



G>>THER

A Movement of Radical Generosity

This Book Belongs to:

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Dear Apex Baptist Church Family,

For 153 years, God has been faithful to Apex Baptist Church. Generations before us gathered here to worship Jesus, hear His Word, share the gospel, make disciples, and send people out on mission. They prayed, served, sacrificed, and gave so that people they would never meet could hear the good news of Jesus.

Now, God has entrusted that mission to us.

Jesus told His disciples, “You will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth” (Acts 1:8). That same mission belongs to us today. We gather around the gospel, grow as disciples, and go so that others can know Jesus.

That is the heart behind GATHER: A Movement of Radical Generosity. Gather is about more than raising money or improving facilities. It is about discipleship. Jesus said, “For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also” (Matthew 6:21). Our prayer is not simply that God would increase our giving, but that He would deepen our faith, shape our hearts, and make us a more generous and surrendered people.

In this season, we believe God is calling us to do two things:

We want to make room here.

God has given us a footprint in the heart of this community, and we want to steward it well. We want to maximize the space we have so that more people can gather, more children and students can be discipled, more families can find biblical community, and more people can hear the gospel.

The goal is not simply a fuller building. The goal is for more people to know and follow Jesus. But the mission Jesus gave His church will never allow us to think only about ourselves.

We want to live sent.

We want to reach people here, and we want to send people from here. We want to strengthen the daily ministry of Apex Baptist Church while expanding our gospel reach through missions, leadership development, and planting churches/campuses. We want to live as sent disciple makers in the fields God has uniquely given us.

Who can we reach here? And who can we send from here? That is the heartbeat of Gather.

So over these coming weeks, I'm asking you to pray before you decide anything. Ask God a simple question: "What would You have me do?" Ask Him to grow your faith. Ask Him to give you a greater love for people who do not yet know Jesus. Ask Him how He would have you use what He has placed in your hands to advance the gospel.

For 153 years, God has used Apex Baptist Church to proclaim the gospel and make disciples. We are grateful for that history, but our mission is not finished.

There are still people in our community who need Jesus. There are still families who need biblical community. There are still places that need healthy churches. There are still people who need to be sent. So, church, let's go.

Let's fill the space God has given us with people hearing the gospel. Let's raise up disciples who make disciples. Let's hold what God has given us with open hands. And let's eagerly step into the fields He has uniquely entrusted to us.

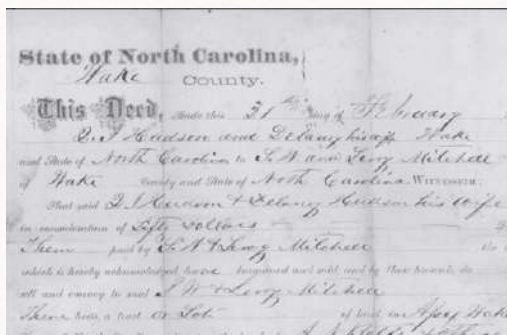
Let's gather. Let's make room. Let's give generously. And let's live sent. For the glory of God and the advance of the gospel.

Soli Deo Gloria!

Josh A. Cook



153 years of HISTORY



The church was officially founded in 1873, the same year the town of Apex was founded. There were 28 founding members.



Sunday School enrollment hit 400 in 1940 and a new Sunday School Annex was built in 1951, with classrooms for teaching God's word.



The Church met in homes in 1869 under the care of Rev. A.D. Blackwood.



In 1874, the first church building was constructed, and by 1880, membership had grown to 97. Evangelism work continued to bear fruit through baptism and conversion in the early 1900s, and it became clear that the church needed a new home.

In 1912, the church took a giant leap forward with a new sanctuary on Salem Street, and the cornerstone of the 1912 building can be seen behind the bell outside our current facility.

By 1961, more space was needed as there were over 600 in Sunday School on Sunday mornings, and additional classrooms were built to accommodate the church's growth.



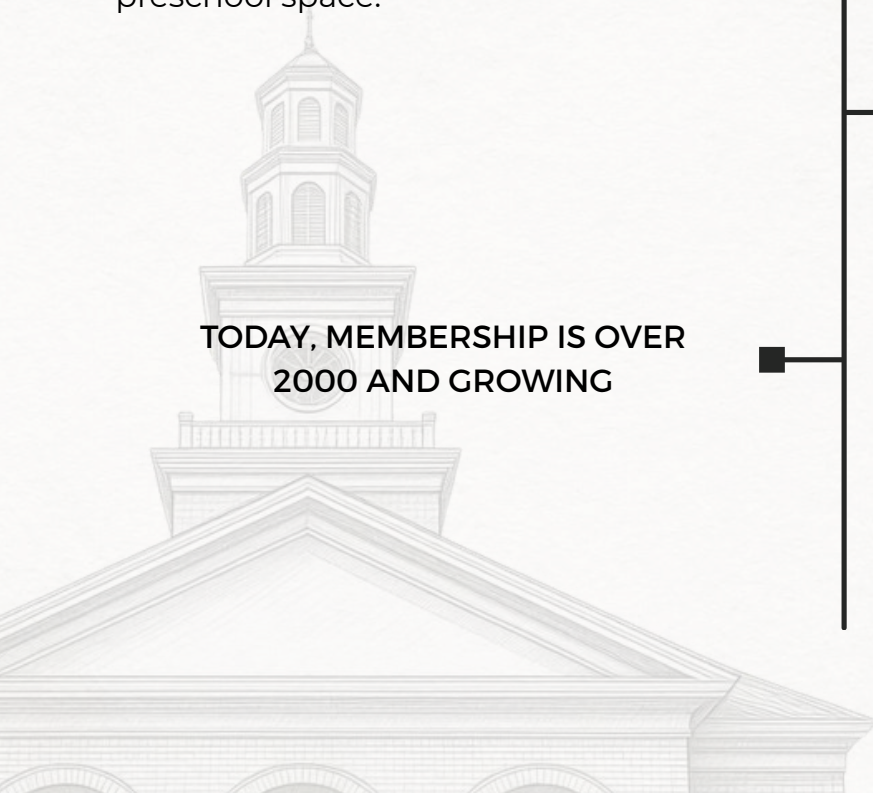
By the 1980s, the current sanctuary needed to be expanded and a new, larger sanctuary was built in 1988 and still stands today.



Attendance crested over 1000 in the early 1990s, and a Family Life Center began construction in 1999 with a fellowship hall, gym, classrooms, and preschool space.



TODAY, MEMBERSHIP IS OVER 2000 AND GROWING





EXPERIENCING LIFE CHANGE *together*

GATHERINGS



1,878 AVERAGE SUNDAY ATTENDANCE

659 FIRST-TIME GUESTS

2,946 CHRISTMAS EVE ATTENDANCE

3,385 EASTER WEEKEND ATTENDANCE

Living on **MISSION**



We believe the church is called to live sent. This year, our people showed up, serving communities near and far, partnering with others to meet tangible needs, build relationships, plant churches, and point people to Jesus. From local projects through Love Wake to mission trips around the world, we're grateful for every opportunity to be the hands and feet of Christ.

5 Church Planting Partners

DECLARATION CHURCH — BUIES CREEK, NC

OASIS CHURCH — CHARLOTTE, NC

LIVING STONE CHURCH — APEX, NC

WOOD CROSS DISCIPLE CHURCH — APEX, NC

PEACE IN CHRIST CHURCH — APEX, NC

15 Mission Trips

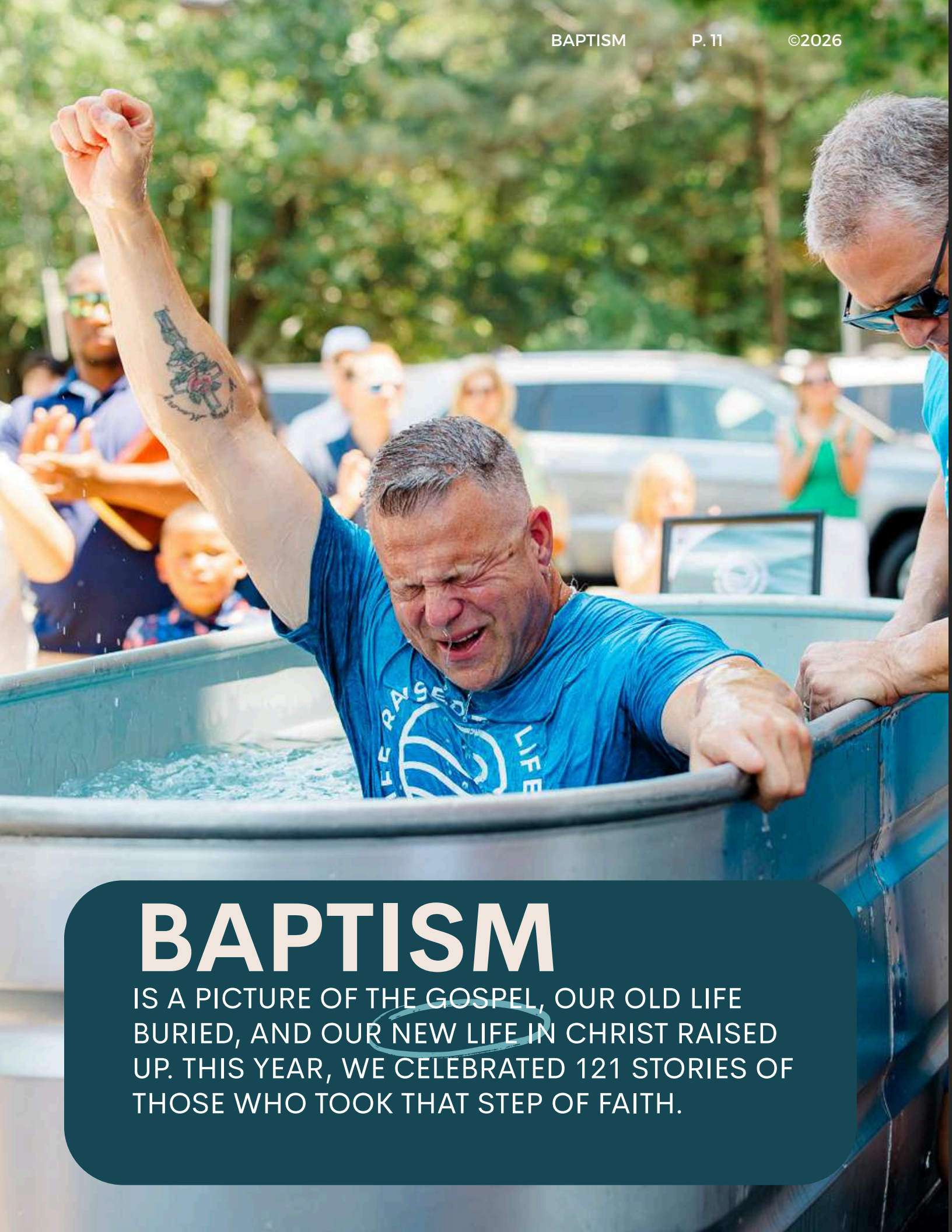
115 Participants

LOVE WAKE

- 20 PROJECTS
- 260 VOLUNTEERS
- PARTNERED WITH 14 MINISTRY PARTNERS

BACK TO SCHOOL

- OVER 300 BACKPACKS AND SHOES DONATED
- 135 LUNCHBOXES GIVEN AWAY
- 42 HAIRCUTS
- 66 VOLUNTEERS



BAPTISM

IS A PICTURE OF THE GOSPEL, OUR OLD LIFE BURIED, AND OUR NEW LIFE IN CHRIST RAISED UP. THIS YEAR, WE CELEBRATED 121 STORIES OF THOSE WHO TOOK THAT STEP OF FAITH.



CHURCH PLANTING

The continual planting of new churches is the most crucial strategy for (1) the numerical growth of the body of Christ in a city or county and (2) the continual corporate renewal and revival of the existing church. With approximately 1.1 million in Wake County alone who are not connected to an evangelical church, the need for gospel-centered, Bible-believing church plants could not be greater.

Apex Baptist has been preparing over the past year in several ways to move toward a sustainable church-planting strategy to reach the lost in our surrounding communities. First, we established a leadership school, which includes a preaching lab, to raise up men and women who are passionate and equipped to be disciple-making disciples. Second, we have connected with five local church planters to continue learning and partnering in church-planting strategies, including partnerships with several ethnic-minority church plants.

Charles Spurgeon understood the connection between the Great Commission and church planting and encouraged his congregation to leave his church to plant others. Here is how he encouraged members in the spring of 1865:

"WE ENCOURAGE OUR MEMBERS TO LEAVE US TO FOUND OTHER CHURCHES; NAY, WE SEEK TO PERSUADE THEM TO DO IT. WE ASK THEM TO SCATTER THROUGHOUT THE LAND TO BECOME THE GOODLY SEED, WHICH GOD SHALL BLESS. I BELIEVE THAT SO LONG AS WE DO THIS WE SHALL PROSPER."

CONNECTIONS & *Discipleship*



75

NEW MEMBERS JOINED THE CHURCH

9 LIFE GROUPS STARTED LAST YEAR

105 DISCOVER APEX ATTENDEES



NEXT *Gen*



Kids Camp
734
KIDS ATTENDED



394
VOLUNTEERS



Baptisms
58
6TH-12TH GRADERS WERE
BAPTIZED



224 WINTER WEEKEND STUDENTS
110 WINTER WEEKEND VOLUNTEERS
162 STUDENT CAMP ATTENDEES
18 STUDENT CAMP LEADERS



COLLEGE & *Young Adults*

Our young adults had over **84** gospel conversations throughout the year!
We had **26** young adults on our CYA Retreat.

This year, our College & Young Adults Ministry has experienced exciting growth as more young adults have found community, built lasting relationships, and taken meaningful steps in their faith. Week after week, we have watched this generation grow in their love for Jesus and become more passionate about following Him and living out their faith. What makes this growth so exciting is not simply the number of young adults attending, but the stories of transformation happening within our community. Behind every new face is a story, and behind every story is a life being shaped by the love of Christ. Ian's story is one powerful example of the life change God is bringing about through CYA.





What started as a weekly leadership team meeting became a moment that would change the life of one young man forever. The leaders of CYA noticed Ian sitting alone at a gas station. After spending some time talking with him, Thomas, one of the leaders, asked if he could pray for him. As they left, Callie, another CYA leader, invited Ian to a CYA Bible study. Ian told her he couldn't. He was living out of his car and didn't have enough gas to get there. Callie bought him a tank of gas, and Ian made it to the Bible study that Tuesday night. After that night, Ian never left. The church quickly came around him, providing practical support in some of his most difficult moments. They helped pay some of his bills, gave him gift cards, and even provided a hotel room for him during a snowstorm. Through these simple acts of love and generosity, Ian experienced the church being the hands and feet of Jesus in his life. Ian grew up in the church, but he wrestled deeply with the Gospel and what it truly meant to follow Jesus. Through CYA, God began drawing Ian back to Himself. Over time, Ian discovered his love for Jesus and came to know Him as his personal Savior.

"This church has pointed me back to Jesus and saved me in so many ways." -Ian M.

Today, Ian serves on the CYA leadership team and is passionate about using his story to help others encounter Jesus.

"My story is supposed to help others come to Jesus. That's what a story is for."
-Ian M.

What began with a simple invitation and a tank of gas became a turning point in Ian's life and a powerful reminder of how God can use ordinary moments of obedience to change a life forever.



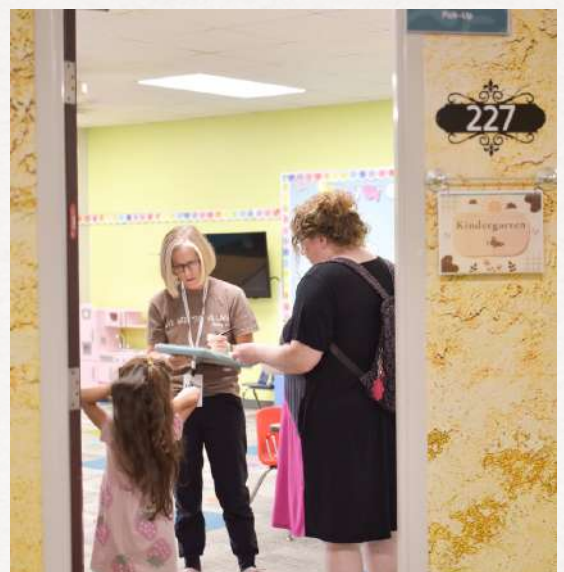
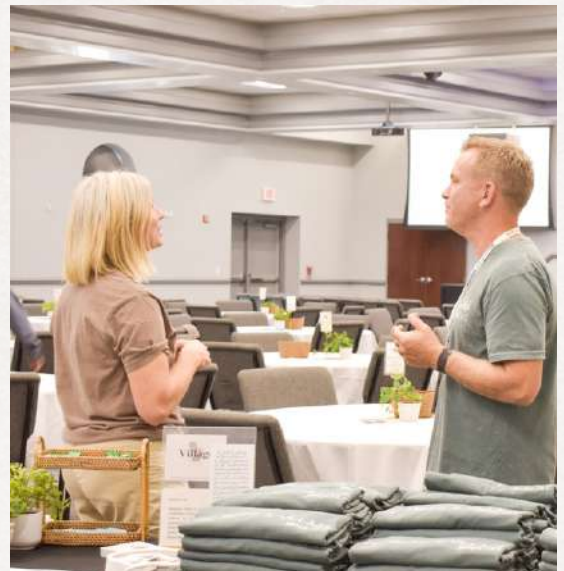
MINISTRY *Highlights*



This year, Village 127 celebrated five years of ministry together, and as we look back, we are amazed by the ways the Lord has faithfully moved through this ministry. What started as a small community of families has grown into a place where foster, adoptive, and kinship families can find encouragement, practical support, and people who truly understand the journey. Over the past year alone, Village 127 has had the privilege of celebrating **7 adoptions** finalized and **11 foster care or SAFE Family placements**, creating **5 WRAP Teams** to surround families with tangible support, celebrating **2 children reunifying** with their biological families, and welcoming an average of **70 foster and adoptive parents** and **85 children** to our monthly gatherings.

We have also been blessed by **83 volunteers** who have said yes to serving these families through our monthly meetings and WRAP Teams. And in December, the Village came together to give away more than 2,500 toys to foster and adoptive families, social workers, and community nonprofits, helping make Christmas a little brighter for children and families who needed it most. Every number represents a story—a child welcomed into a safe home, a family supported, a parent reminded that they are not alone, and a church community choosing to live out what it means to care for the vulnerable.

As we celebrate five years of Village 127, we are incredibly grateful for all the Lord has done and even more expectant for what He will continue to do as we faithfully say yes to whatever He puts in front of us.



This year, our Apex Baptist Spanish Ministry focused on three key objectives: serving our community, equipping families, and living sent. Through Love Wake, we served local teachers, parents, and students by providing Spanish translation and academic communication support. We also participated in Back-to-School at Salem Middle, assisting Hispanic families in our community.

We continued offering ESL classes every Friday night, helping Spanish speakers improve their English and equipping families with the skills needed to pursue greater opportunities and employment. Our team also lived sent by sharing the gospel and building relationships in Shangri-La Mobile Park, Apex Mobile Estates, Briarwood Farms, Kilt Valley Homes, and at Compare Foods. Throughout the summer, we invited families to Kids Camp, Back-to-School events, and Sunday morning services while sharing the hope of Jesus. Beyond these outreach efforts, our ministry continues to grow through weekly prayer, Tuesday-night discipleship, and Sunday-morning Life Groups. As we look ahead, we plan to launch additional Life Groups with the help of our core leadership team, continuing to make disciples and advance the gospel throughout the Hispanic community.



En primer lugar, pudimos servir a nuestra comunidad a través de Love Wake, ayudando a maestros, padres y estudiantes locales con la traducción al español y la comunicación académica. Además, participamos en el evento de regreso a clases en la escuela Salem Middle y tuvimos la oportunidad de ayudar a muchas familias hispanas.

En segundo lugar, pudimos ofrecer clases de inglés (ESL) todos los viernes por la noche, y muchos hispanohablantes lograron un progreso notable. Las familias recibieron las herramientas necesarias para aprender inglés a un nivel funcional, permitiéndoles así aspirar a mejores oportunidades laborales.

En tercer lugar, nuestro equipo vivió la misión de evangelizar a nuestra comunidad en Shangri-La Mobile Park Homes, Apex Mobile Estates Homes, Briarwood Farms Homes, Kilt Valley Homes y en la tienda local Compare Food. Este verano pudimos invitar a los vecinos de estas zonas al campamento de niños y al evento de regreso a clases, compartiendo con ellos el evangelio de Jesús e invitándolos también a los servicios dominicales. Asimismo, nuestro ministerio en español sigue creciendo gracias a las reuniones semanales de oración, en las que intercedemos por el liderazgo de la iglesia, los ministerios, la misión y visión, la comunidad y las oportunidades para difundir el evangelio entre la población hispana. Nuestra clase de discipulado continúa reuniéndose los martes por la noche con el propósito de capacitar a discípulos que hagan otros discípulos, para la gloria de Dios. Nuestro grupo de vida sigue creciendo los domingos por la mañana, y planeamos iniciar nuevos grupos antes de que termine el año, con el apoyo de nuestro equipo de liderazgo principal.



Since November 2025, we've opened our doors every Friday morning to Mandarin-speaking neighbors learning English alongside volunteers who've come to help and build friendships. We partner with Triangle Chinese Alliance Church: our sister church brings the students, and we provide the space and the one-on-one volunteers. Our halls become classrooms, and our members become some of the first American friends many students make.

The goal is simple, but not small: help Chinese-speaking new immigrants grow confident in everyday English, so language is never a barrier to the truths they're wrestling with. Time together often includes singing hymns and reading Scripture, simple ways to teach English while planting gospel-rich words in students' hearts. Week after week, Apex Baptist volunteers move from vocabulary drills to real conversation, and often from small talk to real trust.

This past spring, that patient work bore amazing fruit! Three students came to faith in Jesus and were baptized at Jordan Lake over the summer. Those transformed lives are a powerful reminder of why we show up every Friday morning, not just to teach English, but to walk alongside men and women seeking something far greater than fluency.





GENEROSITY *Journey*

THIS TOOL IS DESIGNED TO HELP YOU MOVE MONEY FROM BECOMING OR BEING AN IDOL, TO BEING AN AVENUE TO BUILD GOD'S KINGDOM. THE JOURNEY FOCUSES ON THE CONDITION OF OUR HEARTS, WHICH FURTHER TRANSFORMS US INTO THE LIKENESS OF JESUS. EACH STEP OF THE JOURNEY REPRESENTS GROWTH IN A LIFESTYLE OF GENEROSITY AND SACRIFICE.

INITIAL GIVER

An Initial Giver is someone who decides to give for the first time, out of a response to God's Word about giving. This is someone who decides to give something and trust God and the leaders of the church with this gift. They experience the initial joy of putting Jesus' words into action (Matthew 7:24).

CONSISTENT GIVER

A Consistent Giver decides to give on a consistent basis to exercise the discipline of giving as a disciple of Jesus. Often, this giver decides to make their gift an online recurring gift and will be learning the joy of consistency. Non-online givers can be consistent givers as well, of course; it just requires more discipline. They experience the joy of excelling in this grace of giving. (2 Corinthians 8:7).

INTENTIONAL GIVER

An Intentional Giver is someone who thinks about their giving in relation to their other financial priorities. Specifically, they consistently tithe, giving a tenth of their income to the local church, regardless of their circumstances (Malachi 3:10).

This giver starts to make their giving an intentional choice, prioritizing it in relation to other things on which they spend their money.

SURRENDERED GIVER

A Surrendered Giver recognizes that Christ surrendered Himself for us, and therefore we desire to surrender ourselves to Him, in love (Ephesians 5:1-2). This giver would say, "My giving is not just changing my spending and saving. It's also changing me!" They also look at what they're not giving away and ask, "Is it surrendered too?" This informs how they use everything they've been blessed and entrusted with – whether that be through direct monetary giving or through a God-honoring use of an existing resource (i.e., honoring God with the use of your home, etc.).

ETERNAL GIVER

An Eternal Giver sees the eternal impact of their giving – on them and on others – not just the immediate programs and ministries it helps accomplish.

This giver has been captivated by the knowledge that the more they are led to "do good, to be generous and ready to share," the more they "take hold of that which is truly life" (1 Timothy 6:18-19, ESV). This encourages them to keep growing! They make all decisions (big purchases, savings, giving, relationships, areas of service) in light of how it will affect their eternal impact.



WHAT IS ONE FUND?

You may have been part of church campaigns in the past where you were asked to give a second gift “above and beyond” your normal offering to complete special projects. Perhaps you gave to the “Building Fund” as you continued to give to the “General Fund.” We believe it is healthier and simpler to give to one fund.

The Gather initiative will last two years. During those two years, every gift given to Apex Baptist will be used both to continue our ongoing ministries and to invest in the vision God has given us for the future. Both priorities will be part of a single budget set by our leadership, in response to commitments we make during the Gather initiative.



A Movement of Radical Generosity

We've included a sample commitment card so you can begin to pray about your commitment and what that will mean for your journey with God. Please take time to think and pray through this, and then we will provide you with a new commitment card on Commitment Sunday, November 15.

TWO-YEAR GIFT CHART

As you pray and discern how God would ask you to give during this time, use this gift chart as a discipleship tool. Let it be something that inspires and challenges you toward greater generosity for Christ's Kingdom as we seek to give it all for Him.

Gifts Needed	Two-Year Gift Level	Annual Gift	Monthly Gift	Gift Level Total
1	\$2,500,000	\$1,250,000	\$104,167	\$2,500,000
1	\$1,500,000	\$750,000	\$62,500	\$1,500,000
2	\$1,000,000	\$500,000	\$41,667	\$2,000,000
4	\$500,000	\$250,000	\$20,833	\$2,000,000
5	\$250,000	\$125,000	\$10,417	\$1,250,000
8	\$150,000	\$75,000	\$6,250	\$1,200,000
10	\$125,000	\$62,500	\$5,208	\$1,250,000
12	\$100,000	\$50,000	\$4,167	\$1,200,000
20	\$75,000	\$37,500	\$3,125	\$1,500,000
25	\$65,000	\$32,500	\$2,708	\$1,625,000
30	\$50,000	\$25,000	\$2,083	\$1,500,000
40	\$35,000	\$17,500	\$1,458	\$1,400,000
55	\$25,000	\$12,500	\$1,042	\$1,375,000
70	\$15,000	\$7,500	\$625	\$1,050,000
85	\$10,000	\$5,000	\$417	\$850,000
105	\$7,500	\$3,750	\$313	\$787,500
120	\$5,000	\$2,500	\$208	\$600,000
Many	\$2,500	\$1,250	\$104	\$412,500
Total Gift Goal:				\$24,000,000

\$ What I/we would normally give in a year (regular giving, special projects, missions, etc.)

+\$ My/Our expanded annual generosity as part of the GATHER initiative

= \$ x 2 years

\$

Gifts from my/our stored resources + \$

TOTAL 2-YEAR GATHER COMMITMENT

\$

December 2026 - December 2028

Name

Address

City State Zip

Email

Phone



SCAN HERE

Visit our Gather website to find out more and watch a video explaining our commitment card.

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GATHER SERMON *Series*



SCAN HERE FOR ADDITIONAL RESOURCES,
INCLUDING A BIBLE READING PLAN AND
LIFE GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDES.



»» Week 1

"For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared ahead of time for us to do." — Ephesians 2:10, ESV

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Week 2

*"The earth and everything in it,
the world and its inhabitants,
belong to the Lord;" — Psalm 24:1, ESV*

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Week 3

*"And Jesus, looking at him, loved him, and said to him,
'You lack one thing: go, sell all that you have and give to
the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come,
follow me.'" — Mark 10:21, ESV*

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Week 4

"For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by his poverty might become rich." — 2 Corinthians 8:9, ESV

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Week 5

"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit," — Matthew 28:19, ESV

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Week 6

"And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work." — 2 Corinthians 9:8, ESV

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TO SHARE YOUR STORY, VISIT OUR WEBSITE, ***APEXBAPTIST.ORG/GATHER***



