



5-Year Reflection WILDERNESS: PREPARED.



WHERE WE'VE BEEN

Over the past five years, Snellville Community Church has been on a journey together. Some of you felt it deeply and personally, while others simply knew things were not the same. There were moments when the season felt uncertain, heavy, and exhausting, and times when it felt like we were simply trying to hold everything together as a church family. We walked through transition, difficult decisions, rebuilding trust, and learning how to lead faithfully in a changing world.

Many of you stayed steady during that time when it would have been easier to step away. You kept praying, serving, giving, encouraging, and showing up. Your faithfulness mattered more than you may realize because it helped carry this church through one of the most defining seasons in our history.

At the same time, God provided in ways we could not have planned. Through the land sale and the resources entrusted to us, we paid off debt, repaired roofs across our campus, upgraded worship and ministry spaces, improved technology, and established a legacy fund that positions this church for the future. God not only sustains us spiritually. He strengthened us practically and prepared us for what comes next.

Looking back now, we can see something more clearly. This season was not simply about survival but about formation. God was shaping us, refining us, and loosening our grip on things that no longer fit so He could prepare us for what we could not yet fully see. What felt like wilderness at times still had purpose.



WHAT GOD IS DOING

Looking at South Gwinnett County, especially in the Archer, Grayson, and South Gwinnett school areas, it's clear that these families are regularly on our campus. They visit through basketball, preschool, school partnerships, community events, and daily interactions. These conversations happen in the gym, parking lot, hallways, and other familiar spaces where daily life occurs. I recall being in the gym during a game and observing a parent who didn't leave immediately after it finished.

Instead, they lingered, began talking with a coach, then with another parent, and eventually, one of us joined in. It was spontaneous, but something changed then. Trust was built, conversations started flowing, and they said something that stuck with me: "This feels really comfortable."

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For a long time, these moments may have felt separate, but we are beginning to realize they are connected. God has been placing our church right in the middle of everyday life in our community, not simply as a place people visit, but as a place people already trust.

In many ways, we are rediscovering one of Snellville Community Church's greatest strengths.

Relationships matter.

There was a period, roughly 20 to 30 years ago, during some of the most vibrant seasons in this church's history, when members did more than just attend SCC. They knew each other personally, hung around after services to chat, checked on one another throughout the week, shared meals, supported each other through struggles, celebrated achievements, and formed genuine friendships. Members felt recognized, embraced, appreciated, and connected. That sense of close relationships has consistently been one of this church's core strengths.



Programs and ministries supported those relationships for many years and served people faithfully. But today's world is different. People are carrying more stress, loneliness, pressure, and uncertainty than ever before. Before Programs and ministries have supported these relationships for many years and faithfully served people. However, today's world has changed. People now face higher levels of stress, loneliness, pressure, and uncertainty than ever before. Before committing to organizations, including the church, they seek trust. Before engaging deeply, they desire connection. Before feeling a sense of belonging, they want relationships that seem genuine and authentic. Before they believe they belong somewhere, they are looking for relationships that feel real and authentic.

WHERE WE'RE GOING

We want to see our worship services full again. We want to see both 9:30 and 11:00 continue to grow, with more kids, students, young families, and people from across our community finding a place here. Our understanding is focused on how things occur in today's world. Every conversation, connection, and moment when someone feels recognized is seamlessly linked to Sunday. Getting younger does not mean losing who we are. It means making room for who God is sending.

We believe that staying aligned with God's work will lead to meaningful growth in the coming years. Soon, you'll see more new faces, more families, and more individuals exploring faith and connection within this church community.

God has positioned us well for this season. We are grateful for the resources provided, the people He has brought, and the opportunities ahead. Yet the daily ministry of this church still depends on our collective generosity, faithfulness, prayer, and active participation. Generosity isn't just about preserving what we have; it's about being part of what God is creating.

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HOW THIS ACTUALLY HAPPENS

It's natural to ask how people move from being on campus during the week to becoming connected to the church. That question comes from a good place. But what we are learning is that people rarely take one giant step. Most people move through relationships.

People return when they feel recognized. They remain when they sense a connection. Over time, trust encourages them to move forward. This can't be achieved by the pastor or staff alone; it requires all of us working together.

People aren't seeking perfection; they want authentic, welcoming, and approachable individuals who are open to connection. When someone feels acknowledged and accepted, they tend to come back. Over time, consistent return fosters a lasting sense of belonging.

WHAT THIS MEANS FOR US

Each of us has a role in this season, often simpler than expected. Small acts like learning names, welcoming others, or staying longer help people feel seen and connected. Over time, these relationships foster true belonging. This season isn't about becoming a different church but about becoming a healthier, more connected, community-focused church that fulfills God's calling.

