



CHURCH AT THE MILL

# GIVING PLAN 2025

## IMPORTANT DATES:

### Three Q&A Sessions will be held:

- At the Woodruff Campus on Monday, December 2, from 5:00-6:00 PM in the Concourse.
- At the Lake Cooley Campus on Tuesday, December 3, from 5:00-6:00 PM in the Ministry Center.
- At the Central Campus on Wednesday, December 4, from 5:00-6:00 PM in the Goodtree Cafe.

*Church members will vote to approve the 2025 budget, and 2025 new deacons on Sunday, December 15, during the 9:00 AM and 11:00 AM worship services across all campuses.*

### The IRS deadlines for 2024 deductible charitable giving are:

- Checks dropped off at the church office must be received by 12:00 PM on Tuesday, December 31.
- Mailed gifts must be postmarked by midnight December 31.



**We desire to be a deeply-faithful, remarkably-healthy, highly-impactful multi-site church.**



# A NOTE FROM PASTOR D.J.

There is a fine line between faith and foolishness, and we should want to walk it.

Our faith should put us in a position where we are dependent on God to move, and, often, to the world, this looks foolish.

It would be foolish to think that in 1988, around 30 people in the living room of a retired pastor could have found a church that now is made up of thousands across multiple campuses with a budget of 9 million dollars. But it has happened by faith.

It would be foolish to ask people to commit to a vision of launching more churches and campuses by pledging almost 9 million dollars above their normal tithes and offerings. But we did, and you responded by faith.

It would be foolish to believe that, in a world of increasing instability, political polarization, societal decay, and unending inflation, a church could call people to celebrate generosity and give sacrificially. But we have, and you have given by faith.

It would be foolish to believe that 2025 won't have its fair share of victories and defeats, challenges and blessings. But it would also be foolish to think that the same Lord who's been so faithful in every step of this journey won't continue to prove Himself over and over again. By faith, we know He will!

Finally, it would be foolish to not pray and plan to be the absolute best stewards of what God has provided through the faithfulness of His people. This is why, by faith, we present the information you have in your hand.

Enclosed is the plan we will use to make sure every dollar invested at Church at The Mill is used in a way that fuels our mission of **being a deeply-faithful, remarkably-healthy, highly-impactful, multi-site church.**

As you reflect on this and begin to take in the information in this document, I have a few requests. First, I want you to read this carefully and thankfully. We really should worship when we see the tangible testimony of God's provision. Second, I want you to feel free to approach any of our leaders with questions about how we manage and invest your tithes and offerings. **Finally, I also want you to realize the amazing opportunity and responsibility you have to help us make these numbers a reality. Budgets are nothing more than prayerful plans and projections. While vital, they don't produce money or fund ministry. You and I have to do that.** I hope you and your family will join Laurel and me in giving sacrificially and faithfully next year. Can you imagine what the next decade holds for us?

I love being your shepherd,



Pastor D.J.



# GATHER

## For Worship & Small Groups

The church has always gathered for two reasons: corporate worship and making disciples. Gathering for worship focuses on our vertical relationship with God as we worship Him and hear from His Word, and we believe He will continue to bless His church. Gathering in Small Groups focuses on our horizontal relationships and connects us with others for spiritual growth, real relationships and gospel conversations. Resources in this budget fund our Worship and Small Group ministries, allowing us to provide Bible study curriculum, training resources, discipleship materials, Small Group events, equipment, administrative personnel, building and facilities upkeep, and debt retirement. Ultimately, the budgeted resources allow us to further God's work by worshipping Him and making disciples.

## First-Time Guests

	Individuals	Families
<b>CENTRAL</b>	1,550	571
<b>LAKE COOLEY</b>	257	91
<b>WOODRUFF</b>	296	108
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,103</b>	<b>770</b>

## Adult Discipleship

We believe that all followers of Christ need 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 walks with Christ. This four-part strategy allows us to maximize Adult Discipleship across all three of our campuses.

- We have **2,155** individuals participating in Small Groups across all three campuses.
- We currently have **2,737** individual participants in at least one of our four discipleship environments across all three of our campuses.
- We launched Adult Discipleship at our Lake Cooley Campus with **227** people participating in Small Groups and Equipping Classes.
- We continue to see growth in Adult Discipleship at our Woodruff Campus, with **254** people participating in discipleship.

# 2024

## DIGITAL PRESENCE

*\* Statistics as of November 13, 2024*

*\* % +/- are representative of the same time period from 2024 (Jan 1 - Nov 12)*



## WEBSITE

### CENTRAL

Total website views: 106,000 **(+57.4%)**

New website visits: 31,000 **(+64.2%)**

### LAKE COOLEY

Total website views: 12,000 **(+60.3%)**

New website visits: 5,400 **(+105.7%)**

### WOODRUFF

Total website views: 13,000 **(+77.7%)**

New website visits: 5,800 **(+112.9%)**



## CATM APP (All Campuses)

App downloads: 1,250

App Launches: 44,881

*\* Revamped CATM app will launch in 2025.*



## EMAIL

**August 14-November 7, 2024**

*In August, we transitioned our email newsletters to send from our church database system instead of our former email client. This increased efficiency and lowered overall costs. We can now reach people based on their level of involvement with Church at The Mill. Churches typically average between 25-35% for open rates on emails.*

### Average Open Rates

Churchwide: **60.31%**

Students at The Mill: **53.15%**

Kids at The Mill: **60.94%**

## SOCIAL MEDIA

*\*Main account only; does not include SATM, KATM, MATM*



### FOLLOWERS

#### CENTRAL

10,949

#### LAKE COOLEY

659

#### WOODRUFF

2,546



### FOLLOWERS

#### CENTRAL

4,580

#### LAKE COOLEY

727

#### WOODRUFF

1,145



# GROW

## In Quiet Time & Discipleship

In addition to Small Groups, two of the most powerful ways God grows us are through our personal time with Him and discipleship. At Church at The Mill, our ultimate goal is to make disciples who make disciples. Dollars in this budget fund the spiritual formation of our children, students, and adults, as well as funding our biblical counseling program.

## Did you know? In 2024...

- NextGen Ministry has onboarded and trained over **100** new adult volunteer leaders who are now on the front lines of discipleship to the next generation. In total, NextGen has over **800** adult leaders who are making a difference.
- NextGen ministries have served over **4,300** kids and students through gospel-centered weekly programming on the campuses of CATM.
- NextGen ministries shared the gospel with **1,149** kids involved in our VBS/VBX, and over **400** students in summer camps. These same events were possible because of over **700** volunteer leaders.
- Nearly **700** students and adult leaders experienced our life-changing United Student Weekend.
- All-Access Ministry has faithfully served over **150** individuals with special needs through weekly programming, making the gospel available to everyone!

## COVENANT MEMBERSHIP

### 408 NEW MEMBERS ACROSS THREE CAMPUSES

- Central Campus: 314
- Lake Cooley Campus: 43
- Woodruff Campus: 51

## BAPTISMS

### 244 BAPTISMS ACROSS THREE CAMPUSES

- Central Campus: 191
- Lake Cooley Campus: 24
- Woodruff Campus: 29

## BIBLICAL COUNSELING

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

## Because of your generous giving, our biblical counseling ministry was able to...

- Provide counseling to 206 people in 2024; we received 163 new requests for counseling. This resulted in over 1,650 hours of counseling.
- Host our third upstate Biblical Counseling conference, where over 160 people in attendance represented 40 churches.
- Invest in training and growing our team of 20 certified counselors at our church, with another eight nearing certification.
- Provide training opportunities that collectively resulted in over 2,600 hours of equipping and development to our counselors and counselor trainees.



# GIVE

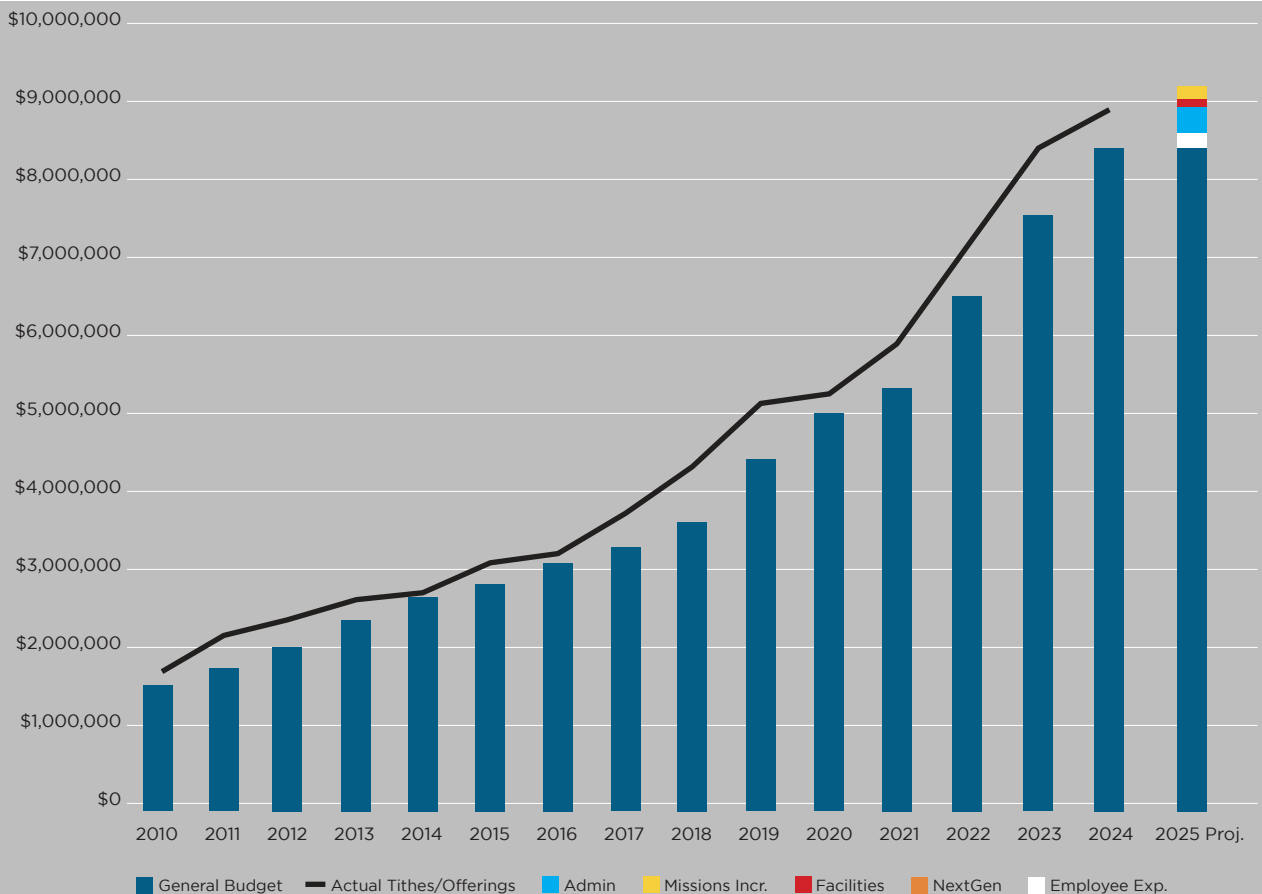
## Financially & Through Service

We give in two ways as Christ followers at Church at The Mill; (1) We give our time as servants by doing ministry. (2) We give our treasure (money/resources) as stewards of what God has so graciously provided in our lives.

Dollars in this budget reflect our giving as a church body by means of tithes and offerings, which are separate from the financial gifts given to Acts 1:8 and More Than Ever. Tithes and offerings are used to pay for all the operational expenses of Church at The Mill, including facility, administrative and ministry expenses, while also investing in local and international missions. God has blessed our church deeply as it ministers to more people than ever before, both within our church walls and outside, as we strive to encourage and strengthen like-minded churches!



## Tithing History



# GO

## Share The Gospel

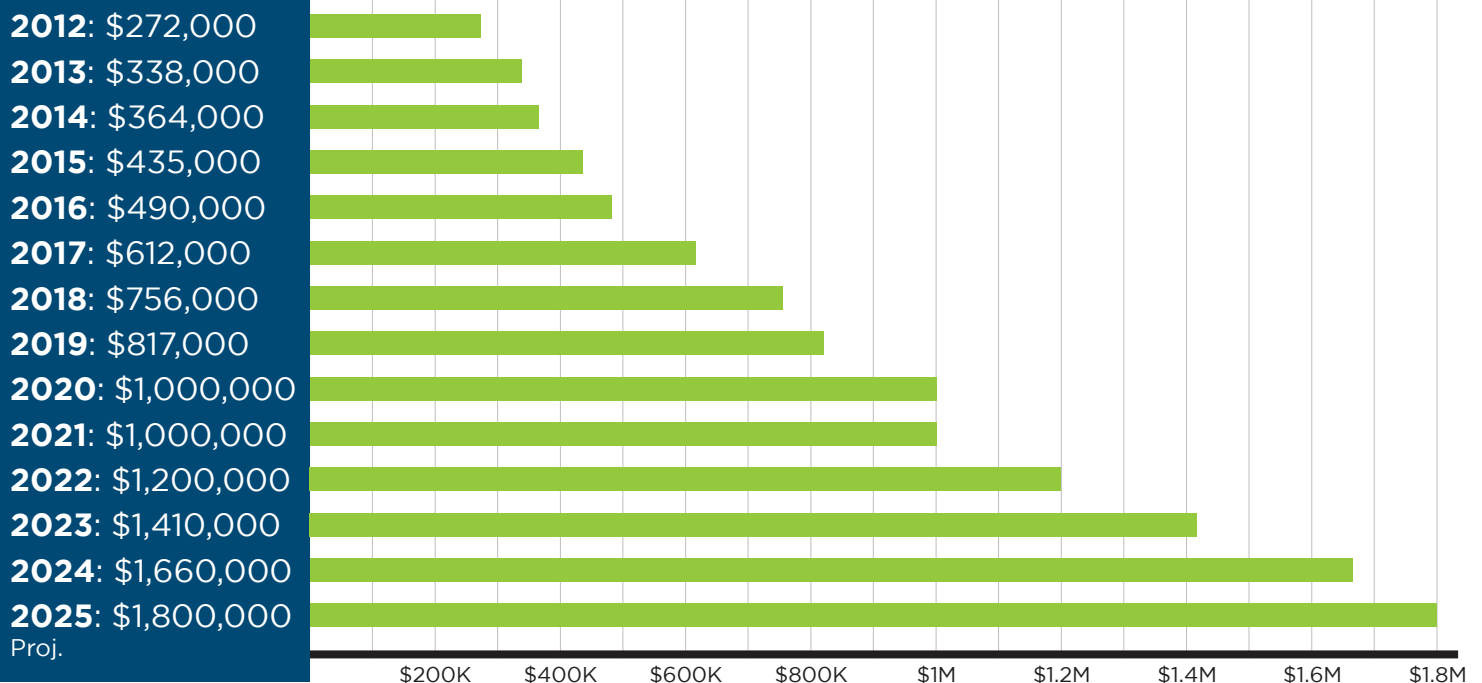
The gospel is not a “come see” religion. It is a “go tell” message of redemption! We are called to go into the world and make disciples, and we do this primarily in two ways; (1) We share our faith daily with those around us (locally). (2) We also leave our daily lives to engage those we do not normally encounter (internationally).

## Did you know?

- His Storehouse Food Pantry at Lake Cooley serves nearly **40** families each month by providing healthy canned goods, fresh meat, and produce.
- This year, we commissioned four families into full-time missions. Two families moved domestically to Boston, MA and Vineyard, UT to work with church plants. Two more families moved overseas to Asia to work among unreached people groups.
- Each month, we serve over **90** families in need by providing household goods through our Central Campus His Storehouse ministry. We have **40** “embracers” to help care for each of our neighbors in need by taking the gospel from our campus to the community.
- In March, we held the Upstate Missions Conference and hosted people from **24** churches to be equipped for serving locally and around the world.
- In March, we opened up our annual “Serve the Burg” service day to include other churches who wanted to impact our community with us. Over **600** volunteers from **25** churches all served side-by-side. Our campuses also participated in “Serve the ‘Druff” and “Serve the Lake.”
- Because of the **28,000** Hispanic people in our county, in September, we launched Church at The Mill Español. This is our fifth overall congregation and second international congregation (East Asian congregation was our first in 2021).
- The Goodtree Café has given away over **\$22,798.73** to ministry partners coming from tips YOU provided when buying cups of coffee. This is above and beyond our normal missions commitments!
- **154** people participated in short-term mission trips outside of our state or country. Church at The Mill awarded over **\$114,000** in missions scholarships to help offset the cost of those trips.



## Missions Giving Budget from 2012-2025







# PREPARING FOR 2025

God has richly blessed our church to prepare us for 2025. In 2024, your faithful giving allowed Church at The Mill to continue to grow and reach more people than ever before. We have seen an average of 400 more people attend a Sunday service compared to 2023. In fact, your investment in Church at The Mill has resulted in having a place to worship, resulting in more baptisms, more students, more children, and more people involved in Small Groups than ever before! Also, 2024 marks the first full year of worship across all three campuses. We are thrilled to see how God has used Church at The Mill for His glory!

In 2025, we will need to invest more in our ministry areas to meet the higher participation levels we are experiencing. We want to make sure our ministries are positioned for success as they encounter the growing demand from people of all ages wanting to grow and develop in their faith.

In addition, we will be increasing our facilities investments across our campuses, simply to meet the needs of our growing church attendance. From cleaning supplies to added security, all aspects of our facilities have growing needs.

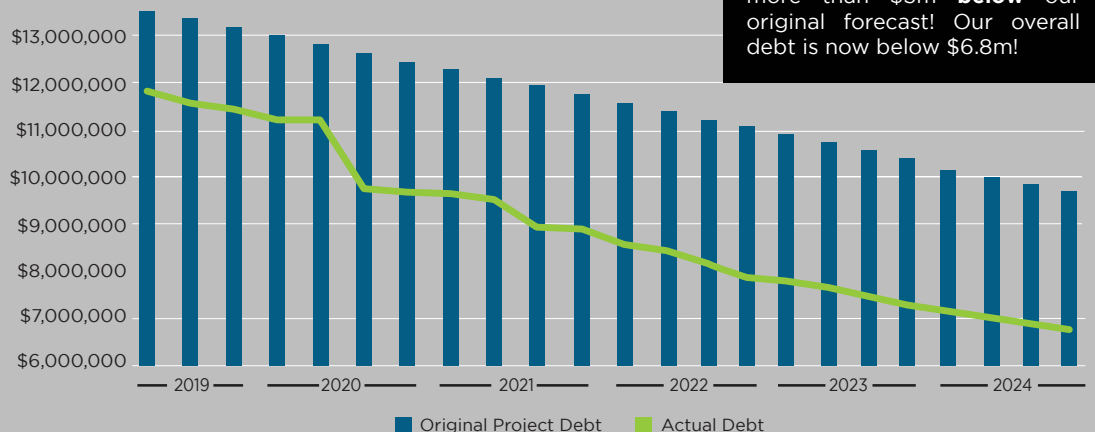
Lastly, we will be increasing our Missions budget by another \$180,000, bringing our total missions giving (from our general offering) to \$1,800,000. This amount represents 20% of our total budget that is earmarked for missions. We are so thankful for how God continues to bless the growth of His church!



## Continued focus on debt reduction...

Over \$800,000, or almost 9% of our 2025 budget, is dedicated to capital funding and debt retirement. This is above and beyond the amount received by our congregation's generous gifts designated to reduce our current debt through More Than Ever.

### DEBT REDUCTION



### DID YOU KNOW?

Thanks to your generous giving, Church at The Mill's debt is more than \$3m **below** our original forecast! Our overall debt is now below \$6.8m!

# DEACON

## ADDITIONS



### Ken Anderson

Ken, 37, is married to Aubrey Anderson, and they have three young children, ages 7, 5, and 3. He has been attending Church at The Mill since 2020 and is honored and excited to be considered for a leadership role.



### Jonas Erickson

Jonas Erickson has been married to his wife, Amy, for nearly 13 years. They have two sons, Brayden and Logan, and a daughter, Mary Jane. After moving to South Carolina in 2017, they began attending Church at The Mill. Jonas enjoys volunteering in the preschool ministry and looks forward to leading his first small group this spring. He is eager to take the next step in serving the church as a deacon.



### Will Heacox

Will Heacox and his wife, Hannah, have three children. They have been members of Church at The Mill since 2019 and lead a small group together. They love being part of what the Lord is doing through the church. Will feels honored to serve as a deacon and looks forward to this new opportunity to support the church.



### Steve Lipsey

Steve Lipsey and his wife, Sarah, have been attending Church at The Mill for over six years. They have two daughters, Brittany and Alyssa. Steve serves and leads on the safety team, while Sarah is involved with the choir and praise team. He looks forward to serving others and meeting the needs of the congregation in his role as a deacon.



### Jack Kolb

Jack and his family have been attending Church at The Mill since 2014, drawn by D.J.'s teaching and seeking God's direction for their next chapter. He is excited to once again serve as a deacon, inspired by the church's clear focus on following Jesus to reach the community. Jack, along with Sarah, Ben, Marissa, Caleb, Emily, Hogan, Laney, and Hayes, loves worshipping here with a strong group of believers.



### Jason Rhodes

Jason Rhodes has been married to his wife, Tobey, for 27 years, and together they have three daughters: Maggie, Lillie, and Ivy Kate. They have been members of Church at The Mill for over 11 years and lead an adult small group on Sunday mornings. Jason is excited about serving the church as it continues to grow and disciple one another.



### Ted Richardson

Ted Richardson is married to his wife, Barbara, and they have one adult daughter. They joined Church at The Mill in 2017. This will be Ted's second time serving as a deacon, and he is enthusiastic about the opportunity to expand his ministry and continue doing the Lord's work.



### Vladamir Shimanskiy

Vladamir Shimanskiy has been married for 22 years and has three children: Samuel, Brianna, and Jonathan. A member of Church at The Mill since March 2021, he values the clear teaching of God's Word, the church's focus on the next generation, and its commitment to missions. Vladamir considers it an honor to serve others with humility in his role as a deacon.



### Brian West

Brian has been married to his wife, Bonnie, for 25 years, and together they have four children. As the owner of six Xaxby's restaurants, Brian enjoys contributing to the community through his work. A member of Church at The Mill since 2006, he considers it an honor and privilege to serve as a deacon.

#### CENTRAL

4455 ANDERSON MILL RD.  
MOORE, SC 29369

#### WOODRUFF

517 CROSS ANCHOR RD.  
WOODRUFF, SC 29388

#### LAKE COOLEY

2589 BALLENGER RD.  
WELLFORD, SC 29385

SERVICE TIMES | SUN 9:00AM & 11:00AM | WED 6PM

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