



MORE THAN EVER

WE ARE POSITIONED MORE THAN EVER TO SEE LIVES CHANGED BY THE GOSPEL

2023



A Letter from

Pastor D.J.

The resurrection of Jesus changed everything. The debt of sin was paid, death was defeated, and the church was born, all because Jesus left his tomb, never to die again. The man chosen to tell the story of those early years following the resurrection was the Apostle Luke. With the skill of a physician, which was his actual profession, he recounts every important detail of the church's first steps as the body of Christ in what came to be known as the book of Acts.

The gospel brought hope, love, and joy, but not without a cost. As Jesus promised, following Him would prove anything but easy. The Lord promised His church would be tried and tested. One incident of trial and testing is recorded in Acts 5 about two individuals who lied to the leaders of the church and faced sudden judgment from God. The account itself has some important lessons, but it is Luke's comment following the ordeal that grabbed me and has not let me go. He writes in Acts 5:14, "*And more than ever believers were added to*

the Lord, multitudes of both men and women".

MORE THAN EVER. Let that sink in. *More than ever* people were coming to Christ and joining the fellowship of the church. I really cannot find three better words to describe what we are experiencing at Church at The Mill. To be honest, we have always enjoyed a trajectory of growth. But since Covid, the lives impacted has increased exponentially. In the pages below you will see firsthand what I mean and it will bless your heart. Time here does not allow me to explain all the reasons why I believe remarkable growth is happening. They all, however, end up coming back to one unavoidable and obvious reality; The Lord is blessing our church with great spiritual and numerical growth and the glory for all of this belongs to Him.

The most important question is not why or how we are seeing so many lives join the fellowship of Church at The Mill. If we are serious about leveraging our lives and our church for His glory, we must ask what The Lord wants us to do with all this growth?

Answering this question is why you are holding this document. Last year I became convinced that the timing of God's blessing demanded *more than ever* from us as a church.

So, as you probably already guessed, I want to sincerely ask you to do *more than ever* for your church. I need you to join my wife, Laurel, and I as we pray, serve, and give *more than ever*. Why? So that, *more than ever*, we can respond to

God's great favor and the window of opportunity He has granted us to see many more come to know Him and know Him more fully. How many more? I believe *more than ever*.

More than ever I am grateful to be your shepherd,

-Pastor D.J.

MORE THAN EVER



...we need to galvanize our vision and make sure it is clearly understood and owned by every member.

...we need to make a serious and sacrificial effort to retire our building debt so we can free up more dollars for ministry and missions.

...we need to gather the resources ready to launch the next campus.

...we need to make sure every existing campus has the space they need to reach their fullest potential.

WHAT IS

MORE THAN EVER

WE ARE POSITIONED MORE THAN EVER TO SEE LIVES CHANGED BY THE GOSPEL

More Than Ever is a three-year spiritual journey of generosity to provide financial funding for debt retirement and the expansion of more campuses. Our desire is to enlist every member in the spiritual and financial journey of supporting our church's vision to becoming a deeply faithful, remarkably healthy, highly impactful multi-site church.

*"And more than ever
believers were added to the
Lord, multitudes of both
men and women,"*

ACTS 5:14

We are praying God will use
MORE THAN EVER
in three main ways:

- 1** Continued debt retirement of Central Campus
- 2** Securing and preparing physical locations for current and future campuses
- 3** Upfront costs associated with campus start-ups

**CHURCH AT THE
MILL WAS BORN**

1988

Retired pastor Floyd Loudermilk and his wife, Sara were approached by the Spartanburg Baptist Association with a proposal to start a mission on the west side of Spartanburg. In February of 1988, Floyd and Sara held a meeting in their living room, and the church was born.

*1 Thessalonians 5:22-24 (ESV)
who calls you is faithful;
he will surely do it.*

**THE RIGHT
MAN**

2004

In 2004 after almost two years without a pastor, The Lord brought our current shepherd, Dr. D.J. Horton to Church at The Mill. He was 25 and just finishing his first seminary degree when he and his wife Laurel moved to Spartanburg with their three-week-old firstborn child. Since then D.J.'s family and our church have witnessed incredible growth.

WHAT GOD HAS DONE

With the rise in membership and visitors, it was necessary to review the church's capacity to minister to a growing population. After deciding to build a facility the church officially purchased the piece of land that was always the most ideal location on Anderson Mill Road.

1998

**POSSESSES
THE LAND**

For years it had been predicted that Church at The Mill was poised to experience breakout growth. The leadership and congregation decided to stop saying it could happen. They declared, "the time is now." After a three year spiritual and financial journey, the church finally moved into a new facility in March of 2009 that would allow Church at The Mill to begin the journey of becoming a regional church drawing people from all over the Upstate of South Carolina.

2009

**THE TIME
IS NOW**

Anderson Mill Baptist Church
BAPTIST CHURCH
NOW MEETING AT WEST OAK SQ.
Come Worship With Us
REV. FLOYD LOUDERMILK - PASTOR

2016 **GREATER**

CATM entered a three-year campaign called GREATER to build a new worship center. The campaign ran officially from 2017-2019 with some opportunities for continued giving or new participation in 2020 and 2021 (GREATER 2.0). The campaign was a tremendous success.

2021 **WOODRUFF**
CAMPUS



CHURCH AT THE MILL
WOODRUFF CAMPUS

In April of 2021, we acquired a facility in Woodruff and began transitioning that into our first campus. Adam Siskey, our previous High School Pastor, has been sent to this campus to be the Campus Pastor and to shepherd the Woodruff community.

NE IN OUR CHURCH?

On Palm Sunday, 2019 we cut the ribbon on a 16.8-million-dollar facility. In the subsequent years to follow, the church navigated the pandemic incredibly well.

The debt was aggressively retired, the membership grew, and a 2.1-million-dollar project to upfit the Christian Life Center into a new Student Center was executed with cash. Since the unified push for a church wide campaign in 2016, the church has added 1700 new members *(including Woodruff)*.

2019 **THE NEW**
BUILDING

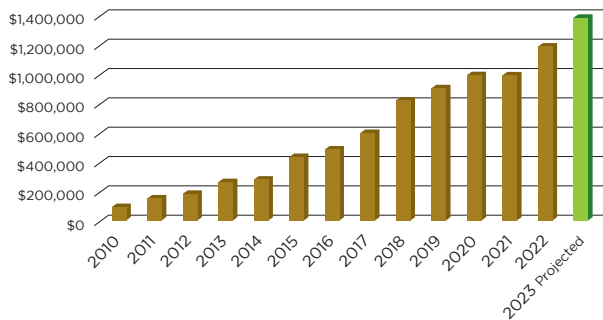
2023 **LAKE COOLEY**
CAMPUS

In May of 2023, we started a new campus in the Lake Cooley community after renovations of the original church home. Dylan Baxter is the Campus Pastor and has been called to shepherd the Lake Cooley community.

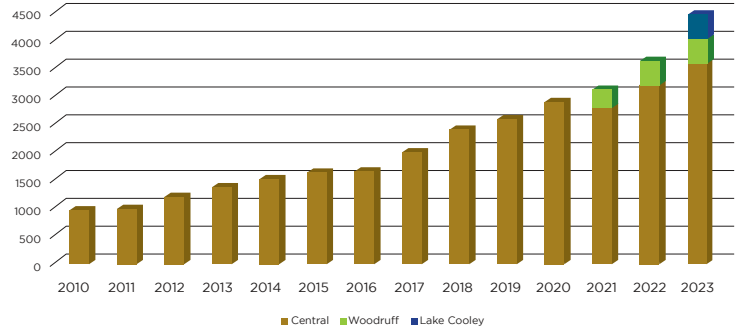


WHAT GOD IS DOING NOW IN THE MINISTRIES OF OUR CHURCH...

INVESTMENTS IN LOCAL AND INTERNATIONAL MISSIONS



AVERAGE WEEKLY CHURCH ATTENDANCE



KIDS AT THE MILL

Kids at The Mill desires to partner with parents in leading children to discovering the love of Jesus, the truth of His Word, and His wonderful best for their lives: Gathering, Growing, Giving, & Going. Our Kids at The Mill ministry has opportunities for birth-5th graders.

How God is working in the lives of our Kids Ministry...

- Just in the past year, the Kids Ministry has grown from engaging **1,959** kids in programming to **2,411**.
- This past school year we averaged **274** more kids on Sunday mornings and **129** more at Midweek (Wednesday evenings) than we did in 2022. In 2022, the Sunday morning average of kids attendance was **557** and now it is **831**.)
- During COVID of 2021, the Preteen Ministry (4th-5th graders) averaged **50** kids at Midweek (Wednesday evening programming). Now, we are averaging **140** Preteens weekly at Midweek.

Hear how God is moving in our church member's lives...



Kyle Benefield and his wife, Kristen, have been members of Church at The Mill since 2019 and have served faithfully in the Kids Ministry for over three years. Through his service and spiritual growth at CATM, Kyle has sensed a calling from God to vocational ministry. In bold obedience, Kyle has answered that call by leaving an incredibly successful career to serve full-time on our Kids at The Mill staff team. Kyle says, "I am excited to be answering God's call on my life and am thrilled to serve the families of our church alongside the KATM volunteers who are committed to sharing the love of Jesus with the next generation." Kyle has impacted many volunteers, parents, and preschoolers in his volunteer role, and we are confident he will continue to make an impact as a staff member!

STUDENTS AT THE MILL

We desire to partner with parents of middle and high school students to help students become grounded for life by discovering & living God's best: Gathering, Growing, Giving, & Going. Our Student Ministry has opportunities for 6th-12th graders.

How God is working in the lives of our Student Ministry...

- In 2021, we had **387** students engaged with student programming. This past year, we have had **1,371** students engaged in programming.

How God is moving in a Student's life...



Avery O'Sullivan is a high school student making a difference for Christ! In middle school, Avery felt a calling to lead worship and enthusiastically answered that call. In addition to being fully committed to growing through Student Ministry programming and Student Leadership, Avery leads her school chapel band and faithfully leads in our student worship band. Recently, Avery planned a Girls' Night of Worship and Prayer at her house before school started back.

Over 60 girls from 10+ schools participated and were greatly encouraged. Avery is one of many students who are boldly serving Christ!!



ALL-ACCESS

(SPECIAL NEEDS MINISTRY)

We seek to partner with parents and existing ministries by equipping volunteers and discipling individuals with special needs and disabilities. We do this in an accessible and meaningful way to help them grow in their knowledge and love for God.

How God is working in the lives of our All-Access Ministry...

- We currently have more than **100** kids, students, and young adults with special needs actively involved in All-Access.
- In 2021, we had **3** ASL interpreters. Now we have **12**.
- We are experiencing exponential growth in the number of children who need Adult Shadows to help them learn, focus, and be taken care of during programming and special events.

How God is moving in a church member's life...



Sarah and Wayne Huggins came to Church at The Mill for the All-Access special needs ministry. They wanted to be able to attend service together and know their daughter with special needs would be in good hands. They fell in love with CATM and quickly began to volunteer. Several years later, Sarah plays a vital role in the All-Access ministry as a lead volunteer. Wayne teaches elementary kids on Sundays and an adult equipping class on Wednesdays.

Together, they lead a small group and recently went on their first overseas mission trip with one of our partner missionaries.

ADULTS AT THE MILL

We believe that every follower of Christ needs to be genuinely loved through a Small Group, specifically trained through an Equipping Class, intentionally challenged through a Mentor Group, or compassionately helped through our Biblical Counseling ministry as they seek to grow in their walk with Christ. This growth in our walk with Christ enables us to effectively Go & Tell of all that Christ has done for each of us through the good news of the Gospel!

How God is working in the lives of our Adult Ministry...

- During COVID in 2021, we had over **1,000** adults participate in eDisciple.
- Through 2020 and 2021 Small Groups did not meet for over 500 days. Now we have **1,800** individuals participating in Small Groups across all 3 campuses.
- Currently we have **2,000** individual participants in one of our four Discipleship Environments across all 3 of our campuses.
- We launched Adult Discipleship at our Lake Cooley Campus with almost **200** participants registering during their first ever GroupLink.
- We continue to see growth in Adult Discipleship at our Woodruff Campus with over **200** participants in one of our Discipleship Environments.

Hear one story from a church member, Derick...



“I was saved on the battlefield in Iraq. After an IED attack in June of 2006 I was medevaced to Baghdad. I was waiting in a tent to go in for life saving surgery when an Army Chaplain came and prayed for me. This was the moment I was saved. As a man who did not grow up in church I did not know what to do with this experience. Over the years I would attend church with my wife but never really felt connected. After moving to South Carolina we came to Church at The Mill and within a few weeks I felt more welcomed than any other church. With resistance, I joined a Small Group with my wife. Resistance and fear because I felt I had nothing to contribute. I couldn't have been more wrong. After joining, the couples showed me what to do with what I felt in that tent in Baghdad. I began speaking with Pastor Jarrett about being baptized and it wasn't long after that he baptized me along with my youngest daughter and mother in law. I am now a proud member of the Safety Team and walking through the 40-week discipleship journey with my Small Group. With the support of my Small Group, I am working toward living a life worthy of the Lord.” - Derick Mumma

MISSIONS AT THE MILL

Missions at The Mill desires to make disciples of all nations through church planting and evangelism. It is our desire to see the Lord call people from our congregation to the mission field. This can happen by way of full-time mission work, a call to be a church planter in the US, when an individual or family commits to spend time each year on a short-term mission trip, or by serving the community around us. Now, more than ever, we need to love our neighbors and seek out the lost in every corner of the world.

What God is doing within our Missions Ministry...

- **79** families below the poverty line are assisted every month from His Storehouse, an internal compassion ministry of Church at The Mill. An additional **30** families are assisted by the His Storehouse Food Pantry at the Lake Cooley campus.
- We are grateful that Church at The Mill budgeted \$1.4 million in 2023 to be able to be dedicated to Missions. Of the \$1.4 million, \$600,000 is specifically targeted to serve interests outside the United States. These dollars support sharing the Gospel outside of Spartanburg County through church planting and supporting missionaries.
- Since 2022, when countries began recovering from COVID, we have sent **33** mission teams and **264** people on a mission trip outside of South Carolina.

Hear one story from our church member, Sara...



“The Bible came to life for me on the Nicaragua Chosen Children mission trip. Most of the people we visited had to walk to the church well to get water. So, lots of conversations happen as people are gathered around the well. It is a great time to share the gospel, just as Jesus did in John 4:13-15.

One family we visited was in the process of digging their own well that day. They were gathered around it, and they invited us to look down. All we saw was darkness. We were told it was 50 feet. We talked with them for a little while, and then they started pulling on the rope. They asked our interpreter to help them pull. We fully expected a bucket of water to come up, but instead, they pulled up a person. We were all shocked, including the interpreter. He was down there digging the well. This is really dangerous because the walls can collapse on you.

Even though I witnessed it myself, I still have a hard time wrapping my brain around the reality of not having access to safe running water. The simple act of washing my hands at the Miami airport when we got back to the States and not worrying the water was unsafe made me pause and realize how thankful I should be for safe and hot running water.” –Sara Bunner

CONNECTIONS MINISTRY

The Connections Team serves in many ways to provide people an experience of a warm welcome, a sense of belonging, and a worship service that is free from distraction and focused on Jesus. We also walk alongside our congregation when they are ready to take their next steps, such as church membership, discipleship, serving, or baptism.

How God is working in the lives of Church at The Mill..

These numbers are representative of January 1, 2021-August 13, 2023.

BAPTISMS - 394

- Central: 341
- Lake Cooley: 8
- Woodruff: 46

NEW MEMBERS - 981

- Central: 853
- Lake Cooley: Starting in Spring 2024
- Woodruff: 128

FIRST TIME VISITORS - 6,204

- Central: 4,986
- Lake Cooley: 356
- Woodruff: 862

How God is working in the life of someone who found Church at The Mill...



“The connections and welcome team were the first folks I met when I attended Church at The Mill for the first time. The overwhelming openness and love of Jesus I felt was beyond anything I had experienced in any church that my family and I had attended. I was so moved by Andrew Bell’s grace and comfort not to feel lost, rushed, or overwhelmed my first time, as I also had two children who needed to be registered for their programs. Because of the connections team impact, I chose to serve in this ministry to impact first-time guests and members alike as they enter the church for the first time or the 100th time”. -Jameson Pack

WORSHIP AT THE MILL

The Worship Ministry exists to guide people into an authentic encounter with God. Authenticity and excellence are at the core of what we do, and preparation, planning, and practice are the action steps that guide us to that place each week. Our goal each week is to step onto the platform surrendered to His greatness, guided by His Word, and empowered by His Spirit.

What God is doing within our Worship Ministry...

- Our Worship team currently serves a minimum of **14** worship services each week across all campuses and ministries.
- Our Choir consists of approximately **200** active members across all **3** campuses.
- The Band/Vocal Team consists of approximately **55** band/vocal team members who volunteer in rotations for all of our services.
- We are working to train a new generation of worship leaders to lead at all campuses. We have sent out 58 worship ministry volunteers to help lead other campuses and/or ministry venues.

Hear a special story of a member in the Worship Ministry..



“My name is Carmen Arisenia Jaquez. Originally from Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, and came to the U.S. at the age of 17. My family and I came to CATM in 2021 and decided to become a member because of the sound biblical teaching and powerful worship. I have always served my local church through music, and I knew joining the choir would help me engage in ministry and make new friendships.. They have been of wonderful encouragement to our family.”

BIBLICAL COUNSELING

The Biblical Counseling Ministry exists to care for people who are hurting and to equip future counselors. We are accomplishing this by continually trying to grow the number and quality of counselors we have available through training and becoming an ACBC Certified training center.

Hear what God is doing within our counseling ministry:

- Since 2021, we've had **411** counseling cases. This year, we've had **134** new intakes.
- Since 2021, the counseling ministry has counseled approximately **4,168** hours.
- In 2 years of Counseling Discipleship Training, we've averaged over **465** attendees. **211** of the **465** attendees were Church at The Mill attendees.
- In the first year of Counseling Discipleship Training, there were **53** churches represented. In the second year, we had up to **76** churches represented.
- We currently have **25** biblical counselors, with **15** of them being certified and **10** in process.

Hear from someone who has experienced heart changes through counseling:



“Counseling. It was not something I needed. I’m a Christian, I’m strong, I’m perfectly fine to work out my grief, my loss, simply on my own terms...or so I thought. But when my brokenness could not be bared anymore, though anyone outside looking in could not see what God knew was the extreme sadness carried within my heart, I knew I needed help. How can joy in the Lord and the heavy burden of grief in this life coincide together? I learned the answers are steeped in The Word and through the teachings of biblical counseling. And it changed me. Church at The Mill’s counseling ministry helped open the door and start a healing journey for me that rested in His Word. My fog-filled perspective slowly began to fade, and I was able to see clearly how through my weakness and vulnerability, my God is and always will be glorified. I will always be grateful for this ministry and the heart of the people that serve in it.” -Katie Crispin

FAQS

about Giving to More Than Ever...

WHY AM I ASKED TO MAKE A COMMITMENT PLEDGE?

- Your commitment pledge to MTE allows Church at The Mill to strategically plan for future growth, whether it's to upgrade an existing building on one of our campuses, move more aggressively at retiring our debt, or ensure options for long-term planning for future campuses. Your commitment provides Church at The Mill options for growing the Church across the Upstate!

DOES MY CONTRIBUTION TO MTE REPLACE MY TITHES/OFFERINGS?

- Church at The Mill uses your faithful tithes and offerings to support the general operations of the church, including paying staff and monthly bills, funding the programs and ministries of the church, and fulfilling a deep commitment to supporting local and international missions. Your MTE contribution will allow Church at The Mill to reach more people for the gospel as God continues to bless the growth of our church.

HOW LONG IS MY COMMITMENT?

- We are asking you to join Church at The Mill for a three-year commitment to sacrificial giving to help advance the gospel across the Upstate. Your three-year commitment can be broken into weekly, monthly, quarterly, or annual payments, whatever is best for you. You may also provide a one-time gift if preferred.

WILL I HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO REVISE MY COMMITMENT?

- Circumstances change. You may encounter an unplanned hardship or perhaps an anticipated blessing, which may cause you to consider increasing or decreasing your commitment. You can make an adjustment to your commitment at any time online or by calling the church office.

MAY I GIVE ASSETS OTHER THAN CASH?

- Yes, we have received non-cash gifts for the church. Non-cash assets, such as stocks/securities, land, etc., may be eligible for donations to MTE. You may also consider gifting IRA contributions, annuity payments, and other investments to MTE. Finally, you may consider adding CATM as a beneficiary in your will. Please contact our Executive Pastor, Ken Fisher, at ken@churchatthemill.com for more information.

HOW DO I GIVE TO MTE? 3 WAYS TO GIVE TO MORE THAN EVER

- **BILL PAY** (*Preferred*): You make arrangements for your bank to automatically mail a check to Church at The Mill at a frequency you choose (check with your bank on establishing Bill Pay through your bank account)
 - **Check Recipient:** Church at The Mill
 - **Recipient Address:** 4455 Anderson Mill Rd., Moore, SC 29369
 - **Recipient Phone Number:** 864-576-7548
 - **Memo Section of Check:** More Than Ever
- **BY CHECK:** You can write a check and drop it in the offering plate or mail to the church office. Make sure you write in MTE in the memo section of the check.
- **GIVE ONLINE:** Visit churchatthemill.com/morethanever to set up a one-time payment or recurring giving. You can also scan the QR code to access the link now.



FUTURE HOME OF
Anderson Mill Rd.
BAPTIST CHURCH
NOW MEETING AT WEST OAK SQ.
Come Worship With Us
REV. FLOYD LOUDERMILK - PASTOR



 **CHURCH AT THE MILL**
WOODRUFF CAMPUS

