

January 2025

Tabernacle Methodist

Monthly Newsletter



Not a Trivial Pursuit

Happy New Year, Tabernacle family! If you're anything like me, you may still be finding stray bits of wrapping paper under the couch and discovering cookies you swore you didn't eat. Christmas seems to disappear as quickly as it arrives, but its message lingers with us: God stepped into our world, into our mess, and into our lives with grace and hope. That truth gives us a pretty solid foundation for launching into 2026—even if our New Year's resolutions are already on life support.

As a church, I want us to enter this new year with a renewed sense of spiritual direction—not just trying harder, but pursuing God with intention and joy. And that leads me to our brand-new sermon series launching in January:

"Not a Trivial Pursuit: A Passionate Chase After God's Heart."

The title is a playful nod to the board game many of us have played during the holidays—where knowing obscure trivia somehow makes you a champion. But unlike the game, our faith isn't about collecting Bible facts or performing certain routines every Sunday. Following Jesus is a pursuit—a real, sometimes messy, always meaningful chase after God's heart.

That's why we're looking at the life of David. Scripture calls him a man after God's own heart, even though he made enough mistakes to remind us that *we're all in good company*. David battled giants, wrote beautiful worship songs, made legendary decisions, and also made a few that probably wouldn't make the church newsletter. Through every high and low, his heart kept turning toward God—and that's the part of his story that matters most.

My hope is that this series will meet all of us right where we start 2026—some of us energized, some of us exhausted, and some of us already wondering how it's January again. But no matter where we are, God invites us not into trivial religion but into a passionate relationship with Him. A daily pursuit. A steady returning. A wholehearted "yes."

So let's step into this new year with joy, hope, and a lot of grace—trusting that God is leading us, shaping us, and inviting us deeper into His heart.

I'm grateful to begin the journey with you!

~ *Pastor Matt*

STAFF MEMBERS

Matt Morris - Senior Pastor | **Joe Essick** - Associate Pastor | **Carla Ely** - Minister of Music | **Zach Jones-Ely** - Contemporary Music Director
Allie Roth - Kids Ministry Director | **Joyce Sosnowski** - Financial Administrator | **Christina Nelson** - Campus Administrator
Steve Nelson - Youth Ministry | **Cindy Odum** - Daycare Director | **June Sofley** - Daycare Assistant Director

2026 Church Officers and Committee Leadership

Approved November 9, 2025

2026 Church Council

Council Leadership

Chair	Jay Gordon
Lay Leader	Rhonda Branson
Lay Leader	Joyce Morris
Lay Delegate	Karen Moore
Lay Delegate	needed
Treasurer	Chris Ehrhardt
MW President	TBD
MM President	TBD
Member Sec	Michelle Griffin
Church Staff	Matt Morris
	Joe Essick
	Allie Roth
	Carla Ely
	Zac Jones-Ely
	Steven Nelson
	Joyce Sosnowski
	June Sofley
	Cindy Odom

Administrative Chairs

Trustees	TBD
SPRC co-chairs	Brandon Burke
	Dan Cockman
Finance co-chairs	Mack Scott
	Rumsey Helms

Ministry Team Reps

Worship 9AM	Tami Fields
Worship 11AM	Paula Ginn
Connect	Joyce Morris
Serve	Terry Bradley
Reach	Ruby Archie
Kids Ministry	Erin Burke
Youth Ministry	Brandon Burke
DayCare Chair	Phil Weaver
Archives	TBD
Cemetery co-chair	Brandon Kiger
	Harry Griffin

At-Large Members

Class of 2026	David Stapleton
	Josh Cook
Class of 2027	Sam Andrews
	Joy Wicker
Class of 2028	Tina Gunn
	Susan Panzner

2026 Administrative Teams

Lay Leadership & Nominations

Chair: Senior Pastor

Class of 2028	Class of 2026	Class of 2027
Valerie Routh	Anne Helms	Addison Bradley
Janie Cockman	Lynda Gordon	Teresa Ehrhardt
needed	Ben Rafferty	Sandra Kiger

ex officio: Lay Leaders, Associate Pastor

Trustees

Chair: TBD

Class of 2028	Class of 2026	Class of 2027
Ron Hedrick	Alec Bradley	Nicole Rafferty
Tyler Griffin	Marie Byrd	Jesse Pratt
Paula Ginn	Jimmy Moore	Wray Watson

ex officio: Senior Pastor, Associate Pastor

Staff-Parish Relations Committee

Co-Chairs: Brandon Burke & Dan Cockman

Class of 2028	Class of 2026	Class of 2027
Brandon Burke	Annette Heath	Angela Mackie-Jones
Dan Cockman	Freo Webster	Linda Fields
Lisa Lee	Jerry Panzner	Chris Meyers

ex officio: Lay Leaders, Lay Delegates, Senior Pastor, Associate Pastor

Finance Committee

Chair: Mack Scott

Class of 2028	Class of 2026	Class of 2027
Warren Ginn	Rumsey Helms	Alex Smith
Alan Branson	Ed Christenbury	Dean Kiger

Representative Membership

Treasurer:	Chris Ehrhardt	Council Chair:	Jay Gordon
Finance Sec:	Joyce Sosnowski	Trustee Chair:	TBD
Lay Delegate:	Karen Moore	SPRC Co-Chair:	Brandon Burke
Lay Delegate:	needed		Dan Cockman
Lay Leaders:	Rhonda Branson	ex officio:	Senior Pastor
	Joyce Morris		Associate Pastor

Birthdays

01 Gavin Burke	09 William Cook	23 Karen Redmon
01 Ryan Burke	09 Charlie Smith	23 Laney Miller
02 Anne Helms	12 Heidi Brown	25 Matt Koonts
02 JJ Crist	12 Freo Webster	26 Alicia Keeton
03 Michael Brown	13 David Helms	26 Anne Marlow
03 Rick Fain	14 Aubrey Anthony	28 KT Thomas
05 Emery Popovnak	14 Ashley Brown	28 Diana Hairr
06 Emily Hendricks	15 Paula Ginn	29 Kate Middleton
06 Dennis Wyrick	18 Abby DiMattio	29 Rebecca Oliver
06 Mary Griffin	19 Russ Sweeney	30 Caden Goodwin
07 Candace Stephens	22 Dana Stewart	31 Carolyn Hall
09 Jessica Eubanks	22 Luke Roth	31 Kim Strader
	22 Mandy Cox	31 Adacus Vazquez

Anniversaries

01 Bob & Joyce Sosnowski
02 Keith & Julia Deltano
14 Chris & Maria Barker
14 Russ & Sally Vick
16 Eddie & Barbara Haithcock
19 Tyson & Denise Nixon



Mark Your Calendars

- 1 New Years Day - Church Office & TWDS Closed
- 5 GCSNC Return to school
- 6 Epiphany
- 11 Church Council Meeting @ 5:30 pm FH
- 19 Martin Luther King Jr. Day - Church Office Closed
- 20 Newsletter article submissions due
- 26 GCSNC Teacher Workday - No School
- 28 Our Table @ Tabernacle @ 5-6:30 pm CLC

Adult Sunday Classes

- Rm 130 Adult Disciples
- Rm 134 Curiosity Class
- CLC Men's Bible Study
- Rm 126 The Parables Class
- CLC Women's Bible Study
- Classes Start at 10-10:45am**

Monthly

- Kids Choir Practice - **Sundays 11 am**
- Alive Praise Band practice - **Sundays 7pm**
- A "Good Start" Bible Study - **Mondays 6am CLC**
- Women's Fitness Fellowship - **Mondays 5:30 pm**
- Cub Scouts / Boy Scouts - **Mondays 6:30 / 7:30 pm**
- Sunshine Circle - **3rd Monday 7pm**
- Men's Basketball Fellowship - **Tues/Thurs 6:30 pm**
- Kids' Tumbling - **Tuesdays 4:15 pm**
- Backpack Ministry - **Wednesdays**
- Quilt Ministry - **2nd Wednesday 10 am**
- Youth Group - **Wednesdays 6:30 pm (no summer)**
- Chancel Choir practice - **Wednesday 6:30 pm**
- Our Table @ Tabernacle - **4th Wednesday 5 - 6:30 pm CLC**
- Methodist Men - **2nd Sunday 8 am (no summer) FH**
- Fellowship & Friendship Circle - **2nd Thursday 2 pm**
- Campus Life Youth - **Thursdays 4:30 pm**

Church Council Meeting 2026

5:30 PM Fellowship Hall - Dinner Served
January 11th | February TBD | March 8th | April 12th



**COME TO
OUR TABLE
@TABERNACLE**

RETURNING SOON
 Wednesday, January 28th

FREE DINNER

Every 4th Wednesday of each month

5:00-6:30PM

— EVERYONE WELCOME —

Community Meal

Join us to welcome
 our community...
 ...setup, serve, clean
 up, and tear down.

Contact Matt & Emily
 Stevenson to assist in setup,
 serving, and cleanup.
 (704)213-0035

come **serve** with us

KIDS MINISTRY

We're looking for teachers, helpers, and leaders to serve in Sunday School and other children's programs. Contact Allie Roth at 336-813-2133.

FIND YOUR PLACE TO SERVE

We seek to give our best to our guests. There are multiple ways you can serve on Sunday mornings and beyond to make our church a welcoming place for all who worship with us. To discuss opportunities, please contact Pastor Joe 336-355-0539.

MEMORIALS & HONORARIUMS

In Loving Memory of Kay Kiger by

Warren & Paula Ginn
Rumsey & Anne Helms
Ronnie & Glenda Stout
Alan & Marie Byrd
Jerry & Terry Spence
Sarah Turner & family
James & Bonnie Stout
Charlotte Fogleman
Glenn & Tommy Cook
Frank & Diana Hairr
Patsy Helms & Gary Coble
Tabernacle Card Group
William & Virginia Faulk

Bryan & Angela Tucker
Floyd Fogleman
Loretta Allred
Sherry Proctor
Andy & Michelle Griffin
Larry & Annette Heath
Ellen Blake
Alan & Rhonda Branson
Sharon & Jackie Neece
Don & Patsy Phillips
Jimmy & Janice Horney
Linda Fields & family
Neal & Yvonne Maske
Kyle & Bonnie Harris

Mary Sue Laws
Celyn Holt
Friendship & Fellowship Circles
Ed & Peggy Christenbury
Steve & Karen Redmon
Jimmy & Karen Moore
Paula Henson
Bob & Joyce Sosnowski
Vicky Wheeler
Harry & Mary Griffin
Doris Brien
Tim & Wendy Lawson

In Loving Memory of Helen Wilson by

Warren & Paula Ginn
Rumsey & Anne Helms
Ronnie & Glenda Stout
Alan & Marie Byrd
Jerry & Terry Spence
Charlotte Fogleman
David & Carolyn Lineberry
Patsy Helms

Paul & Rebecca Sheffield
Floyd Fogleman
Loretta Allred
Andy & Michelle Griffin
Larry & Annette Heath
Jerry & Deborah Keys
Jimmy & Janice Horney
Friendship & Fellowship Circles

Ellen Blake
Ed & Peggy Christenbury
Jimmy & Karen Moore
Vicky Wheeler
Harry & Mary Griffin
Doris Brien
James & Rhonda Lang

In Loving Memory of S.F. & Mary Lou Kiger by

Jenny & Charlie Johnson

In Loving Memory of Paul & Violet Henson by

Paula Henson

In Loving Memory of Phyllis O'Daniel

Chancel Choir

In Loving Memory of Gary & Carrie Kirkman by

Harold & Judy Kirkman

In Loving Memory of Howard Kirkman by

Harold & Judy Kirkman

In Loving Memory of Jay's Mom & Dad at Christmas by

Jay & Lynda Gordon

In Honor of Jay's brother & sisters by

Jay & Lynda Gordon

In Loving Memory of Vance Neece by

Mary Neece

In Loving Memory of Perry White, Jr.

Rumsey & Anne Helms
Jimmy & Karen Moore
Chancel Choir

In Loving Memory of Roger Johnson by

Charlotte Fogleman
David & Carolyn Lineberry

In Loving Memory of Chris Helms by

Patsy Helms

In Loving Memory of Larry Proctor by

Don & Patsy Phillips

In Loving Memory of Pat Ross by

Paula Henson

In Loving Memory of George Kiger by

Charlie & Jennie Johnson