

WELCOME TO DOWNTOWN CHURCH OF CHRIST



NEW MEMBERS BOOKLET

The Downtown family will equip God's people to join with God as He "searches for the lost, brings back the strays, binds up the injured and strengthens the weak."

~ Ezekiel 34:16

Greetings from the Downtown Church family ...

We are excited you have chosen to learn more about the Downtown Church family. If you are looking for a church home, we would like to invite you to consider becoming an active part of our church family. We believe that you will find it to be a mutually beneficial experience and you will be blessed.

You will find our church family is a diverse group comprised of members from various economical and social backgrounds, ethnic origins and worship style preferences. During the years, we have not shied away from this reality, but embraced our diversity. ***Even though we are diverse, we have one thing in common — our love, belief and commitment to following Jesus as our Lord and Savior.***

By looking around at our facilities, leadership and congregation, you can see that God has truly blessed us. We believe that this is a result of our attempt to be a follower of the Word, meeting the needs of those around us through innovation and vision. We believe that God will use you and your time, talents and gifts in this congregation. The result will be a continual blessing to both the church and to you as an individual, and as a family.

In the following pages you will find information on our past, present and future. The purpose of this information booklet is to help you become acquainted with the Downtown church family.

Now, **together ... “Let’s go to work!”**

Downtown Church of Christ Ministers and Staff

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OUR HERITAGE

The first meetings of the Church of Christ in Searcy are believed to have been in 1909, either outdoors or house-to-house in the area of Cypert and Moss streets. In 1914, the group rented an old schoolhouse in the 1400 block of East Race Street; 10 years later, they moved into a building at Main and Market. In 1929, a red brick building was constructed at Locust and Vine where the congregation met for more than 30 years. When Harding College located in Searcy in 1934, a second congregation began meeting on campus on Sundays, but the two groups shared the Locust and Vine auditorium for mid-week services.

During this period, Harding President J.N. Armstrong began to refer to the older congregation as the “downtown” church, a name that eventually became official.



Several additions to the building were needed as the congregation grew, and as early as 1956, two Sunday morning services were being held. By 1961, Bible classes averaged 250 attendees, and Wednesday attendance of 255 filled the auditorium to maximum capacity. In 1962, the congregation moved six blocks north to 900 North Main into the present facility, which has a 600-seat auditorium. After only six years, a three-story north wing was added for more classroom space, and in 1982, the

Family Life Center was built. In 2001, a children’s education wing was completed in order to meet the needs of our tremendous growth of young families with children.

Among the early evangelists were E.M. Strickland, John Slater, Eugene Henderson, S.A. Bell, J.N. Armstrong, L.O. Sanderson, Glen Green and Ado Osborn. T.H. Sherrill was the first full-time minister (1937-1949), followed by Edwin Hughes (1949-1952), Elza Huffard (1952-1956), Jack Wood Sears and others (1956-1960), Glen Pace (1960-1979), Richard Pectol (1979-1988), Randy Daughtery (1988-1991) and Mark Pugh (1992-1998). David Mathews serves as the current pulpit minister.

To accommodate membership growth, membership diversity and to maximize the use of our facilities, there are multiple Sunday morning and evening worship assemblies. Current worship times are:

- 8:00 a.m. Family Life Center
- 10:45 a.m. Family Life Center
- 5:00 p.m. Auditorium
- 8:30 p.m. Family Life Center (during school year)

A Spanish speaking assembly is offered to White County’s growing Hispanic population.



Downtown has focused its mission efforts on Mexico, Central America, the American Northwest, Africa and World Bible School. During the years, Downtown members have participated in medical mission efforts in Mexico while fully supporting two native preachers to work with local churches and those contacted through mission efforts. In 2000, Downtown placed and fully supported two missionary families in Cuenca, Ecuador. Today, a self supporting congregation is established. In 2006, the mission programs were reevaluated with the decision and commitment made to concentrating all mission efforts to the support of a complete team to the Africa country of Tanzania. This team was selected in 2007.



In 2001, Downtown was instrumental in the development of the Christian Health Ministry (CHM), a medical outreach clinic for those of Searcy and the surrounding areas who have no form of medical insurance.

Downtown will continue to be a proactive church that trusts that when we put our hand in God’s hand, there is no limit to the good that can be done. The future looks bright for the Downtown church. It is great to be a part of it and see history in the making.

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OUR MEMBERSHIP

Downtown has always been blessed with wonderful families. During the years, many new Searcy residents have chosen Downtown to be their church home. We now can see third and fourth family generations in our membership. While Downtown has grown each year, during the past 12 years, the congregation has experienced phenomenal growth resulting in it doubling in size.

To date, Downtown is blessed with over 1500 members (not including many university student members) and nearly 600 family units (married, singles, single again); many families have placed membership during the year. With the Downtown Church family's emphasis on outreach, baptisms and those renewing their commitment to the Lord continue weekly.

If you look around, you will find our membership is a diverse group comprised of various backgrounds, age levels and ethnic origins. They do, however, have one thing in common — the love, belief and commitment to following Jesus as their Lord and Savior.

OUR WORSHIP ASSEMBLIES

In order to accommodate our numerical size and the diversity of our members, Downtown has provided various worship styles.

It started in 1960, when the decision was made to go to two worship assemblies due to overcrowding. Approximately 30 years later, Downtown again found itself facing overcrowding and the decision was made to offer an alternative worship style. The worship assembly held in the Family Life Center met simultaneously with the Auditorium assembly at 8:00 a.m. Soon, the need for an additional worship assembly resulted in the beginning of the 10:45 a.m. Family Life Center assembly.



Evening worship assemblies are held at the building at 5:00 p.m. Beginning in 1998, an 8:30 p.m. communion service was started in order to help accommodate our growing number of university students. Presently, this service has the largest attendance of any of our assemblies during the school year.

SUNDAY MORNING CLASSES

The newly restructured Adult Education & Discipleship program's new curriculum plan has a goal of nurturing healthy spirituality in adults and families. The new learning structure uses a trimester system of August – December (19 weeks), January – April (18 weeks), and May – June (13 weeks).

The curriculum design integrates three components: 1) a spiritual identity component that focuses on discovering my spiritual personhood, 2) a foundational spirituality component that targets core Bible study and 3) a discipleship focus that stresses applied Christian living or a lifestyle consistent with Jesus.

With the intent to build upon Downtown's heritage of emphasizing both Bible study and Biblical knowledge, and with the aim at educating the whole person, the goals of the AE & D restructuring are:

1. To raise the level of expectation and accountability in our approach to learning while promoting a process that encourages critical self-reflection, both heart and head, among our adult learners;
2. To move beyond merely teaching information by offering instruction that will place a greater emphasis on transformation, and;
3. To develop a learning system that does more to nurture an authentic spirituality among our adults and families.

Updated Bible Class Locators are available at numerous locations throughout the building.

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SMALL GROUP MINISTRY

As a new member, one of the best ways to build relationships and to connect with others at Downtown is through our Small Groups Ministry. In that setting, you will be able to get to know other people on a more personal level. Most groups meet in homes and participate in some type of study or discussion, although there is a lot of variety in what they do. Regardless of the particular approach a group may choose, however, they all provide a way to help you better connect with others.

But, as important as it is that we get to know more people, that's not what our small groups are ultimately about. More than anything else, the Small Group Ministry at Downtown is a resource to help us experience spiritual transformation. A small group is a tool for growth; both spiritual and numerical. As we connect with a smaller group of people, we experience blessings that are not found in larger assemblies. If you think this ministry will help you in your own spiritual development, then we encourage you to join a group.

Included in the Small Groups Ministry are various DC Connection groups to help those new to the small group experience the purpose of a small group.

More information on small groups is available on the church web site (www.downtownchurch.org), on the small groups bulletin board at Downtown, or contact the church office (268-5383) for additional information. If you would like more personal information, please contact our Body Life Minister, Tom Martin (268-5383 or tmartin@downtownchurch.org).

SHEPHERDING GROUPS and SHEPHERDING SUNDAY

The Downtown Shepherds' desire and intention is to focus on teaching, visitation, and shepherding – in short, overseeing the spiritual welfare of the Downtown congregation. To help in this shepherding model, all the Downtown membership have been placed in groups of approximately 30 families. Known as Shepherding groups, each is overseen by a particular Shepherd. The purpose of the groups is to provide active care by the Shepherd among the members through prayer, visitation, encouragement and fellowship.

The Shepherding groups normally meet on the first Sunday of each month for a fellowship meal and time together. Shepherding Sundays allow the shepherd to know the members of his shepherding group and for the members to know their shepherd, as they also get to know one another.



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In 2004, the Shepherds communicated the following vision statement for the Downtown Church family.

Our vision statement:

A. Our mission as Shepherds is to unite, equip and mobilize the Downtown family to be God's instrument to "seek the lost, bring back the strays, bind up the injured, and strengthen the weak" (*Ezek. 34:16*).

B. During an evaluation process, the shepherds brainstormed about new programs and emphases we feel are needed at Downtown. Those ideas fell into 11 categories that we then prioritized according to what we thought demanded our attention the most. The result was as follows:

1. Spirituality
2. Evangelism/Outreach
3. Staffing
4. Facilities
5. Worship Format/polarization issues
6. Organization/communication
7. Shepherds
8. New Ministries
9. Education
10. Involvement
11. Growth Groups

C. Compelled by this vision and these priorities, we will adhere to the following principles in shepherding:

1. Our greatest concern is that God work through the Downtown congregation to seek the lost. God's own agenda as our Chief Shepherd is clear—to seek the lost, to bring back the strays, to bind up the injured and to strengthen the weak (*Ez. 34:16*). Our decisions—and every Downtown ministry—will reflect those priorities.
2. We will seek God's will in prayer and lead the congregation to become more of a praying church.
3. We want to provide leadership that will foster growth beyond the 1,000-member barrier.
4. We want to be a warm, welcoming congregation to people of all ages and especially sensitive to the people the survey shows are drawn to Downtown—both newcomers without a church background and transfers from other congregations.
5. Our goal is to please God. While we want all of our members to be happy here, satisfying everyone cannot and will not be our guiding principle in decision-making.
6. To maintain the unity of the spirit and the bond of peace, we will be careful to distinguish between a "stumbling block" that causes someone to fall back into sin and a violation of someone's comfort zone. We, the leaders, will not address "stumbling blocks" and "comfort zone violations" as if they are the same thing. We will teach against both the spirit that would inspire someone to flaunt their freedom in a haughty way and the spirit that would inspire someone to impose their opinions and preferences about non-biblical matters on others (*Rom. 14-15*).

D. Some recent decisions we have made:

For spiritual renewal:

1. We have asked some of the shepherds and staff to develop and implement a significant prayer ministry in the congregation.
2. The shepherds and staff will have an annual retreat during which we pray and plan.
3. The shepherds and staff are prayerfully developing a five-year growth strategy for the Downtown family.

For evangelism and outreach:

1. The shepherds will begin immediately to equip the Downtown family for evangelism through assemblies, Bible classes, and ministries.
2. We have asked the Education Ministry to develop seekers' classes for the unchurched and classes on evangelistic training for current members.

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3. We will continue to develop our Hospitality, Newcomers and Visitation Ministries to create a welcoming atmosphere.

For staffing:

1. The Youth Committee was given the go ahead to hire a second youth minister.
2. We have asked the staff to make recommendations for additional staff members, bearing in mind the priority of outreach and evangelism. The staff will make their recommendations to the Vision Team who will then pass them on to the shepherds.

For unity:

1. Over the next five years we will move toward a single worship format in multiple assemblies on Sunday mornings. (We anticipate having an early and a late assembly, but both will follow the same worship format.) Our rationale:

- a. Not everyone in our congregation feels the polarization, but enough do that we believe it hinders our progress as a congregation and limits our effectiveness in outreach. We believe that following the same worship format during Sunday morning assemblies can help correct that.
- b. We believe it is healthy for the generations to mix more than we do at the moment. Our younger ones need to interact more with the older ones and vice versa. We believe a combined assembly will facilitate that.
- c. Growth has stretched our present facilities to the maximum and is forcing us to consider other assembly options. We believe the best solution will be one in which any new construction or remodeling serves the whole congregation and not just one segment of it. The Vision Team explored options for expanding our facilities that included:
 - a.) remodeling our present facilities; or
 - b.) building a new structure on site; or
 - c.) relocating on a different property.

The Vision Team will make their recommendations to the shepherds.

- d. We believe this change will enable us to communicate more effectively with one voice to the entire congregation since all Sunday morning assemblies will hear the same sermon, sing the same songs, hear the same announcements, with only slight, if any, variations.
- e. We are not making this move because we reject the diversity that has characterized our worship assemblies for more than a decade now. We agree with the elders who came before us that diversity enriches us. Therefore, we will continue to encourage diversity through Bible classes, small groups, ministry teams, as well as worship assemblies at other times, such as the 5:00 p.m. Sunday evening service and the 8:30 p.m. Sunday communion service. But we want all of us to meet together in Sunday morning assemblies each week that follow the same program.

2. The Sunday morning worship format we envision will fit the following characteristics:

- a. The worship we envision would include a mixture of songs. We think it is spiritually healthy to express ourselves to God in songs that use straightforward words that are similar to the words we speak to Him in prayer. We also recognize the beauty, spiritual depth, and emotional impact of the older songs many of us grew up with and we want to pass those songs on to our children, too. So we intend to insert them into our assemblies as well.
- b. Most people report that they listen better when preachers use visual aids to illustrate their sermons. Today's visual aids may be more high tech, but that is all they are—visual or sometimes audio aids. Both may be used in this combined assembly.
- c. We have no biblical reason to oppose hand clapping, hand raising, or any biblical mandate to impose either on anyone. Therefore, we will graciously give each other the freedom to clap or not clap, to raise hands or not, and rejoice that we will once again all worship together.
- d. We believe that a worship team can enhance our singing by maintaining the four-part harmony that many of us love, even when we're singing newer songs without printed music. So we consider a worship team a useful expedient.

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- e. We may use women on some of our worship teams, but women will not fill leadership roles in worship in any way that gives them authority over men (*1 Tim. 2:12*).
- f. Instrumental music will not be used in any of our worship assemblies.
- g. In the meantime, we are asking the Sunday morning assemblies to move in the direction of following the same program. Of course, with simultaneous 8:15 services, we cannot do that immediately. But we have asked the worship committee and the preacher rotation committee to make recommendations about how this could be done incrementally.
- h. We have already taken a step in this direction when we organized the Preacher Rotation Committee (Mathews, Neller, Bowling and Cox) and asked them to insure that the whole congregation is fed the same spiritual food on Sunday mornings.

CLOSING STATEMENT

We believe the Lord has heard our prayers and guided this process. He has blessed us, the shepherds, with unity, despite our inevitable disagreements. And we will continue to seek His will as we work together with our staff and our ministry leaders to formulate a more complete five-year strategy for growth.

We call on all of you to pray and participate. Pray that God will use us as one united family to seek the lost, bring back the strays, bind up the injured and strengthen the weak. Pray that He will use your life and influence to touch others for eternity. Then, get off the sidelines and join the team on the field.

Identify your spiritual gifts and use them in “works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up, until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God, and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ” (*Eph. 4:11-13*).

In October of 2004 our Shepherds shared six visions for Downtown to have implemented by year 2010. Along with the six visions, they presented and sought input on a strategic plan outline that would help Downtown reach these visions. *(Please note: A complete copy of all areas of the vision statement / strategic plan outline is available at the Downtown website: www.downtownchurch.org click on the link at the home page.)*

As Shepherds, we believe that the Downtown church exists to bring glory and honor to Jesus Christ. We believe that Jesus Christ is the head of His church and submit to the power and direction of His Holy Spirit. The Downtown Church of Christ (DT) will have two main planning documents: The Shepherds’ Vision and the Strategic Plan. These documents will identify DT’s goals, intentions and actions for spiritual and numerical growth over the next five years. They also communicate the mission of DT to current and prospective members, ministry leaders, staff and shepherds.

The Shepherds’ Vision is the result of a process that began with a diagnostic church survey conducted by John Ellas. Through the diagnostic church survey focus group and member survey questionnaires, individuals had the opportunity to express their concerns and their dreams about the future of DT. The staff and shepherds individually visited with John providing input and feedback to the diagnostic evaluation. John shared the DT diagnostic survey results with the entire congregation in December 2004.

Through deliberation and prioritization, the shepherds and staff formulated a vision for DT during a weekend retreat in February 2004. The Shepherds’ Vision for DT is the result of the unifying spirits of varied views, desires, hopes and dreams. The formulated vision required strategic planning, coordination, administration and specific actions. To assist the shepherds in reaching the goals outlined in the Vision Statement, a Strategic Team was created.

The Strategic Team provides planning, organization, accountability, motivation and communication to attain the objectives and produce results of the Shepherds’ Vision. The main goal of the Strategic Team is to effectively navigate DT allowing the Shepherds’ Vision to shape the future of the DT congregation.

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This document will serve as the foundation for a strategic plan. The strategic plan is a “live document.” It will be evaluated and adjusted to meet the needs of the Downtown church family. The purpose of the strategic plan is to provide a clear vision to all DT decisions, ministries and members to support the goals and dreams that our shepherds have for this congregation. The objective is to explore future needs, resources and opportunities that will help the Downtown Church family to seek the lost, bring back the strays, bind up the injured and strengthen the weak.

With the strategic plan we not only look at where we are now, but where we want to be and how we can reach our goals in an orderly manner. The foundation of the strategic plan is to glorify God and allow all actions to be guided by Him through scripture and prayer.

With a “mapped out plan” for the next five years and beyond, we will address challenges and decisions with a long-term view based on our desired direction.

After much prayer, the original six visions for our church family were determined by our shepherds. Each of these visions is supported by strategy and action statements. The visions are:

- 1. We will be a church that is outwardly focused at its spiritual core.**
- 2. We will be recognized in the community as a place where all are welcome, regardless of one’s spiritual, emotional or physical needs.**
- 3. We will be a church united in purpose and goals.**
- 4. We will have spiritually healthy relationships.**
- 5. We will have healthy ministry systems.**
- 6. We will steward our resources to carry out the goals of the mission statement.**

We believe this church along with these visions are built on the foundation of Jesus Christ (Mark 12:10); that He alone will build this church (Matt 16:18) and we are his followers.

The following is the newly revised Elders’ Vision 2010 (approved 5/25/05; revised 9/08)

The Downtown family will equip God’s people to join with God as he searches for the lost, brings back the strays, binds up the injured and strengthens the weak. (Ezekiel 34:16)

- I. We will be a church that is outwardly focused at its spiritual core.**
 - a. We will raise the level of prayer and fasting on behalf of those who are lost.
 - b. Each member will be active in outreach.
 - c. Every ministry will be focused on support of our outreach goals.
 - d. A substantial part of our budget will finance missionary training and support.
- II. We will be recognized in the community as a place where all are welcome, regardless of one’s spiritual, emotional or physical needs.**
 - a. We will practice hospitality both in our homes and as a church.
 - b. We will place greater emphasis on benevolence for the church and our community.
 - c. We will place greater emphasis on help for the hurting in the church and our community.
 - d. Each ministry will focus on ultimately addressing the spiritual need of salvation in Christ.
- III. We will be a united church.**
 - a. Each member will support our mission and vision.
 - b. Unity will be reflected in our Sunday morning assemblies and fellowship activities.
 - c. We will promote Christian unity while respecting diversity, treating each other with love and respect.
 - d. We will promote healthy unity in our families and among our leaders.
- IV. We will equip every member as a disciple of Christ.**
 - a. Each member will be assimilated into the body and connected to others.

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- b. Each member will be aware of his/her spiritual gifts and equipped and empowered to use them in the service of the Lord.
 - c. At every age level, our educational system will be intentional in promoting spiritual maturity and knowledge.
 - d. Elders, staff and ministry leaders will develop and mentor future spiritual leaders.
- V. *We will surrender our resources to carry out the goals of God's mission.***
- a. We will dedicate and use our own lives & families in service to the Lord.
 - b. We will dedicate our personal finances and homes in service to the Lord.
 - c. Our church resources—staff and facilities—will be used to serve church and community.

DOWNTOWN MINISTRY SYSTEM

In 1998, the elders decided to remove themselves from direct responsibility of the ministry programs within the congregation, with the exception of the areas of worship and missions. The shepherds' desire and intention is to focus on teaching, visitation, counseling — in short, overseeing the spiritual welfare of the Downtown congregation.

In order to accomplish this, a ministry system was structured that will function in the “servant” and “shepherd” concept:

Equipping each member to be actively involved in our ministries, and freeing our elders to be able to shepherd each member.

To help oversee the transition into this new system, and to ensure that it properly functions, a coordinating team was formed to provide supervision, coordination and support until the system is successfully established.

The structure of this ministry system gives all responsibilities of maintaining the “business” sector and other “administrative” factors of the church to ministry teams. Deacons as the ministry team leaders for each team are responsible for specific ministries. They seek to carry out the objectives and goals to meet the overall mission of the congregation, as well as overseeing their ministry budget.

On the following pages is a list of each specific ministry and the deacons commissioned to lead each ministry team. A brief synopsis is given noting the responsibilities of each area of ministry within each ministry team. The shepherds serve as liaisons to each ministry team.

ADMINISTRATIVE MINISTRIES

DEACON — Mike Britton (Demaree) < britton1@cablelynx.com >

- Computer Systems:** Provides software support, programming support, problem solving and assistance relating to office computer needs.
- Finance:** Provides assistance and support with accounting services, and developing budgets and plans from year to year.
- Insurance:** Assures proper coverage on liability, property and vehicles.
- New Ministries:** Works with individuals and groups in their desire to start a new ministry at Downtown church that supports the congregational mission statement. Provides assistance in developing a ministry action plan and identifying necessary resources
- Strategic Team:** The Strategic Team is responsible to carry out the Downtown Vision and Master Plan. It will serve in the administrative and operative management role for the Downtown church family. It will provide planning, organization, oversight of activities, supervision, motivation and communication to attain the objectives and produce results of the vision.

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Background Checks: Responsible for conducting background checks on all individuals for all areas that involve interaction and contact with children, and those special needs children, attending Downtown classes and activities.

Chair Set-Up: Responsible for setting up chairs, stages, etc. for worship services held in the Family Life Center.

BODY LIFE MINISTRIES

DEACON — David Underwood (Jan) < dunderwood@harding.edu >

Family Counseling: Coordinates marital, individual and supportive Christian counseling to Downtown members.

Family Dynamics: Family support groups lead by facilitators that take proactive steps in transforming bad marriages, increase intimacy in good ones, save the future of children involved in hurting homes, and bring new families into our church family.

Fellowship: Organizes, implements and provides regular opportunities for fellowship and ministry encouragement.

Hospitality / Visitation: Worship assembly greeting and welcome center workers. Calling newcomers to the area or visiting first-time visitors to Downtown to welcome them and extend an invitation for another visit.

Involvement: Assimilation of new and current members into the congregational family and its ministries.

Men's Ministry: Provides opportunities for fellowship, accountability groups, special projects and seminars for men.

Singles: Provides activities ranging from Bible classes, retreats, seminars, luncheons, trips, and special events.

Small Groups: Coordinates groups that provide spiritual growth, fellowship and community.

Prayer Ministry Team: Promotes congregational and individual prayer life providing hope, comfort and healing through intercessory prayer warriors.

Twenties Journey: Bible study, fellowship and encouragement for those in their 20's (under 30) and not married.

Women's Ministry: Provides an opportunity for the women of Downtown to grow spiritually through service, fellowship, personal study and outreach.

COMMUNICATIONS MINISTRIES

DEACON —

Audio / Video: Assists with operation and production of audio/video systems for all worship services and congregational events.

Communications: Communicating congregational information and activities through publications and public announcements.

Medical Crisis Contact: Create CaringBridge websites for families who are in a medical crisis.

Pictorial Directory: Develops and organizes congregational pictorial directory approximately every three years.

Public Relations: Development of brochures, ads, articles and information for advertising events and activities.

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Website: Maintains, updates and enhances our church Web site on a regular basis.

EDUCATION MINISTRIES

DEACON — J.D. Yingling (Kim) < jdyingling@harding.edu >

Adult Education & Discipleship: Equipping adults through Bible study and fellowship.

Attendance Counter: Gathers class attendance information (Sundays and Wednesdays) and supplies information to church office.

Children: Equipping birth - 6th grade in the areas of teaching, teacher assistance, nursery and the resource center.

Library: Purchases, organizes and maintains Christian books, periodicals and other materials for education, personal growth and study.

University: Equipping university students through Bible study and fellowship.

Youth: Equipping 7th-12th (Junior & Senior High) grades in areas of teaching and coordinating activities.

FACILITIES MINISTRIES

DEACON — Jeff Shipman (Laurie) < jshipman@saxonservices.com >

Buildings & Grounds: Works with maintenance staff for lawn care, landscape and grounds maintenance, along with maintenance and light repairs in and around the church facilities.

Capital Fund Raising: Is a temporary committee formed to research, facilitate and administrate the funding of the proposed building construction. The committee will work closely with the Strategic Team and Construction Team during the process.

Construction: Overseeing development of a master plan and construction projects for Downtown.

Kitchen: Responsible for purchase and ongoing care and use of kitchen equipment and items.

Parking Lot: Responsible for parking lot layout and traffic control.

Van Drivers: Oversees transportation (church van) of elderly members to worship services.

Vehicles: Assures proper maintenance, repairs and use of church vans and buses.

MISSIONS MINISTRIES

DEACON — Bill Richardson (Holly) < brichardson@harding.edu >

Domestic Missions: Building teams of Harding University students to take interest in reaching the lost through outreach methods of team church planting and team church growing in major US cities.

Foreign & New Missions: Coordinates both short-term and long-term mission efforts. **Tanzania has been selected as the mission point for a fully supported team of missionaries being sent out in 2010.**

Local Spanish Missions: Outreach to the local Hispanic community, including university students.

Medical Missions: Medical outreach opportunities as is present.

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- Mission Education:** Educating our congregation about missions from kindergarten through adults.
- World Bible School (WBS):** WBS lessons, world English lessons are prepared and graded each week.

OUTREACH MINISTRIES

DEACON — Ray Griffin (Georganne)

- Benevolence & Loaves & Fishes:** Provides assistance to those in need, both from the congregation and the community, by utilizing the Downtown families as contacts in a ministry to bridge the Downtown church family to families in our community.
- Bible Correspondence:** Coordinates Bible correspondence material for individuals seeking studies and information.
- Celebrate Recovery:** Provides a Christ-centered recovery program designed to help people address a variety of hurts, habits and hang-ups. Weekly format includes worship, teaching and personal recovery experiences and small group interaction.
- Christian Camp Scholarships:** Providing camp scholarships to those needing assistance in order to have a quality Christian camp experience.
- Christian Health Ministry:** Provides physical, emotional and spiritual care to the medically disadvantaged of White County who have no form of medical insurance.
- Jail Ministry:** Works with the jail chaplain in providing assemblies (separate men's and women's services) and personal contact through the local jail.
- Outreach Events:** Plans and coordinates congregational efforts of special events and speakers for community outreach.
- Searcy Children's Home:** Group home providing care, shelter and spiritual ministry to children, and to troubled youth in need.
- Community Sports Enrichment:** Using athletics to reach the lost through events such as sports banquets, sporting events, camps, and clinics. The Arkansas Martial Arts Academy is currently meeting, daily during the week, at the Downtown building in order to provide an outreach to those children and families desiring this type of class and discipline.

STUDENT MINISTRIES

DEACON – Scott Smith (Cheri) < scotts@hugghall.com >

- Bibles for Babies:** Providing Bibles to newborns through visitation opportunities while still in the local hospital.
- Children's Committee:** Serving children and families of birth through sixth grade through education, edification and fellowship.
- Youth Committee:** Serving teens and their families in Bible study, fellowship, areas of service, missions and activities.
- Youth Missions:** Planning, coordinating, fundraising and logistics for all mission efforts involving the youth of the Downtown congregation.

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~ Ezekiel 34:16

University Committee: Serving University students through involvement in Downtown ministries, adopt-a-student program and small group program.

WORSHIP MINISTRIES

DEACON – Donnie Miller (Leah) < dfmiller@cablelynx.com >

Opportunities to serve in worship assemblies through announcements, attendance, counters, communion servers, communion talks, computer operators, door greeters, prayer leaders, sound technicians and ushers, as well as other areas of service in the following assemble times:

SUNDAY MORNING ASSEMBLIES:

8:00 a.m. - **Family Life Center (FLC)**
10:45 a.m. - **Family Life Center (FLC)**

SUNDAY EVENING ASSEMBLIES:

5:00 p.m. - **Auditorium**
8:30 p.m. - **Family Life Center (School Year Only)**

Communion to Shut-Ins: Providing communion on Sundays to local shut-ins and those in local hospitals or nursing homes.

Communion Preparation: Coordinates volunteers to prepare communion for all worship assemblies each week.

Communion Clean Up: Coordinates volunteers to clean-up communion for all worship assemblies each week.

Wednesday Evening: Plans and coordinates adult classes, programs and special gatherings.

Preaching Rotation Committee: Responsible for themes, content, and coordination of preaching responsibilities in assemblies.

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~ Ezekiel 34:16

OUR SHEPHERDS

Name and Address

Curt Baker (Judy)
154 N Valley Rd.
clbaker@aristotle.net

Jerry Bowling (Joan)
9 Barksdale
jbowling@harding.edu

Ross Cochran (Nita)
31 Harding Dr.
bchurchman@harding.edu

Monte Cox (Beth)
37 Harding Dr.
mcox@harding.edu

Marvin Crowson (Judith)
HU Box 10871
mcrowson@harding.edu

Mark Davis (Penny)
603 Chesapeake Dr.
mdavis1@harding.edu

Pat Garner (Mona Lee)
913 N. James St.
pgarner@harding.edu

Albert Green (Cynthia)
2307 Hwy. 267 S.
aigreen123@aol.com

David Hatfield (Nancy)
32 Jamestown Dr.
dhatfield54@sbcglobal.net

Phil Hoggard (Judy)
920 Skyline Dr.
phil@hoggardteam.com

Terry Kernodle (Pat)
122 Teresa Ln.
Terry.Kernodle@afbic.com

Michael Lincoln (Shelley)
392 Yarnell Road
michaelclincoln@hotmail.com

Brian Mayhall (Danna)
5 Cathy Dr.
rbrmayhall@yahoo.com

Jimmy Moss (Brenda)
5 Julner Lane
jnbmoss@yahoo.com

Home Phone Office Phone

268-4622

Liaison Area: Outreach Ministry

278-5285

Liaison Area: Education Ministry

230-1074

Liaison Area: Student Ministry

268-2409

Liaison Area: Worship Ministry

305-3084

Liaison Area: Missions Ministry

230-3401

Liaison Area: Administration Ministry

268-7623

Liaison Area: Body Life Ministry

268-6372

Liaison Area: Communication Ministry

268-2777

Liaison Area: Missions Ministry

279-2553

Liaison Area: Education Ministry

268-5679

Liaison Area: Body Life Ministry

268-0234

Liaison Area: Outreach Ministry

278-7063

Liaison Area: Communication Ministry

230-2476

Liaison Area: Administration Ministry

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~ Ezekiel 34:16

Ken Neller (Barbara)
900 Merritt St.
kneller@harding.edu

268-5647 279-4436
Liaison Area: Worship Ministry

Gary Ross (Alyse)
205 Indian Trail
gross@harding.edu

278-5901 279-4111
Liaison Area: Education Ministry

Gary Stephenson (Pam)
147 Casey Ln.
garywstephenson@aol.com

268-5591 (501) 955-6504
Facilities Ministry

Daniel Stockstill (Cindee)
116 Cherokee Dr.
stockstill@harding.edu

279-2486 279-4293
Liaison Area: Student Ministry

Mike Taylor (Vicki)
230 Wooten Ln. McRae, AR 72102
miketaylor@kpsearcy.com

268-0777 268-5308
Liaison Area: Facilities Ministry

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~ Ezekiel 34:16

MINISTRY and SUPPORT STAFF

Name Phone	Ministry Area	Home (Ministers)
Glenda Bostick (Phil) gbostick@downtownchurch.org	Receptionist / Office Coordinator	
Jerry Bowling (Joan) jbowling@harding.edu	Adult Education & Discipleship Minister	278-5285
Pat Boykin pboykin@downtownchurch.org	Accountant	
Kami Horton (Jim) khorton@downtownchurch.org	Nursery - Preschool Coordinator	305-3125
Floyd Johnson (Debbie) Floyd_debjohnson@yahoo.com	Buildings & Grounds	
Tom Martin (DeeAnn) tmartin@downtownchurch.org	Body Life (Involvement) Minister	268-1951
David Mathews (Debbie) dmathews@downtownchurch.org	Pulpit Minister	368-0872
Beverly Merritt bmerritt@downtownchurch.org	Student Ministries Assistant	
Todd H. Miller (Joy) tmiller@downtownchurch.org	Children's Minister	268-7366
Jimmy Moss (Brenda) jnbmoss@yahoo.com	Buildings / Custodial	
Lowell Myers (Nancy) lmyers@downtownchurch.org	Administration Minister	278-5267
Ken Neller (Barbara) kneller@harding.edu	Pulpit Minister	268-5647
Jeremy Shelby (Dijana) jshelby@downtownchurch.org	Youth & Family Minister	279-1309
Lauren Trull (Travis) ltrull@downtownchurch.org	Communications Assistant	

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GENERAL CONTACT INFORMATION

Church Office: (501) 268-5383

Information Newslines: (501) 279-2600

An informational message is recorded daily listing those who are ill at home or in the hospital and need our prayers; information on current church activities is also included.

E-Mail: office@downtownchurch.org

Feel free to send a general e-mail to the church office at the above noted e-mail address. Feel free to contact the Downtown shepherds and staff via the e-mail addresses that are listed within this book.

Web site: www.downtownchurch.org/family

The Downtown Web page may be accessed at this site. You will be able to access and find up-to-date information, events calendars and scheduled activities, information regarding our staff, missionaries, youth, university and children's ministries, as well as information regarding all Downtown ministries.

FAX Line: (501) 279-2676

Local Media - Newspaper, Radio and Cable:

The Downtown congregation provides information concerning church activities and events through all local media resource bulletin boards. **Inclement weather information** will be posted on these stations, as well as on all local radio stations and the Downtown website.

Updated: 3/18/2009

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