



NEXTGEN MINISTRY INFOZINE



NEXTGEN AT THE MILL

BIRTH - HIGH SCHOOL MINISTRIES OF CHURCH AT THE MILL

IN JESUS' MIGHTY NAME
I BELIEVE



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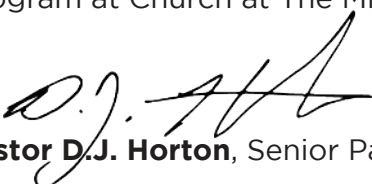


WHO W

a letter from PASTOR D.J. HORTON

Years ago, I read a book by George Barna, a respected Christian researcher, in which he effectively showed the church's greatest and most effective mission field is our children. He noted that almost all followers of Jesus decide to trust Him as Lord before their 14th birthdays. This also speaks volumes about the absolute necessity of an intentional and effective NextGen ministry. As you flip through these pages, you're going to see that Church at The Mill believes that the next generation matters. I don't just mean they matter to us; I mean they matter to The Kingdom. If Barna is correct, and I believe he is, then our NextGen ministry is the single largest disciple-making environment within our congregation. We have a small window of time to love kids and students, ground them in the gospel, and build them up with the truths needed to live on mission for Christ.

Our team of leaders is incredible, our efforts are many, and our tools vary, but our goal is simple. We want to put every student we influence in the best possible position to love and follow The Lord Jesus with a deep, lifelong faith that makes His gospel known to all they encounter along their journey. I can think of no greater gift to give young people than to help them form and grow a relationship with Jesus that will provide endless amounts of joy, peace, and purpose in a dark and challenging world. Student ministry is not just another program at Church at The Mill. It is our very future.



Pastor D.J. Horton, Senior Pastor

WE ARE

a letter from

PASTOR TRIPP ATKINSON



Thanks so much for checking out NextGen Ministries at Church at The Mill. There is a lot of information in the pages ahead that will give you a snapshot of who we are and what we offer your family at Church at The Mill. I hope that what you see and read will clearly communicate three things you need to know:

1. WE LOVE YOUR FAMILY!

In my 25 years of working with students and families, I have never seen a team more passionately love and serve families than the Student Ministry team at Church at The Mill. For each team member, ministry to students and their families is a calling. We love how God uniquely created each student and find great joy in helping them realize their value and identity through a relationship with Him. NextGen Ministries exist to help your family discover and live God's very best for your lives. Even if we have not met yet, know that you are loved. We cannot wait for the opportunities we will have together to find New Beginnings and Real Relationships.

2. WE HAVE A PLAN.

All loving parents want the very best for their children. In such a crazy world, we all desire that our children grow to have a solid foundation to live life well. But how can we best ensure such a foundation? We have a plan. We have a plan to develop graduates who are grounded for life, based on biblical principles that help students experience identity, maturity, and responsibility God's way. While the plan encompasses each stage of a child's development, families can benefit from jumping in at any time. It's never too late!

3. WE ARE HERE FOR YOU.

As a parent of three teenagers, I understand just how difficult parenting is, and just how much encouragement and support we all need. Know that the NextGen at The Mill staff and our incredible team of Adult Leaders are committed to serving your family... not only through excellent programming and resources, but also personally. Please note our personal contact information provided in this Infozine, and don't hesitate to reach out at any time. Know that everything in the pages ahead is for you and is designed to help your family discover and live God's very best!

Tripp Atkinson, NextGen Pastor
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Intro to

CHURCH AT

WHO WE ARE

ONE CHURCH, UNDER ONE LEADERSHIP, WITH MULTIPLE LOCATIONS

Church at The Mill, located in Spartanburg County, South Carolina, is one church currently meeting on three campuses. Each campus is led by a pastor who preaches live and joins a campus staff in shepherding and leading the members and guests of that location. Each Campus Pastor leads under the guidance of our Senior Pastor, who preaches weekly at our Central Campus. We desire to be a deeply-faithful, remarkably-healthy, highly-impactful multi-campus church.



GATHER



GROW



GIVE



GO

WHAT WE VALUE:

THE GOSPEL OF GOD IN ALL THINGS

1. THE WORD OF GOD IN *PREACHING*

...so biblical, Christ-centered exposition is all we do.

2. THE GLORY OF GOD IN *WORSHIP*

...so authenticity and passion guide us.

3. THE LEGACY OF GOD IN THE *NEXT GENERATION*

...so we disproportionately invest in the faith of our children, students and the young families they represent.

4. THE *MISSION* OF GOD TO THE NATIONS

...so we go often and give sacrificially.

5. THE LOVE OF GOD IN *COMMUNITY*

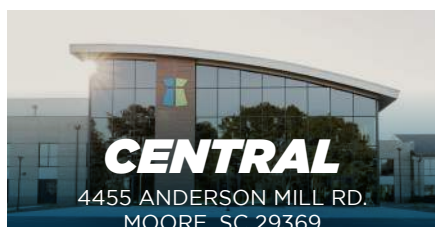
...so warmth, kindness and real relationships matter.

6. THE *GROWTH* OF GOD IN US

...so we disciple desiring every member to mature in Christ.

AT THE MILL

CAMPUSES



Our Central Campus is located in Moore, SC near the center of Spartanburg County. This campus is home of the original Church at The Mill location, founded in 1988. Our Church at The Mill administrative offices are located at this campus, including the majority of the church staff and resources.

Central Campus is the largest of the Church at The Mill campuses, which includes NextGen facilities (Kids' Building and Student Center), in addition to a 2,000-seat state-of-the-art worship center. Senior Pastor D.J. Horton preaches live at Central Campus on a weekly basis



The Woodruff Campus, established in 2022, was the first campus birthed out of Central Campus. It is located in the Woodruff community in the southern part of Spartanburg County. The Woodruff Campus worship center seats about 350 people. The campus is currently undergoing construction to renovate the space to better serve the congregation's needs.

Woodruff Campus Pastor Adam Siskey preaches live at this campus location on a weekly basis, coordinating his message with Pastor D.J. and the other congregation pastors. He leads the Woodruff Campus staff to care for their location's members and attenders.



Established in 2023, the Lake Cooley Campus is located in the Northwest portion of Spartanburg County in the Wellford/Inman area. The worship center at Lake Cooley has approximately 250 seats. Between 400-500 people typically attend one of two services each Sunday at this campus.

Lake Cooley Campus Pastor Dylan Baxter preaches live at this campus location on a weekly basis, coordinating his message with Pastor D.J. and the other congregation pastors. He leads the Lake Cooley Campus staff to shepherd the congregation

CONGREGATION

EAST ASIAN

Our East Asian congregation is an international congregation that meets at the Central Campus. Pastor John Zhang, who is originally from China, leads this congregation in both English and Mandarin languages. The vision of the East Asian Church is to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ to all people, especially Chinese and other Asians living in Upstate, SC.

ESPAÑOL

We began Church at The Mill Español to reach the large Hispanic population in the Upstate. We desire to make disciples of all nations. We know that the gospel is often best understood in one's heart language, which is why we've begun Church at The Mill Español for our Spanish-speaking neighbors. This congregation launches in Fall 2024

and will meet at Central Campus on Sunday evenings. Our Associate Missions Pastor Andrew Smith currently leads this congregation. With the growth of our church, some of these details continue to change. We are forever grateful for what God is doing across our campuses and congregations!

NEXTGEN MINISTRIES

We exist to support the mission and values of Church at The Mill in leading kids and students to become grounded for life by discovering and living God's best.

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Grounded FOR LIFE

A COMPREHENSIVE SPIRITUAL GROWTH PLAN

All loving parents desire that their children grow up to be responsible, mature adults with a solid foundation to live life well. Not only do we want our children to have “deep roots,” but we desire for them to be grounded for life... that is, grounded for the duration of their life, but also grounded to experience the abundant life that is offered through a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. But how do we help children establish that kind of solid foundation in such a turbulent world?

We have a plan. **Grounded for Life** is Church at The Mill's comprehensive plan for developing graduates who are followers of Christ into college and beyond.

We lay a Foundation in Kids' Ministry by teaching children the overarching story of Scripture, which plants the seed of biblical understanding that will grow and shape the rest of their lives. Then, in Student Ministries, the plan is centered on nine biblical principles that we feel are essential for students to learn and for graduates to have ingrained in their lives. These principles speak truth in three key areas: *Identity, Maturity, and Responsibility*.

Everything we teach kids and students during our programming is centered around instilling these biblical principles in their hearts and minds for life. As graduates step into Young Adult Ministry, these biblical truths are reinforced as we help graduates apply them to their lives as young adults and beyond.

Foundations // PLANTING THE SEED

Every story in scripture points us to the full revelation of who God is in Jesus! This foundational biblical understanding is the seed that will one day grow into a personal relationship with Him.

CHARACTER OF GOD

God is love, the ultimate authority, creator, savior, and giver of life.

WORD OF GOD

Read, study, and apply Biblical truth to each stage of life. Make simple connections that reveal the faithfulness of God throughout the Bible.

WORSHIP OF GOD

Model age appropriate worship to help kids explore why and how we praise God.



“They are like trees planted along a riverbank, with roots that reach deep into the water. Such trees are not bothered by the heat or worried by long months of drought. Their leaves stay green, and they never stop producing fruit.”

- Jeremiah 17:8

Identity // HEART CHANGE

Our identity not only affects how we see ourselves, but also our entire worldview. An identity grounded in Jesus Christ is necessary to experience abundant life.

SALVATION

God loves you & wants a PERSONAL relationship with you.

AUTHENTIC WORSHIP

God calls us to a life of authentic worship.

ACTIVE OBEDIENCE

God created us to live under authority.



Maturity // MIND CHANGE

Growth is obviously essential to life. We are called to continual growth in Christ, which produces “spiritual fruit.”

CONSISTENT GROWTH

To spiritually grow, you must be spiritually fed.

WISE CHOICES

Today's choices determine your future. CHOOSE WISELY!

GODLY RELATIONSHIPS

Your life will be significantly shaped by your relationships.



Responsibility // WORLD CHANGE

As a responsible follower of Jesus Christ, we must demonstrate faithful obedience to His commands.

SINCERE STEWARDSHIP

Everything you have is from the Lord; manage His resources accordingly.

SELFLESS SERVICE

God has uniquely gifted you to serve others.

MISSIONAL LIVING

True purpose is found in making disciples



MILESTONES

Celebrating significant moments with your family

At CATM, we love celebrating milestones with families, from the very moment you know you will be welcoming a child until you launch them into adulthood. As children grow up, we desire to partner with parents to provide “rite of passage” experiences to celebrate the following milestones:

BIRTH/ADOPTION

From the moment you know you will be welcoming a child into your family, Kids at The Mill wants to know! We want to pray for you and offer timely encouragement as you prepare for your child. Please email us at kids@churchatthemill.com to share your joyous news and let us celebrate with you!

PARENT/CHILD DEDICATION

Twice each year, we host a Parent/Child Dedication service. Dedication services at Church at The Mill are extremely special to our pastors, staff, and families. It is a time for parents to commit their lives to God as the primary influencers in the home and beg His leading and wisdom as they raise their children. We believe children decide to follow Jesus as Savior and Lord when they can truly understand what Christ has done to make a way for their sins to be forgiven. Therefore, we don't believe dedication is infant baptism or a proclamation of your child's salvation.

PRETEEN TO MIDDLE SCHOOL

The transition from elementary to middle school is significant, bringing increased expectations and responsibilities. It's a time when a child starts the transition into young adulthood. We offer several events to help make this transition as smooth as possible, including a rising 6th grade orientation.

End-of-Year Celebration, Promotion Sunday, and Middle School Camp. These are all designed to support and guide students and their families during this important time.



BAPTISM

We pray that we can celebrate this joyous milestone with every family while their kids/students are in NextGen Ministry!

There are many important events in a person's life that are life-defining. None are more significant than the baptism of a follower of Jesus. Baptism is intended to take place after someone gets saved. It is a powerful symbol of life change as one identifies with Jesus in His death, burial, and resurrection. In baptism, a Christian displays obedience to Christ, claims identity with Christ and offers a public testimony about how his/her life has been changed by Christ.

Because baptism is such a special event, we want to do all we can to make it truly meaningful for kids/students and their families. To ensure an understanding of the full significance of baptism, we host several classes throughout the year ("New Believers' Class" in Kids Ministry

and "Baptism 101" in Student Ministry). These classes allow kids and students an opportunity to understand the "why" of baptism and ask any questions they may have. After a class, baptism candidates may schedule a time to meet with one of our pastors to further discuss their spiritual story and the baptism process.

We want to ensure each baptism candidate genuinely understands biblical salvation and their profession of faith in Jesus. While we believe this can happen before eight years of age, we do not baptize any children before they are eight years old.

For more information about baptism or our next baptism class, contact our staff team at nextgen@churchatthemill.com.



HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION

The final milestone celebration a student will experience while in NextGen ministries is high school graduation. This event is so significant that an entire article on the next page describes all we do to launch students into adulthood with the best opportunity to live God's best for their lives.

THE GREATEST GIFT:

THE SENIOR EXPERIENCE & THE PLAN

The culmination of the Grounded for Life plan for students is the Senior Experience, which serves as a final preparation and launching pad for life beyond high school. The greatest gift Church at The Mill can give graduates is a Senior Experience that grounds them in their faith and produces an individualized plan to help them experience God's best in college and beyond.

At Church at The Mill, the culmination of our comprehensive spiritual growth plan for students (called Grounded for Life) is the Senior Experience. The Senior Experience serves as a final preparation and launching pad for life beyond high school. Through a co-ed Senior Small Group experience, students begin the first semester studying Revelation (its themes and promises are so appropriate for students preparing for an unknown future) and a student version of Financial Peace University (we get the most positive feedback from parents on this).

In their final semester of Small Group, students are led to write a practical and actual plan for how to succeed beyond high school. We've learned that most students don't plan to fail; most just don't plan not to. That is why we lead them in writing a plan that is based on our nine Grounded for Life biblical principles.

THE PLAN

We give each student a customized Senior Experience journal where students take notes as we teach each biblical principle and discuss scripture in smaller groups. In addition to the teaching, we invite Young Adults to come share their post-graduation experience and suggest practical and beneficial ways to implement the principles beyond high school. Students develop personal action steps for each biblical principle identified in The Plan, and, together as a group, the students decide on the most practical and helpful action steps for each principle. At the end of the semester, we take their action steps and have them professionally printed into each class's unique version of The Plan as a physical reminder to carry with them into their next stage of life. We encourage students to keep The Plan somewhere they will see it often and review the wisdom and ideas they took time to craft into their plan.

THE FIVE

Before students graduate, we also encourage them to identify a circle of five people who can hold them accountable to their plan during their first year of college. A number of studies have shown

that students who have accountable relationships with three to five adults while in college are significantly more successful at thriving spiritually than those who do not. We suggest their “five” include a parent (or two), a senior adult, a past or current mentor (e.g. Small Group leaders), as well as a peer that they admire spiritually. These five have the ability to greatly impact and encourage a student’s successful transition to college. We connect these “five” to the student and the plan at a special celebration.

THE CELEBRATION

Another way we celebrate this period of transition is by making a big deal of high school graduation. We have a special Graduate Recognition Sunday where our church family celebrates and encourages students. As a part of this special day, graduates invite their families, close friends, and their “five” to a special meal where our whole Student Ministry team further celebrates them. At this meal, graduates share The Plan booklets with their “five” and begin the process of receiving encouragement to thrive as they enter the post-high-school world. This event puts the exclamation point on our preparation of students to be Grounded For Life!



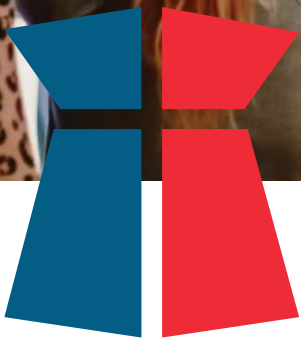
THE GIFT

On Graduate Sunday, we present students with special Challenge coins that are custom minted for the Students at The Mill graduating class. Challenge coins are a long-standing tradition in the military that serve as a symbol of identity, a source of pride, and a reminder of the support that a person has behind him/her. We will give these special gifts to our graduating class to serve as a constant reminder of their identity, values, and the army of support they have behind them in their church family. (Some students put these where they can see them daily and some carry them in their pockets when they are having a tough day.)

Through a special Senior Small Group, the writing of The Plan, the formation of accountability circles, the celebration and commissioning service, the banquet, and a special gift, the Senior Experience serves as not only a celebration, but also a launching pad for high school graduates. By making such a big deal of this important milestone, we encourage families, further unite students to the church, and empower students to be Grounded for Life! Our prayer is to give students a purpose, a plan, and the people to help them live God’s best for their lives!

We are honored and privileged to be a part of giving them what we believe is a pretty great gift!





Kids at THE MILL

Kids Ministry Overview

Kids at The Mill ministry supports the mission and values of Church at The Mill in leading kids to become grounded for life by discovering and living God's best. We offer opportunities for kids (birth through 5th grade) to experience God's Word.

PRESCHOOL

(BIRTH-K4)

Our Preschool Ministry is for our children from infants through K4. These are key years for the development and growth of our preschoolers. We are not babysitting, but rather teaching our preschoolers about the love, truth, and the Word of God in fun and creative ways.

ELEMENTARY

(K5 - 3RD GRADE)

Our Elementary Ministry is for our children who are in kindergarten through 3rd grade. These kids are at an age where many of them are truly able to understand the message of the gospel and their need for a Savior. We not only teach the Bible to elementary kids, but we help them understand why it matters to their lives.

PRETEEN

(4TH - 5TH GRADE)

Our Preteen Ministry is for 4th-5th graders. Our goal is to help preteens know, love and follow Jesus with their whole hearts in a safe, high-energy, enriching environment that bridges the gap between our Kids' and Student Ministries!

ELC

(3mo - K5)

At the Early Learning Center, our goal is to nurture your child's mind with age-appropriate instruction and learning experiences by establishing a foundation of God's unconditional love in Jesus Christ. We are committed to providing opportunities for physical, social, emotional, and spiritual development. This is primarily done through hands-on activities and with positive Christ-like role modeling of our staff.



KIDS AT PROGRAM

SUNDAY MORNING

PRESCHOOL (Birth-K4)

Our preschoolers begin each hour in their classrooms where they enjoy teaching, story-telling, play time and snacks. During the hour, our one-year-olds through pre-K kids spend some time in large group with engaging Bible stories and fun worship songs, as well as time on the playground if the weather is nice!

ELEMENTARY (K5-3rd Grade)

Elementary-age kids participate in a combination of Small Groups and large group kids' worship during both hours, with fresh activities and illustrations teaching the same truths each hour. Families have the ability to tailor their service and group attendance and also bring the kids to worship with them as they prefer. Drop off and pick up take place in the kids' classrooms.

PRETEEN (4th-5th Grades)

Preteen Small Groups take place during the 9:00 AM hour in the Preteen section of the Kids' Ministry area. We provide a time for age-appropriate Bible study and fellowship as well as the opportunity to join in a specific large group environment for preteens to fellowship together and interact through group learning and games.

Our Preteens have the unique opportunity to participate in Main Worship service with their families during the 11:00 AM service.



THE MILL HAMMING

KIDS

STUDENTS

ALL-ACCESS

CREATIVE ARTS

MIDWEEK

KIDS' MIDWEEK

We offer an unforgettable experience for kids of all ages on Wednesday nights during the Fall and Spring semesters. Kids join with other kids their age and get to enjoy a free dinner, games, some playground time (if the weather is nice), and more all while parents engage in Small Groups and Equipping Classes throughout the campus.

We also partner with Missions at The Mill to offer a special missions project where kids get to be the hands and feet of Jesus as they minister to the lives of other kids and families in our community.

PRETEEN MIDWEEK

Our Midweek programming for Preteens is a one-of-a-kind experience. Preteens participate in hangtime, games, worship, preaching, and breakout groups. Our Midweek experience prepares Preteens for joining in on worship on Sunday and for Student Ministry in the future.





Summer is an action-packed season at Church at The Mill. One of the highlights is VBS/VBX, a gospel-centered, fun-filled, and highly-relational week for kids from pre-K through 5th grade. Our staff and hundreds of adult volunteers put in countless hours of preparation and prayer to welcome kids and families from our church and community to our campus. It is truly one of our favorite weeks of the year.

One of the reasons we love VBS/VBX at Church at The Mill is that it gives kids the opportunity to invite friends who may never come on a Sunday morning. This week is creatively-themed and engages kids with multimedia, drama, music, and hands-on activities that point back to the lesson that they are learning in the Bible each day. Kids are grouped into classes with loving adult and student leaders and rotate through stations like Bible time, mu-



sic, crafts, special projects, games, and missions.

VBS/VBX takes place Monday through Thursday in the evenings and creates an environment for kids to hear how much God loves them, what His Word tells them about His love, and how they can share that love of God with their friends. We pray that it is a catalyst in the lives of kids to begin a faith journey of their own!





We offer a special EXTREME experience for 4th and 5th grades at VBX. Preteens get to experience VBS in their very own space and take all of the best parts of VBS to the extreme level.



Other Special Events...



PRETEEN WEEKEND CAMP

Our preteens have the amazing opportunity to attend a Preteen Camp on a weekend in the Spring with only their age group. Preteen Camp involves worship, preaching, small groups, track time, and fellowship time. Preteen Camp is a great way for your preteen to spend time away from home and to grow with other believers.

TRUNK OR TREAT EXTRAVAGANZA

Step into a whimsical world with themed trunks brimming with treats, delightful prizes and candy. Dress up in your most creative costumes and mingle with beloved characters who wander through the crowd, ready for photos and friendly interactions. Be ready to participate in carnival activities or be captivated by dramatic performances. Every moment promises laughter, thrills, and the opportunity to engage with our community.



MOMMY & ME PLAYDATE

Gather your preschoolers and bring them to a morning of games, crafts, and bonding time as mothers get to enjoy a special date with their little ones.

DADDY/DAUGHTER DATE NIGHT

Step into an enchanted evening at our Daddy / Daughter Date Night - an occasion designed to create unforgettable memories. Join us for a magical date night where every detail has been arranged. We provide the dinner, charming photo booths, engaging crafts, and dance party. You are invited to for an evening full of laughter, dancing and pure joy for you and your elementary aged girl.



MOTHER/SON NERF BATTLE

Grab your gear and get ready to showcase your skills and bond with your Mother/Son in the unique and thrilling event. Mother/Son Nerf Battle gives Moms and their sons a chance to bond as they show off their skills as well as compete in friendly competition and challenges. This fun and engaging challenge will test your teamwork, creativity and competitive spirit and create unforgettable memories.



CREATIVE ARTS CAMP KIDS

Through Creative Arts Camp (CAC), rising 2nd-5th graders are able to immerse themselves into an elite production and camp experience in the arts that will empower and inspire them to shine brightly in their creative endeavors, reflecting the glory of God in all they do. See more info about CAC on pg. 34.





STUDENTS AT THE MILL

Student Ministry comprises Middle School Ministry (6th-8th graders) and High School Ministry (9th-12th graders). While Middle and High School ministries often share programming space, each ministry is tailored to the specific age group in teaching, small groups, and special events.

Students at The Mill supports the mission and values of Church at The Mill in leading students to become grounded for life by discovering and living God's best.





HOW WE DO THIS...

- 1. Comprehensive Spiritual Growth Plan/Programming:** We offer effective weekly programming and events that support a master spiritual growth plan for students.
- 2. Parent Partnerships:** We equip, encourage, and empower parents to fulfill their biblical roles as spiritual leaders of their children.
- 3. Leadership Development:** We intentionally develop adult volunteers and students to leverage their influence to impact others as they serve locally and globally.
- 4. School Partnerships:** We enthusiastically partner with local schools to encourage, support, and provide resources for administration, faculty, staff, and students.
- 5. Shepherding:** We provide relational pastoral care to students and families through encouragement, biblical counseling, and prayer.





STUDENT MIDWEEK

Student Midweek is a fantastic way to get connected to Students at The Mill! Midweek is our Wednesday night program for students that is known for fun, friends, encouragement, connection, and life change.

A typical Midweek includes FREE food (Zaxby's or pizza), hang out time, fun activities, games, and lots of opportunities to meet other students. As fun as our hang-time activities are, the highlight of MIDWEEK is a meaningful time of worship and a relevant message from one of our student pastors that encourages and equips students to discover and live God's best for their lives.



Midweek is from 6-8 PM on Wednesday nights at each campus.
(Scan for Midweek Programming details)





SUNDAY MORNING SMALL GROUPS

Small Groups are an essential part of our mission to assist students in being “Grounded for Life.” Our goal is to create a safe place for students to connect with others, talk about God’s Word, have a great time, and learn truths that will equip them to live life well. Small Groups are led by trusted adult leaders who care greatly about partnering with parents to encourage, teach, and meet the needs of their students.

Student Small Groups meet on Sundays at 9:00 AM at each campus.



**To see what students will be studying in their Small Groups every Sunday, download our Grounded For Life Booklet PDF at churchatthemill.com/students*



STUDENT LEADERSHIP

All of us are created with gifts and abilities to lead. At Church at The Mill, we want to partner with students to help them discover their full potential as leaders, and create avenues for them to use those skills. We have developed a Student Leadership program to help 6th-12th grade students grow as leaders, take ownership in Student Ministry, be examples for other students, and receive resources and support to reach their full potential.

Student Leadership meets once a month on Sunday evenings for a time of training, accountability, planning, and encouragement. There are also extra Student Leadership activities and opportunities for those who meet the requirements to serve in this capacity.

For more information about Student Leadership, contact our Student Team at students@churchatthemill.com.

SERVING & MISSIONS OPPORTUNITIES

We love to provide students with as many opportunities to grow and serve as we can. Students are given opportunities to serve within the Student Ministry, in other areas of Church at The Mill, and beyond.

We partner with our Missions at The Mill team to facilitate service environments for students within our community, nationally, and internationally. Church at The Mill offers short-term mission trips which provide unique experiences for students to be challenged in various environments while making an eternal difference.

Details of service and mission opportunities are discussed often at Student Leadership meetings, so students are encouraged not to miss out!

*For more information on upcoming mission trip opportunities for your family, check out churchatthemill.com/missions.



UNITED CAMP



Amazing. Fun. Engaging. Laughter. Competitions. Worship. Connection. Epic. Learning. Old Friends. New Friends. Growth. Incredible. Together. Deep. Encouragement. Waterpark. Powerful. Supportive. Praise. Life-Change. Prayer. Freedom. Community. Fellowship. Food. Reflection. Transformation. Awesome. Holy. Fire. Impactful. The Best.

These are just a few of the words that students have used to describe United Summer Camp, an epic Summer camp experience for all rising 6th-12th grade students (plus recent graduates).

United Camp is two camps (middle school and high school) in one location! While each camp joins together daily for worship and teaching, each has its own schedule packed full of memory-making activities.

United Camp is a five-day experience at the beautiful campus of Charleston Southern University in Charleston, SC. Students enjoy a week filled with powerful teaching, engaging worship, one-of-a-kind competitions, incredible activities, and opportunities for new beginnings and real relationships. Students agree that United Camp is the best week of the entire summer!

Check our website for camp dates, details, and registration information.





Other United Events...

STUDENT UNITED WEEKEND

There is something about getting out of your routine and into an environment where you're away from the normal distractions of life that allows you to focus on developing quality friendships and hearing the truth from God. We want to give students the opportunity to do this several times each year. One of those events is our annual United Weekend. We host this event at our Central Campus in Moore, South Carolina. We have a worship session on Friday night and two other worship sessions on Saturday. Throughout the weekend, we arrange students into small groups based on grade and gender. They spend the weekend playing games, developing friendships, eating great food, worshiping together, and hearing great teachings from God's Word. This is one of the highlights of the year for students, so make plans now to attend and register early!



Programming Calendar



UNITED MIDWEEK

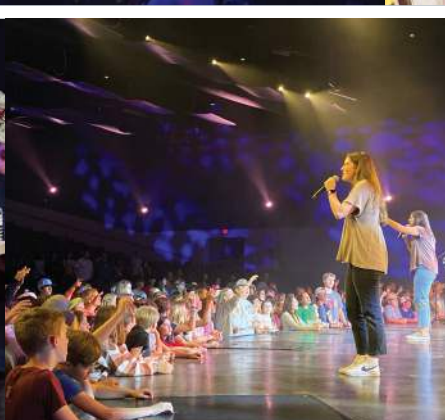
At least once per semester, we invite students from each campus to come together for an epic Midweek experience that highlights the power of being United—in purpose, mission, and community. While United Midweek events are typically centered around worship experiences, we do occasionally bring everyone together for some pretty legendary fun-focused nights, too!



UNITED GIRL TIME

United Girl Time is a chance for female students across all campuses to come together in a fun, welcoming environment to hear truth and encouragement relevant to the struggles of middle and high school. The goal of these events is to invite the girls in our ministry to take one step deeper in their walks with Christ and provide a healthy community to walk alongside as they grow. We supply resources, offer opportunities to ask questions, and create spaces for them to seek the wisdom of more mature believers, all while having lots of fun spending time together!









ALL-ACCESS AT THE MILL

All-Access is our special needs ministry here at Church at The Mill. The heart of the All-Access ministry is to make the gospel accessible to all people.

All-Access plays a vital role in creating a place for individuals with special needs and their families in our church. We do that by educating our volunteers, families and other ministry partners, advocating for individuals with special needs and celebrating every child by seeking to know them and meeting them where they are.

We do this by offering a variety of services based on need, such as our All-Access classrooms, our one-on-one shadows, and interpreters for our deaf students, kids and adults. Our shadows allow for extra support and flexibility, so that each child can thrive in a typical classroom environment, while our

All-Access classrooms are for our kids and students who need a modified curriculum and schedule to thrive.

We also seek to partner with parents through regularly scheduled events for moms, dads, and families of children with special needs.

DEAF MINISTRY

Our Deaf ministry at Church at The Mill provides interpreters for all ages on Sunday mornings and at our Midweek programming. We also provide interpreters in our worship service every Sunday during the 11:00 AM service.

CONTACT US

If you have a child or student with special needs, please reach out so that we can connect. If you fill out the form below, we can learn more about your child and how we can best serve your family.

central.churchatthemill.com/all-access





CREATIVE ARTS AT THE MILL

In our Creative Arts Ministry, we value and cherish the arts. We are passionate about nurturing the next generation by fostering a safe and encouraging environment where kids and students can discover their identity in Christ. We believe each person is uniquely created by God with a purpose and specific gifts to be used for His glory. Through our programs, we aim to equip the next generation with skills that not only enhance their artistic abilities but also deepen their spiritual journey through giving them the opportunity to use those gifts for the body of Christ.



CREATIVE ARTS WORKSHOP

Our Creative Arts Workshops are dedicated to fostering growth and development in our kids and students, offering them exceptional opportunities to expand their artistic talents. Held at different times throughout the school year, these workshops provide a vibrant and inspiring environment for creative exploration.



CAC KIDS

Creative Arts Camp Kids is for rising 2nd-5th graders. Get ready to jump into the exciting world of Broadway as we spend a whole week preparing for an amazing show. From learning songs and dances to creating cool crafts and a mystery class, every day is full of fun and creativity. We'll also explore stories from the Bible together, as we discover how the Word inspires our performances and to help us grow closer to God. Plus, there will be awesome activities and games to enjoy throughout the week. Join us for an unforgettable adventure where you'll make new friends, learn new skills, and shine onstage in our big finale—all for God's glory!

CAC STUDENTS

Creative Arts Camp Students is for rising 6th-12th graders. This is where students immerse themselves in the magic of Broadway production for an entire week! From rehearsals to tracks, every day is packed with learning and laughter as we prepare for an incredible final performance. Beyond the stage, we dive deep into God's Word, fostering spiritual growth and reflection throughout our journey together. With a mix of classes, activities, and unforgettable bonding experiences, our camp promises a week filled with creativity, discovery, and the joy of bringing stories to life—all while deepening our faith and building lasting friendships. Join us for a summer of fun, learning, and inspiration at Creative Arts Camp Students!

For more information about Creative Arts please scan QR or visit us at:
central.churchatthemill.com/creativearts/



ADULT LEADERSHIP

Strong Adult Leaders are the backbone of NextGen Ministry at Church at The Mill. It is vitally important to have leaders who are committed, genuine, and passionate about pouring into kids and students. Our leaders love God, love the next generation, and are excited to help kids and students discover and live God's best for their lives.

There are currently over 350 caring adult leaders serving weekly in NextGen Ministry at Church at The Mill. Each adult who works with kids/students has completed a lengthy onboarding process, which includes extensive screening (application, interview, and background check), sexual abuse awareness training, and policy training. All NextGen adult leaders are committed to ongoing training and development to ensure that we offer kids/students our very best in leadership.

We are grateful for all the time and effort our adults invest to make sure every child is safe and has a mentor to encourage them in Christ! For more information about how you can impact a generation by serving in NextGen Ministry, scan the QR Code.



churchatthemill.com/nextgenvolunteer/





IS MY CHILD/STUDENT SAFE AT CHURCH?

Why safety and security is our highest value for families...

We have the most important message ever to share: God loves us so much that He provided a way through Jesus Christ to receive forgiveness of sin, inherit eternal life, and enjoy a personal relationship with Him that begins on earth and lasts through eternity! We are very intentional about how we share this message and how we combat obstacles that might keep anyone from hearing it loudly and clearly. This is why we place such a high priority on both the PHYSICAL and EMOTIONAL safety of students.

If students don't feel both physically and emotionally safe, it doesn't matter how wonderful the message is or how creatively it's presented; it won't be heard! If parents don't feel like our ministries are safe places, they won't even allow their children to be involved. We work hard to have the reputation that NextGen Ministry provides a safe environment for everyone. From our weekly programs to our in-town or out-of-town trips and camps, we want to be known as a place where kids and students are physically safe and emotionally secure.

To ensure safety and security in our ministries, we follow a security plan with practices that include:

- A team of security professionals, ministry professionals, and reliable adult volunteer leaders
- The use of uniformed and/or plain-clothed security personnel
- Secure NextGen facilities during all programming and events
- Regular safety drills to ensure that everyone is prepared in case of emergency
- Policies that serve to protect the physical and emotional well-being of kids, students, and adults
- An electronic check-in process
- An extensive background and screening process for adult volunteer leaders

If you have any questions or concerns about the safety and security of your family, please contact our staff immediately at (404) 989-8749.

PARTNERING

Bringing

Written by Tripp Atkinson, NextGen Pastor

There is a jar that sits in my office that is filled with ping pong balls—168 to be exact. That is the number of hours in a week. 165 of the balls are white and 3 are orange. The white balls represent the average number of hours our kids/students spend away from church. These are the hours spent doing the things kids/students do. The three orange balls represent the average number of hours our kids/students spend each week in our ministry programs. (I realize that, while we may offer more, most students don't take advantage of everything offered.)

This jar sits in my office to remind me of two important realities. The first reminder is of just how little time we will spend with most kids/students each week. This reminds me that our programming must be excellent. Every minute we have with kids/students must count. We cannot afford to do anything halfway. Every time kids/students are with us, they must be encouraged, loved, and challenged.

This also reminds me of the fact that I am not the primary spiritual influence in a kid's/student's life. That role still belongs to parents. Like it or not, parents have the awesome responsibility of spiritually training and making disciples of their children. My most important role, then, is to partner with parents and support them in this process. I can offer parents relevant biblical teaching for their children each week. I can offer small group settings for their

children to build authentic relationships with their peers under the mentorship of loving adults. I can offer numerous experiences monthly for their children to learn about and engage in worship, serving, and leadership.

Although our staff works tirelessly to ensure these things are offered with excellence, the impact of such opportunities falls short if the experiences and lessons learned are not directly tied back to the home. In order for these lessons to really "take root," they must be reinforced and practiced at home.

For this to happen effectively, we as a NextGen Ministry Staff must continue working intentionally to know families and be aware of their needs. Parents must work on continuously being aware of opportunities we offer their family, as well as what happens at our programs and events (what is being taught, how kids/students are being challenged, what commitments their children are making, etc.). As we partner and encourage one another, we can truly be teammates in fulfilling the most important responsibility we will ever have.

Such a partnership between a NextGen Ministry and families can be so effective in offering the best possible opportunities for kids/students to grow in Christ and make a difference for Him. Please know that we are here for you and your family and want to be the best support we can be!

WITH PARENTS

It Home



Parenting Resources

PARENT RESOURCE LIBRARY



We offer parents an invaluable resource right on our website. Check it out by scanning the QR code below or go visit website at:

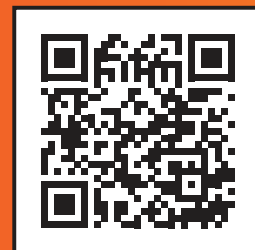
churchatthemill.com/nextgenresources/



Church at The Mill's gift for parents includes a free subscription to RightNow Media —the world's largest streaming library of Christian video content. The over 20,000 resources include engaging Bible studies and videos for everyone in your family on a variety of topics like marriage, parenting, personal finances, mental health, and more. There is even a library just for kids with over 2,000 safe, entertaining videos.

RightNow Media has a free app available on all major streaming devices so you and your family can access content anywhere, anytime.

To get started, click the QR code, create your free account, and start browsing the thousands of inspiring videos. We pray that RightNow Media will bless you and your family!



What Church at The Mill Offers Your Family?

MISSIONS

We're serious about making disciples. We often compare Church at The Mill to an airport terminal. Our campus is a place where people leave and go to serve and share the gospel with people who desperately need to hear it. Whether it's across town or across the world, we want to find a place for you to GO



LOCAL



INTERNATIONAL



WORSHIP



Church at The Mill desires to worship the Lord in Spirit and in Truth. Our goal as a ministry is to step onto the platform each week surrendered to His greatness, guided by His Word, empowered by His Spirit.

ADULT DISCIPLESHIP

We believe every follower of Jesus needs to be genuinely loved, specifically trained, intentionally challenged, and compassionately helped in order to be strong, healthy, and effective.



**SMALL
GROUPS**



**MENTOR
GROUPS**



**EQUIPPING
CLASS**



**BIBLICAL
COUNSELING**

For more Information, visit churchatthemill.com/adults

LET'S CONNECT



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kidsatthemill



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