathan Parker	TBD	Coffee Roasted Pork Tenderloin and Baked Apples*
5/17	Trenton Stokes	TBD	Grilled Chicken and Garlic Green Beans w/ Almonds*



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

FOLLOW US...



FACEBOOK.COM/FGKIDSATFG

"We have the Lord our God to help us."

—1 CHRONICLES 32:8 (NLT)

"Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid... for the LORD your God goes with you."

—DEUTERONOMY 31:6 (NIV)

MEMORY VERSES.....



DOWNLOAD THE PARENT CUE APP



*The Parent Cue App is designed to help every parent do something each week to help move their child toward a deeper faith and a better future.



ON THE GO

BY JANA JOHNSON

Every year, Fellowship Greenville offers several different opportunities for our congregation to serve by "going." At the beginning of October, the Outreach staff works with our team leaders and global/national partners to launch a set list of trips. Oftentimes, God surprises us by bringing about a unique experience—whether a new trip, a new partner, a new leader, or a new take on a trip we've taken numerous times in the past... and we're just along for the ride. This year was one of those years! Here are a few stories from the unique trip experiences we had this past year.

FRESH PERSPECTIVE IN GREECE

With a little nudge from FG's Global Outreach, Amy Bowlin and her daughter, Natalie Terlitsky, stepped into an open door to travel to Athens, Greece, in July with a Canadian Global Response team. Amy, a teacher with Greenville County schools, and Natalie, Program Director of Surgeons for Sight, loaded their suitcases with games and crafts for children and traveled with a team of 12 to Athens. They were ready to play with refugee children and hear the stories of 15 different refugee families. A simple game of Uno turned into a communication bridge, as they visited family after family in crisis.

They would also both tell you that witnessing the ocean baptism of an Iraqi believer who has experienced incredible loss for the sake of his faith is now a memory they will always cherish. Both Amy and Natalie left with the distinct feeling God is calling them to something more with this organization and these refugees—possibly even interacting with a brand new Arabic church. God is moving and they are excited to join him in his mission!

DIVINE APPOINTMENTS IN THE D.R.

Another unusual trip formed when Doug Wells learned of a need of the church in the Dominican Republic barrio where TEARS, a global partner of FG, works. Doug, father of Christina Wells, FG's recently launched missionary to TEARS, invited Diego Montes to go with him to help equip newly chosen deacons in the church there. Since

Heidi Montes and Vicki Wells were also going, they realized they could offer some marriage-strengthening materials. God knew all along the specific contributions these couples would end up making.

Heidi summed up her trip this way, "I have never before been so aware of God's orchestration of events, meetings and conversations that we did not plan, but he knew were needed."

Stan Barrett, an elder at FG, contributed uniquely to this, too. Stan focused on leadership development, spending as much time as possible with Rod Davis (TEARS Executive Director) and other staff members.

KINGDOM CONVERSATIONS IN THE AIRPORT

One of our Athens team members (and FG staff member) Patricia Deane had a unique God-moment in the airport before the team even hit the field! Patricia, excited for how God would choose to work through her on this trip, intentionally looked for unique opportunities to live on mission. While waiting for her flight, Patricia struck up a conversation with a married couple—Joe and Joanna. Patricia was able to ask a bit about their past and learned that they had both previously made a profession of faith but were not actively living out their faith.

The couple left enough room for Patricia to continue to ask questions and plant seeds, and towards the end of the conversation, she was able to ask if they would like to recommit their lives to Christ. They said yes! Patricia went into this trip expecting that God would do incredible things and was excited to see that God was able to use her before the team even hit the field.

We'd love to have you along for the ride, too, and see in what unique way God might use you on a trip! Stop by the Outreach table on October 1 or 8 for more trip information. For now, flip to the back cover to take a look at the places we will tentatively be going in 2018, then visit fellowshipgreenville.org/outreach for more details. ☒

TOP: Vicki Wells in La Vega, Dominican Republic

BOTTOM: Natalie Terlitsky doing arts and crafts with children in Athens, Greece



WHERE WILL YOU BE HIS HANDS IN 2018?

NEW YORK CITY

JULY » *Trip focus:* VBS, sports camp, street evangelism;
Participants: ages 8+

MEXICO

JUNE » *Trip focus:* orphan care;
Participants: families, adults

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

JUNE » *Trip focus:* kids' camp; *Participants:* students 16+

JULY » *Trip focus:* equipping ministry;
Participants: adults

OCTOBER » *Trip focus:* equipping ministry;
Participants: young professionals

GREECE

MAY » *Trip focus:* refugee ministry;
Participants: adults

JULY » *Trip focus:* equipping ministry and refugee care; *Participants:* adults

NICARAGUA

MAY » *Trip focus:* medical missions, *Participants:* adults, medical professionals

HAITI

SEPTEMBER » *Trip focus:* orphan care, *Participants:* families, adults

LIBERIA

APRIL » *Trip focus:* pastor-equipping;
Participants: adults

NOVEMBER » *Trip focus:* medical care and pastor training; *Participants:* adults, medical professionals

COLOMBIA

JULY » *Trip focus:* church planting;
Participants: college students

AUGUST » *Trip focus:* church planting;
Participants: adults

OCTOBER » *Trip focus:* church planting and medical care; *Participants:* adults, medical professionals

