

### Our Mission

*Trinity Fellowship Church desires to glorify God by equipping a community of believers to worship God and be witnesses of Him in Central Arkansas and to the ends of the earth.*



### Our Vision

*Trinity Fellowship Church desires to be a Bible-believing, Christ-centered, grace-filled, and gospel-driven community where every member is equipped and encouraged to minister and witness according to their God-given talents.*



## *The Pastor's Column*

### **An Honest Critique**

It has been a while since we were reminded of the vision of our church. You see it on our bulletin and on the front of this newsletter, but as we begin a new series in Acts, I wanted to take a moment to draw our attention to why we exist as a body:

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Concluding his account of the life of Jesus, Luke describes Jesus' ascension back into heaven after which his disciples return to Jerusalem, praising God with great joy. Subsequently in the book of Acts, Luke begins with an account of Jesus' ascension. In this account, Jesus informs the disciples that they "will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth" (Acts 1:8 ESV). It is not a coincidence that our vision statement sounds similar to these accounts in Luke. Just as the disciples worshipped God and were witnesses of him, so we are called to the same tasks in the 21st century.

If we evaluate ourselves regarding our church's vision, how are we doing? Are we fulfilling the vision to which God has called us? I believe that many aspects of our vision are being fulfilled. In terms of community, I believe that we are growing in our gospel relationships with one another. Stephanie and I have felt that personally as we have experienced mercy, grace, and love during our incident with our vehicles. When the MCG leaders meet together, each reports that the groups are going well. The ladies just had a tremendous retreat, learning about relational wisdom from Julia Quillen. In just a little while, the men will have a campout at Petit Jean which will create last memories for the men and the boys. We certainly have a long way to go in our willingness to show gospel vulnerability in our relationship, but I believe that we are truly growing in community.

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## *Missionary of the Month*

### **Missions' Committee:**

Rick Aich, Suzie Aich, Darrel Crowell (Chair),  
Aaron Lindberg, Laura Lindberg, Amber Sartain,  
Nick Sartain, Rae Belle Sartain, Aaron Wheat

### **Rev. Mike Ford**

Reformed University Fellowship (RUF),  
University of Arkansas

Mike is a graduate of Covenant Theological Seminary (M.Div.). Before that, he played football at Wheaton College for two years, broke his ankle, and transferred to the University of Missouri where he played (intramural) football for three more years. While at Mizzou, he met and married his sweet wife, Deanna. Mike and Deanna have three children: Luke, Eleanor, and Peter—each of whom looks eerily similar to the other. Mike loves reading George MacDonald and Russian authors, trying new things, and secretly enjoys the movie Frozen. You'll find him drinking coffee at Puritan Brew Co. or having lunch at Brough. Team Ford enjoys hot coffee (emphasis on "hot" people), eating dinner, going on walks after dinner, doing anything outdoors and writing bios in the third person.



It is an amazing privilege that I have to pastor students at the U of A. **My prayer is that RUF equips them to follow Jesus not only in college but also in the workplace afterwards—and to do so in the context of community (the Church).**

Brett Davis came to RUF in August through a random contact. A former Razorback football walk-on, Brett told me he doesn't do the "campus ministry thing." Eventually, I found out he had wandered in college and given up on Jesus and the church. But he has come every week and told me RUF has been the highlight of his college years. **He actually thinks following Jesus is possible in this world. Because of your prayer and financial support, Brett Davis will be looking for a church to plug in to when he graduates**—which I just found out will be this May rather than next December.

Before Spring Break, we got together and he told me the news of his early graduation. We're both excited for him, but also sad, as that means he'll be done with RUF sooner than we thought. I asked Brett about his time in RUF. He told me it was okay to share this part with y'all:

*"You know, I was standing in the back of RUF last week and looked at everyone. I thought to myself, 'You know, I really love these people.' Honestly, earlier in college, I would have found these people really annoying. But RUF has shown me that the gospel is for everyone, and I'm supposed to love people different than me. Like, I've learned to love these people, I really have, and RUF has helped me do that."*

*(continued on page 3)*

## Missionary of the Month

(continued from page 2)

That's what gets me up in the morning. Thank you for your support—it really is making a difference!

### Senior Night

It's important to celebrate what God has done in the lives of his people. So we had RUF Senior Night. Each senior shared one thing they loved about RUF and offered one piece of advice to the underclassmen. It was so encouraging to see how God had shaped them during their college years, and in a large part, through their involvement with RUF.

It was an enjoyable and nostalgic night. Though no one would admit it, I do believe I saw liquid glistening in the eyes of a few of them...

Your prayers and support really have forever altered the trajectory of these students' lives. Don't ever forget that. God has used RUF to grow them in grace. As their pastor and friend, thank you.

Yours,

*Mike*



### Prayer Requests

- **RUF Arkansas:** As we begin a new era, we need wisdom and patience to navigate ministry to students as a team!
- **RUF Servant Team:** We had 16 students attend an interest meeting for how they might get more involved and serve within RUF.
- **Summer Conference:** As of right now, we have 15 students coming!
- **Deanna's Health:** She has joint pain and her elbow and knee have become swollen.
- **Ford Family:** Just the usual stuff. Little kids. Crying. Laughter. Diapers. Elmo. You feel me.
- **Finances:** Praise God we are not in deficit! We are still around \$2000 behind in monthly support and as RUF grows, this will mean more expenses. Please continue to pray for more monthly donors.
- **Finishing Strong:** I'm encouraged and exhausted from my first year. Pray I commune with Jesus as I pour myself out in ministry.

## Birthdays

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### May 8

Sarah Breedlove

### May 11

John Thomas Breedlove

### May 12

Howard Gorter

### May 15

Sophia Hensley

### May 16

Caroline Hollingsworth

### May 18

Suzie Aich

### May 19

Aaliyah Sartain

### May 21

Seth Breedlove  
William Irby

### May 22

Jenny Hollingsworth

### May 24

Laura Lindberg

## Anniversaries

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### May 15

Kevin and Cheryl  
Breedlove

### May 20

Nick and Amber  
Sartain

### May 24

Bruce and Marsheena  
Lance

### May 25

Aaron and Leslie  
Wheat

### May 29

Steve and Susan  
Sanford

## Training Tidbits

### Training Committee:

Bill Dempsey (Chair), Michelle Hill,  
Boyd Irby, Heath Warbritton

### Calling All Teachers!

It's not too early to begin praying about teaching Sunday School this fall! We are in need of teachers and alternates for both children and adult classes. If you are interested in teaching this fall, please speak with Bill Dempsey.

## Fellowship Focus

### Fellowship Committee:

Joy Denley, Melissa Gorter, Leah Lukas,  
Ron Plate (Chair), Heath Warbritton, Leslie Wheat

### MCG Fellowship Lunch Responsibilities

The Fellowship Committee recently discussed the responsibilities of the Missional Community Groups for Fellowship Lunch during their assigned month. These updated responsibilities are listed below.

Preparation duties include:

- Making beverages (coffee, tea, and lemonade)
- Keeping food warmed in the ovens
- Getting ice
- Putting out plates, utensils, napkins, etc. on serving tables
- Putting out salt and pepper on tables
- Cleaning tables before Fellowship Lunch

Cleanup duties include:

- Washing dishes and serving utensils
- Cleaning tables
- Sweeping
- Taking the trash out
- Washing rags (taken home by a member of the MCG)
- Mopping (if needed)

### Upcoming Events

The Fellowship Committee is also planning several events for 2016, including a Back to School Pool Party, Church Picnic, and Christmas Party. If are interested in planning a fellowship event, please see Ron Plate.

## The Pastor's Column

(continued from page 1)

Worship at Trinity has greatly benefitted from the presence of Heath. Raising up talented members from among our congregation, God has provided opportunity for us to worship him using “psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God.” (Colossians 3:16 ESV). Over the last several months, we’ve had the pleasure of having several special worship services, including welcoming new members, hearing several professions of faith, and administering the sacrament of baptism. Since all of life is to be lived in worship to God, worship is also occurring outside the four walls of our building as well as we each live and work to the glory of God.

If I were to critique one area of our vision that we could improve, it is our calling to be “witnesses in Central Arkansas and to the ends of the earth.” It is no coincidence that God is leading us through a study of the book of Acts. In Acts, the Holy Spirit plays a prominent role as the church grows like a weed throughout Jerusalem, Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth. Our church does face challenges to our witness here in Central Arkansas. Spanning great distances between our members, our church faces the geographic challenge of not being able to focus in one community or neighborhood. Although our church is located in Sherwood, our membership is not all “Sherwood.”

Another struggle we face is theological: we simply don’t place enough emphasis on the power of the Holy Spirit. Jesus told his disciples that the Holy Spirit would give them power, and they fully experienced that power. As we live and work today, we often don’t understand this power of the Holy Spirit that is promised by Jesus. Studying the book of Acts will help us to see how the Holy Spirit gave the disciples power and how that same power is in us today as well.

During your time of devotions or family worship, take the time to read through the book of Acts. As you read, I pray that you will be amazed and what God did by the power of the Holy Spirit in the early church. I also pray that we will all realize that the disciples were no different from us today. They simply believed in the truth of the gospel, and trusted in the power of the Holy Spirit to enable them to be witnesses. I pray that we would also trust in the power of the Holy Spirit today.

“Run and work! the law demands,  
but neither gives me feet nor hands.  
A sweeter sound the gospel brings:  
it bids me fly and gives me wings.”

—John Berridge

## Greeters and Ushers

**May 1**

Scott Irby  
Aaron Lindberg

**May 8**

Kurt Lueken  
David Lukas

**May 15**

Aaron Wheat  
Gary Wheat

**May 22**

Greg Fox  
Nathan Fox

**May 29**

John Hensley  
Gabe Hensley

## Nursery Volunteers

**May 1**

Joy Denley

**May 8**

Tamara Hensley  
Sophia Hensley

**May 15**

Ashley Hensley

**May 22**

Sharon Plate

**May 29**

Janet Gilchrist

## Liturgist

Glenn VanEnk

## *Student's Spotlight*

### RYM Philosophy of Ministry: Presuppositions

Last month, I presented a brief overview of the RYM Philosophy of Ministry (POM). In the coming months, we'll look at each part of the POM in depth. We begin this month by looking at presuppositions. Presuppositions are the convictions that shape us in our ministry. They are our values—our DNA—and they shape the way we go about ministry. Presuppositions are our *mode* of ministry.

The RYM POM focuses on 7 presuppositions. We begin with **scripture**. The formal cause of the Reformation was that of *sola scriptura*—that the Bible and the Bible alone has the authority to bind the conscience of the believer. In this tradition, we believe that the Bible is both sufficient and authoritative. Ministry does not happen apart from scripture, indeed, it is at the very center of our ministry.

We also share the conviction that **God is at work**. He is sovereign in His mission, in fact he doesn't even need us, yet he chooses to use us in His work. This helps us cultivate a theology of expectation in that we expect God to work in the lives of those to whom we have been called to minister.

We believe that God is at work in several different areas. First, God is at work in **the church**. The institutional church is God's chosen instrument for achieving His redemptive purposes in the world. God works through the church! God also works through **the family**. In fact, the primary building block of the covenant is the family. Finally, God works through **the individual**. We must realize that each individual is unique and we must minister to them as such.

There are two more presuppositions that help shape the way we go about ministry— **the learning process** and **demographics**. In the learning process, it's important to realize that people cannot learn everything at once. Because of this, we need to assess where an individual is in the learning process and meet them there. We also need to understand what facilitates this learning process. The RYM POM gives us a helpful progression when thinking about the learning process: TDOEE (for *teaching, demonstrating, observing, evaluating, and encouraging*). My observation is that we tend to over-emphasize teaching (at least in PCA circles) while under-emphasizing these other aspects. Finally, we come to demographics. Demographics is the work we do to understand our place, be it our town, church, schools, etc. Demographics tell us what we know about those to whom we minister culturally and contextually (generally speaking). In short, this means that part of our calling is to be an expert in the culture of those to whom we minister. More so, we should know it better than they do. I have found this to be especially true in youth culture. The more I look into the windows of their culture, the more I see how the culture is shaping them. One final word about demographics: God has sovereignly placed each and every one of us in a specific town, in a specific neighborhood, at a particular church, in a particular time in history. Therefore, we must stop hating our demographic and learn to understand it and minister to it.

Next month, we'll look at how our essential principles (scripture, justification, sanctification, and glorification) give us our *motor* for ministry.

**Upcoming Youth Events**

RYM Middle School Texas . . . . . June 6-10  
 Lake Trip . . . . . June 23  
 RYM High School Florida . . . . . July 11-16  
 Fayetteville Retreat . . . . . July 29-31

Financial Report				
	January	February	March	YTD
Income	\$23,695	\$14,277	\$12,535	\$50,507
Expenses	\$22,976	\$19,861	\$24,683	\$67,520
<b>TOTAL</b>	\$719	-\$5,584	-\$12,148	-\$17,013

**Average Attendance**

**March: 98**

## *The Annotated Hymnal*

### “Speak, O Lord”

Words and music by Keith Getty and Stuart Townend  
from the album “In Christ Alone”

*Guest post by Keith Getty*

*“Prove me, O LORD, and try me; test my heart and my mind.”*

—Psalm 26:2

One of Christianity's distinctives is that we worship a God who has spoken—who is not silent. From God the Father, speaking the world into creation, to speaking through His Living Word in Christ, to speaking by His Spirit through the written word.

Throughout history the word of God has transformed the most proud leaders and the most hopeless victims, the greatest civilizations and the remotest of villages, in every age to every corner of the world—so incredible is its power.

Often today however the preaching of the word has been diminished in value—from its prominence in a service to its passion, but most of all in our own expectation each time we sit down and ask God to speak to us.

In Isaiah the people were performing many acts in the name of God and the Lord said “This is the one to whom I will turn my face—he who is humble and contrite and trembles at my word.”

It is our prayer that through the power of the spirit, this hymn will prepare people to humbly listen to the Bible being taught and respond to the huge consequences it has on their lives.

After “In Christ Alone” and “The Power of the Cross” this is the most requested Getty/Townend hymn on our website. It is used both to introduce the sermon and to introduce a service. We used it both before and after a sermon when we were with Anne Graham Lotz as a way of affirming the message.



#### Verse 1

Speak, O Lord, as we come to You  
To receive the food  
of Your Holy Word.  
Take Your truth, plant it deep in us;  
Shape and fashion us  
in Your likeness,  
That the light of Christ  
might be seen today  
In our acts of love  
and our deeds of faith.  
Speak, O Lord, and fulfill in us  
All Your purposes for Your glory.

#### Verse 2

Teach us, Lord, full obedience,  
Holy reverence,  
true humility;  
Test our thoughts and our attitudes  
In the radiance of  
Your purity.  
Cause our faith to rise;  
cause our eyes to see  
Your majestic love  
and authority.  
Words of pow'r that can never fail—  
Let their truth prevail over unbelief.

#### Verse 3

Speak, O Lord, and renew our minds;  
Help us grasp the heights  
of Your plans for us—  
Truths unchanged  
from the dawn of time  
That will echo down through eternity.  
And by grace we'll stand  
on Your promises,  
And by faith we'll walk  
as You walk with us.  
Speak, O Lord, till Your church is built  
And the earth is filled with Your glory.

**Trinity Fellowship Church (PCA)**

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Ron Plate: 501-258-0753	Ed Sartain: 501-920-2584
Glenn VanEnk: 501-766-0931	Bob Beatty (Emeritus): 501-580-7149

**DEACONS**

Boyd Irby: 501-920-5615	Nick Sartain: 501-920-0516
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**MISSIONARIES**

Bradford Green . . . . .	RUF at the University of Central Arkansas/Hendrix College; Conway
Del Farris . . . . .	MNA Chaplain Ministries; Little Rock
Fred Klett . . . . .	CHAIM (Reformed Ministry to Jewish People); Philadelphia
Michelle Hill . . . . .	CRU/FamilyLife; Little Rock
Mike Ford . . . . .	RUF at the University of Arkansas; Fayetteville
Mike and Eli Sabin . . . . .	MTW; Guam
Seima and Naoko Aoyagi . . . . .	MTW; Tokyo, Japan
Steve Sanford . . . . .	Evangelical Alliance for Immigration Services; Little Rock
Steve and Kelly Walter . . . . .	Wycliffe Bible Translators/GIAL
Ted Wenger . . . . .	Redeemer Presbyterian Church; Siloam Springs
Tom and Karen Mirabella . . . . .	MTW; Chiba, Japan
Union Rescue Mission . . . . .	Little Rock

**Trinity Fellowship Church is a congregation of the  
 Presbyterian Church in America (PCA)**

*Faithful to the Scriptures, True to the Reformed Faith and Obedient to the Great Commission of Jesus Christ*

www.pcanet.org