

Annual Update 2026

An update from Elders on how we are helping
people love and live for Jesus,

together.

Members 645



Community Groups 80

Baptisms 9



STORIES OF LIFE CHANGE



"The Gathering and the Springs have been blessings I never knew I needed so badly.

The friendships and relationships I've built through these communities have been unlike any I've experienced before. **They've challenged me in ways that other relationships haven't, pushing me to grow in my faith, confront my shortcomings, and become a better man.** I've found people who aren't afraid to have difficult conversations, hold me accountable, and encourage me to pursue a deeper relationship with Christ.

These relationships have shown me what it truly means to have a community that genuinely cares about who you are and who you're becoming.

I'm incredibly grateful for the impact these groups have had on my life and the men God has placed in it."

CAL LOCKHART

"When I started Re:generation, I was desperate for change, seeking to regain control of my life.

As I committed myself in the daily process of engaging in Christ-centered activities, I **discovered a relationship with Jesus that surpassed anything I had known before.**

Along the way, I also found a community of fellow believers, men who truly understood the battles I faced and were dedicated to growing together in faith. In those shared struggles, I learned that **healing wasn't just about mending my brokenness; it was about transformation.**

As it says in 2 Corinthians 5:17, "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!" **Through God's grace and the support of those around me, I wasn't just piecing my life back together; I was being given a new life in Christ."**

MIKE HOPPER



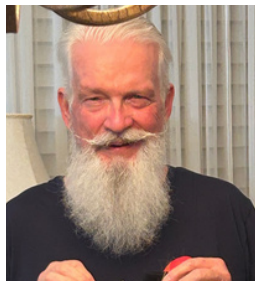
"Having spent many years in pastoral ministry, my personal experience with community groups was very limited. That has dramatically changed since becoming a member of the Springs. God lovingly and graciously put together a group that I have the joy of sharing in and leading today.

The real joy, beauty, and benefit of community group life was recently etched into my heart when several members of our group were together overseas on vacation. As a life-threatening medical condition dramatically changed the circumstances of their trip, God's orchestration of each and every detail of the extended journey never ceased to amaze me as calls, texts, and dozens of messages were relayed in real time with thousands of miles of distance and seven hours of time difference separating us.

While genuine needs of our other CG members here at home were present, the burdens of all were carried by prayer and (if possible) personal contact. **It was glorious.** Many others outside of our group, friends and fellow church members, made up the divine team of support for those in greatest need at the time. Truly, the ways of God are past finding out!

I am truly grateful for the daily opportunities that the Lord gives me to see what spiritual community really means and is."

RAYMOND SHOCKEY



COMMUNITY GROUP MEMBERS

Raymond & Elaine Shockey
Jeff & Elaine Moyer
Paula Leverett
Jamie & Michael Brewer
Shawna Weyers
Fran Roth & Aaron Dopp
Dan & Annie Haupt
Mary Dischinger





"Today I'm proclaiming Jesus as my Lord and Savior. The obvious question is, how does a 70 year old man just now find God? The truth is I was never looking for Him. Life got in the way....

Fortunately my wife (a saved believer for 40 years) kept some form of God in our relationship and I began questioning my many blessings. In November of 2024, I had my Holy Spirit moment, God opened my eyes and heart. **That day I heard Him call, and because I heard Him, I believed Him, and because I believed Him, I knew I belonged to Him. I'm thankful He has patience."**

RICK SCARINE



This summer, 5th grader Marie Earnest invited her neighbor to join her for the 4th and 5th Grade Summer Bible Challenge. Her neighbor enthusiastically attended all four weeks!

When her neighbor's mom heard about the experience, she reached out to Marie's mom, Julie, and asked if they could begin reading the Bible together with another neighbor.

What started as a simple invitation grew into a weekly Bible study for the remaining two months of summer, marking the first time these neighbors had read Scripture on their own! They hope to continue this rhythm again next summer.

Julie Earnest helped bring the Summer Bible Challenge to life, encouraging students to spend time in God's Word beyond Sunday mornings. Throughout the summer, she received videos of kids reciting Scripture and completing Bible devotionals at home. Each week, she also witnessed 4th and 5th grade boys and girls growing in their ability to navigate their Bibles and confidently recite Scripture from memory.

What a beautiful picture of how God can use one simple invitation to grow a love for His Word in both kids and adults!

MARIE EARNEST





Although I was raised in a Christian home and earned a degree in theology, hard seasons of life recently showed me that I did not truly know God for myself.

When adulthood brought challenges, my faith crumbled, and I sought comfort through alcohol, isolation, and withdrawal from my wife and sons. I became consumed by purposelessness, fear, anger and depression until I had to walk away from a career I loved because I could no longer cope with the demands and stress of everyday life.

Convinced that God had abandoned me, I grew to hate Him, but He continued pursuing me until I reached rock bottom and realized how desperately I needed Him.

Through re:generation, I sought freedom from destructive habits, but **God also used its beautiful community of grace, radical transparency and loving reconciliation to break through my calloused, embittered heart.**

Though I still struggle, I now see God working through the struggle, teaching me to rely on Him in everything, and I recognize how deeply loved and blessed I am by Him, by my wife, Heather, who has fought for and loved me through the darkest years of my life, and by our sons, Luke and Jack, who fill my life with joy every day.

Today, I know that through Christ's blood and God's grace, I am no longer defined by my failures but am His deeply loved, eternally accepted and irrevocably forgiven son. Soli Deo Gloria

JOSH DAVIS





We are so grateful to see a group of our high school upperclassmen sacrificially give up their Sunday mornings to serve each week during the 8:30 service, helping us love and lead middle school students to Jesus.

It's been such a testament to what God has done in the lives of these "cool kids" as they are embracing this role to serve and invest in these younger students! By giving them ownership, leadership roles, and opportunities to take initiative, we've watched them lead with such responsibility, intentionality, and care.

They aren't serving simply because they have to, but by seeing and understanding a need, they genuinely want to! They remember what it was like to be in middle school and want to create a welcoming environment where younger students know they belong and have a place to know and follow Jesus.

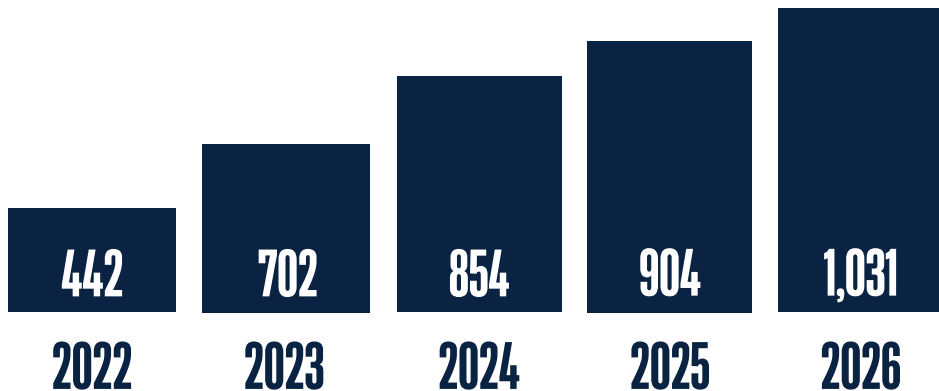
It's disciples making disciples, and that is totally our heart within our Student ministry. **We want our younger students to witness what it looks like to follow Jesus through the example of older students and alongside their small group leaders.** What a great place for discipleship to start!

**SELAH CLAYTON, LILLY PHIPPS, BARRETT RAGAN,
MILES JAMES & JUDE SNYDER**



SUNDAY SNAPSHOT

EVERY NUMBER HAS A NAME,
EVERY NAME HAS A STORY,
EVERY STORY MATTERS TO GOD.



AVERAGE WEEKLY SUNDAY NUMBERS 2026

50

ONLINE

251

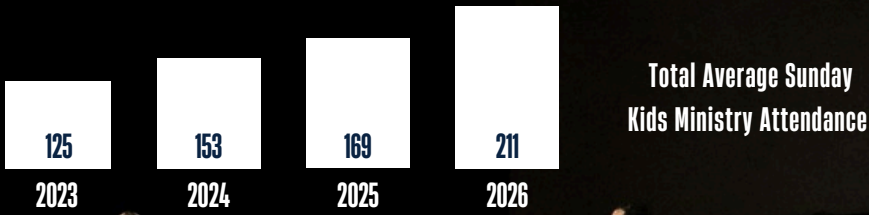
KIDS MINISTRY

730

ADULT WORSHIP



SPRINGS KIDS



CELEBRATIONS

- Adding **portable temporary walls** has allowed us to manage classrooms better and feel confident that space is not currently a constraint to discipling kids!
- The **new system of leaders owning their spot & finding a swap for themselves** has been a great success. We acknowledge this places an additional responsibility on leaders, yet it is the most effective way we have found to disciple the most kids consistently.



VOLUNTEER NEEDS

- Currently we have **109** volunteers serving on an every other Sunday rotation:
 - **55 Volunteers** serving **1st & 3rd Sundays**
 - **54 Volunteers** serving **2nd & 4th Sundays**
- We are actively working to recruit **13** additional leaders to help with continued growth in our Kids Ministry.

MID WEEK SNAPSHOT

RE:GENERATION
RECOVERY

49



THE GATHERING
YOUNG ADULTS

73



RE:JENEGAGE
MARRIAGE

36



CORPORATE
PRAYER

11



SPRINGS
STUDENTS

112



MEN'S BIBLE
STUDY

35



WOMEN'S BIBLE
STUDY

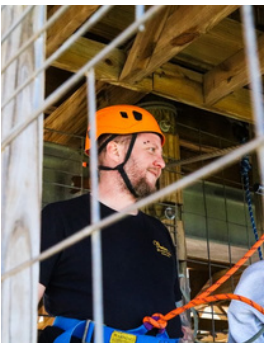
100



MID WEEK CHILD CARE

- Per month there are **55-60 hours** of childcare provided to our midweek & Sunday ministries.
- We serve about **75** kids weekly.
- On average, per month, we provide childcare for between **20-25 events**.
- **5** of these events occur weekly.
- We also provide childcare for about 3-5 one-off events per month.
(i.e. Membership Class, Family Meeting)





External Focus

CELEBRATING A YEAR OF SERVING LOCALLY & GLOBALLY

This year, we continued to deepen relationships with our ministry partners, creating meaningful opportunities for our church family to serve, encourage, and share the love of Christ in our community and around the world.



We are grateful for the many members of our church family who have faithfully served, prayed, given, and built relationships through External Focus this year. Whether celebrating a child's birthday, encouraging a foster family, blessing a teacher, or equipping an international pastor, each act of service is an opportunity to reflect the love of Christ.

We look forward to another year of growing these partnerships and engaging missionally, both across the street and around the world!

LOCAL PARTNERS

CARL SCHURZ ELEMENTARY – 4 YEARS OF PARTNERSHIP

Our partnership with Carl Schurz continues to grow stronger each year!

This year, our church family served students, teachers, and families in meaningful ways:

- Celebrated students with monthly birthday lunches, gifts, and treats through a dedicated team of six volunteers.
- Helped celebrate the school's 100th anniversary alongside more than **300** students and community members.
- Encouraged teachers through monthly appreciation treats, more than **500** homemade Christmas cookies, and our third annual back-to-school staff prayer blessing.
- Supported campus beautification and maintenance through our men's ministry.
- Partnered with the PTA to wrap Christmas gifts for students.
- Provided testing snacks and more than **75** summer hygiene bags for families.
- Continued faithful weekly prayer with school faculty.

What began as a partnership has grown into a beautiful relationship built on consistent service, prayer, and encouragement.



YOUNGLIVES – 12 YEARS OF PARTNERSHIP

For 12 years, we have had the privilege of supporting teen moms through YoungLives. This year, **several women continued serving as mentors, investing personally in young mothers.** Our church also provided meals for monthly club gatherings and hosted a summer celebration on our playground, creating opportunities for connection and community.

1HOPE FOR KIDS – 8 YEARS OF PARTNERSHIP

Our partnership with 1Hope continues to provide opportunities to care for foster children and the families who love them. Highlights included:

- Hosted our second annual Parents' Day Out with more than **100** church volunteers.
- Provided **75** Christmas bears to bless children in foster care.
- Encouraged foster families through monthly notes from our volunteer Encouragement Team.
- Hosted our first free haircut event for foster children and caregivers, partnering with two talented stylists from our church.
- Hosted Trust-Based Relational Intervention (TBRI) training to equip foster families to respond compassionately to children who have experienced trauma.

Through these efforts, we continue to demonstrate Christ's love through practical care and encouragement.



INTERNATIONAL PARTNERS

This year marked an exciting step in our international missions efforts as we selected two ministry partners: **Barnabas Ministries** and **All Peoples Lighthouse Church** in Puerto Morelos, Mexico.



BARNABAS MINISTRIES

OPPRESSED CHURCH IN ASIA

This year we sent a teaching team to Thailand to equip pastors serving house churches in China. We also provided much-needed respite for ministry leaders.

Looking ahead, we anticipate sending another team in April and sponsoring an entire pastoral training session, investing in the growth and encouragement of 140 church leaders.

ALL PEOPLES CHURCH

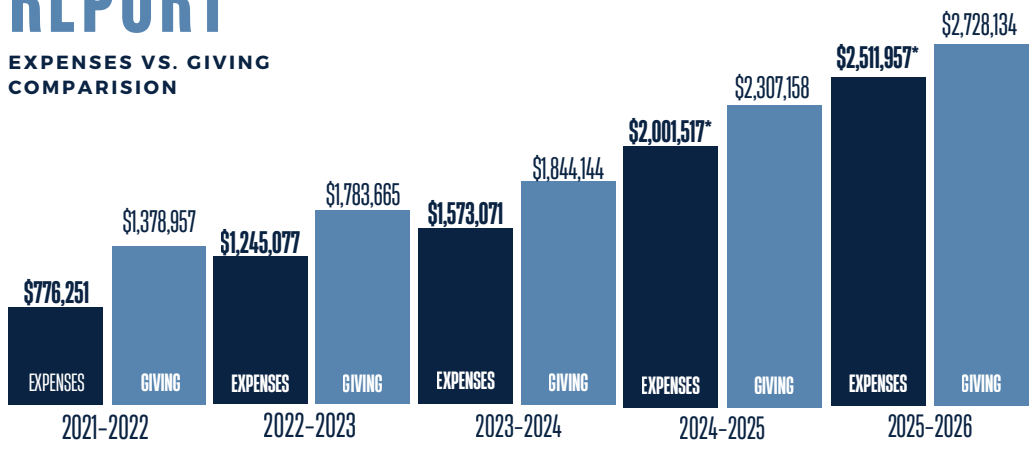
PUERTO MORELOS, MEXICO

We sent a team to visit and evaluate this international church, which serves its community through bilingual worship in English and Spanish.

We are excited about the opportunity to build this new partnership and **anticipate sending our first mission team early next year.**

FINANCIAL REPORT

EXPENSES VS. GIVING COMPARISON

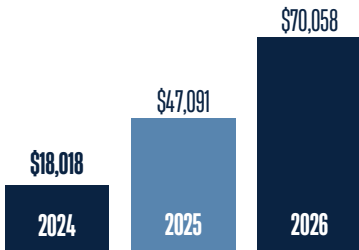


PROJECTED BUDGET 2026-2027

EXPECTED OPERATING GIVING	\$2,986,112
EXPECTED OPERATING EXPENSES	\$2,985,995
MINISTRIES	\$315,058 (10%)
EXTERNAL FOCUS	\$314,690 (11%)
OPERATIONS	\$660,294 (22%)
STAFF SUPPORT	\$1,695,954 (57%)
NET OPERATING INCOME	\$117

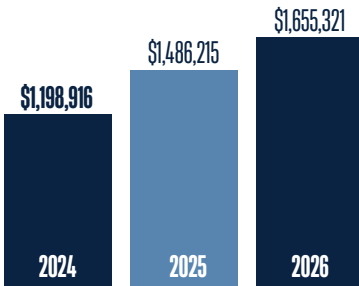
WE CALCULATED OUR PROJECTED OPERATING INCOME FROM GIVING BY AVERAGING THE MONTHLY CONTRIBUTIONS OVER THE PAST YEAR (JULY 2025 TO JUNE 2026). TO ACCOUNT FOR PROJECTED ANNUAL GROWTH, WE THEN APPLIED A 12% INCREASE TO THIS AVERAGE.

*DOES NOT INCLUDE THE ANNEX RENOVATION INVESTMENT



432 RELIEF FUND

In addition to operating costs, members can give toward the Springs **432 Relief Fund** which seeks to wisely provide for the basic needs (food, clothing, shelter, medical care) of members during financial hardship.

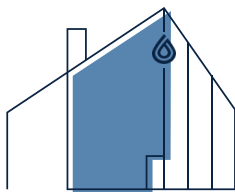


BUILDING FUND

We have continued to create a building fund where people can give towards a future building opportunity. Since 2024, we have built a fund of \$1,655,321 toward future building opportunities. This includes funds set aside by the Springs, gifts from our initial Finding Home campaign, and additional contributions over the past year.

**BY GOD'S GRACE AND
YOUR CONTINUED
GENEROSITY,
WE ARE A
DEBT-FREE CHURCH.**





FINDING HOME

MAKING ROOM FOR WHAT GOD IS DOING

EVERY SEAT IS A STORY



WE ARE A FAMILY WITH OR WITHOUT A BUILDING.

But as our family grows, we are seeking a place to call home.

By God's grace, the Springs has grown more than 100% over the past 5 years. Behind every number is a person with a story, and we want to faithfully love, connect and disciple every person God entrusts to our care.

We have been incredibly blessed by our partnership with McKenna, but we are approaching the limits of our current facility. While we have worked to maximize our space, these are short-term solutions.

We believe the time has come to pursue a permanent home.

Our vision is not simply for a larger place to gather on Sundays. It is for a home that helps us make disciples every day of the week. A place for worship, biblical training, prayer, pastoral care, community, and equipping the next generation.

FINDING HOME PROGRESS

 **25**

PROPERTIES REVIEWED



\$1.65M

SAVED TOWARD OUR
FUTURE HOME



WHERE WE STAND

With the full support of Elders, we are actively exploring land and existing facility opportunities throughout New Braunfels. While purchasing land and building appears to be our most likely path, we are open to wherever God may lead.

Our Real Estate Team has reviewed approximately 25 properties, but we have not yet found the right opportunity. We will continue to search diligently, plan wisely, and trust God's timing.

If anything changes, we will update you.

LOOKING AHEAD

There is currently \$1.65M set aside toward our future home. We are not launching a new giving campaign at this time, but we invite you to pray for wisdom, unity, and God's provision. We additionally ask you to consider giving above and beyond as He leads.

Our mission has never depended on a building. We care more about being His Body than a permanent building. But, we believe a home could help us live out our mission for generations to come.

WAY OF FAITH

"THEY DEVOTED THEMSELVES TO THE APOSTLES' TEACHING AND THE FELLOWSHIP, TO THE BREAKING OF BREAD AND THE PRAYERS." ACTS 2:42



FOLLOWING JESUS ISN'T JUST ABOUT WHAT WE BELIEVE. IT'S ABOUT HOW WE LIVE.

From the start, the early church didn't just share a common faith. They shared a common way of life. Acts 2:42 shows they were devoted not only to the apostles' teaching but also to the prayers and spiritual disciplines that shaped the habits of their everyday lives.

That is the heart behind our **Communal Way of Faith**. A long-term vision to help our church family incorporate the historic spiritual practices of Christianity into everyday life, so that we might love and live for Jesus, together.



OUR 10 PRACTICES

Sabbath - stopping to delight in God

Prayer - personal & communal with God

Scripture - immersing in God's Word

Fasting - training our desires

Solitude & Silence - space to hear God

Community - sharing life with others

Service - loving through acts of mercy

Generosity - releasing what we have

Witness - living on mission

Worship - orienting our hearts to God

WHERE WE BEGAN SABBATH

Our first communal practice was Sabbath: learning to stop from our work, hurry and distractions to delight in God and be present with one another.

Through a four-week teaching series and Community Group guided discussions, we explored what it looks like to build a rhythm of rest into our lives. Our hope is that Sabbath will increasingly become a shared rhythm that marks our church family.

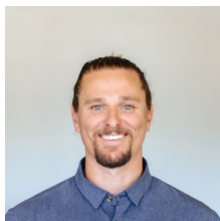
WHAT'S NEXT PRAYER

JANUARY 2027

We are learning that **lasting formation takes more than a teaching series**. It takes intentionality, repetition and encouragement over time.

Beginning in January 2027, we will establish an annual rhythm of focusing on one practice each year. Each January, we will spend four weeks in Sunday teaching and in Community Group learning and practicing a spiritual discipline together. Throughout the year, we will also provide ongoing reminders and opportunities to reinforce these rhythms in everyday life.

Springs Elders & Staff



JOHN ALMQUIST
LEAD PASTOR & ELDER



OSCAR AMAYA
ELDER



BRANDON SHAMBLIN
ELDER



TODD SMITH
ELDER

Full Time Staff



JEN ADAMS
KIDS DIRECTOR



JOHN ALMQUIST
LEAD PASTOR & ELDER



DILLON DEES
FACILITIES & FRONTLINES COORDINATOR



JONATHAN DENNIS
DIRECTOR OF PASTORAL CARE



JOSHUA DODSON
MARRIAGE & RECOVERY DIRECTOR



DUSTIN FLUECKIGER
DIRECTOR OF FAMILY & FORMATION



JOHN GROVES
WORSHIP DIRECTOR



JENA MCJUNKIN
STUDENTS & YOUNG ADULT WOMEN'S DIRECTOR



LOU PHILLIPS
YOUNG ADULTS DIRECTOR



ANDY PHIPPS
DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY



GARRISON PRICE
MEN'S MINISTRY DIRECTOR



BRITTANY SANDERS
CONNECTING DIRECTOR



LINDA SMITH
EXTERNAL FOCUS & MINISTRY
COORDINATOR

Part Time Staff



CATE CARDENAS
OFFICE MANAGER



AMANDA PATRICK
COMMUNICATIONS & RECOVERY
COORDINATOR



RACHEL WALTERS
KIDS COORDINATOR

POSITION TO FILL IN 2027

Executive Pastor / Director

We are prayerfully hoping to fill the role of an Executive Pastor / Director within the next year.

Please join us in prayer that the Lord would provide the right person to fill this role and join our church body. We also ask for prayer as we navigate the financial responsibility that comes with adding this position. While we are grateful to be in a healthy financial position, we desire to steward the resources God has entrusted to us with wisdom and care.

NEW TO THE TEAM IN 2025-2026



JOHN GROVES
WORSHIP DIRECTOR

John Groves was born in Austin, Texas, and grew up in Lampasas before making New Braunfels home earlier this year. He and his wife, Alley, have been married for five and a half years and have been part of the Springs family for the past seven months. Before joining our staff, John served as the Worship Minister at The Well Community Church in Argyle, Texas. John came to know Christ during a season of surrender, laying down his passions for music, career and relationships to pursue a deeper relationship with the Lord. Through that season, God transformed his heart as he came to understand the weight of his sin and the beauty of God's grace and the Gospel.

We are grateful for John's heart for worship and his desire to help others know and glorify the Lord. We are excited to see how God uses his gifts and passion to serve our Springs family!



RACHEL WALTERS
KIDS COORDINATOR

Rachel Walters has called New Braunfels home for the past five years and has been part of the Springs family since returning in 2021. Before joining our staff, Rachel served in a variety of roles at private Christian schools, including reception, admissions and office coordination. She and her husband, Daniel, have been married for 27 years and have three children, Grace, Clay and Wyatt. Rachel came to know Christ as a child, and throughout her life, her faith has grown into a deep relationship with and dependence on Him. This fall, she and Daniel are stepping into a new adventure as first-time empty nesters!

Rachel serves our Springs Kids ministry by providing administrative support and will also help care for our broader church body by coordinating and staffing childcare needs across our various ministries and events.



JOSHUA DODSON
MARRIAGE & RECOVERY DIRECTOR

Joshua Dodson is originally from Lubbock, Texas, and has called New Braunfels home for the past 12 years. He and his family have been part of the Springs for eight years. Before joining our staff, Joshua worked as a Partner Account Manager for a software company, though much of his career and passion has been in the natural health industry. He and his wife, Erin, have been married for 23 years and have five children.

Joshua came to know Christ during a difficult season of addiction when men who faithfully modeled Jesus and invested in discipling him helped him discover the hope found in Christ and ultimately surrender his life to Him.

Joshua serves as the Director of re|engage and re:generation, our marriage and recovery ministries, helping individuals and couples pursue healing, freedom and deeper dependence on Christ. We are grateful for Joshua's heart for discipleship and excited to see how God uses his story and gifts to serve our church family!

JOINING US IN 2027



AUSTIN MANKIN
STUDENT & FAMILY DIRECTOR

Austin Mankin is originally from Coppell, Texas, and has called New Braunfels home for the past four years. He and his family have been part of the Springs since moving here. Before joining our staff, Austin served as a Student Pastor in Dallas and most recently as the Elementary Camp Director at T Bar M Camps. He and his wife, Kirby, have been married for eight years and have three children, Harvey, Maverick and Landry. Austin came to know Christ in fourth grade when a youth leader shared the Gospel with him and helped him understand that salvation is not something we can earn, but a free gift of God's grace. Austin will serve as our Student & Family Director, helping shepherd students and families as they grow in their faith and follow Jesus together.

