

March  
2025



## A Vision for Greater Mission



## A Special Message From Pastor Mike Hoppe

At Stillwater, serving others isn't just something we do - it's who we are. Our Food Pantry, Backpack Ministry, Serve Sundays, mission trips, disaster response, and countless other efforts reflect our deep commitment to being the hands and feet of Jesus. We believe the church doesn't just have a mission - the church IS a mission. Our calling is to expand Jesus' message and work wherever He leads us.

In that spirit, our church has been prayerfully exploring the idea of launching a Resale Store in the Saraland community. This store would serve as a ministry in itself - creating opportunities for volunteers and staff to build relationships, share Christ's love, and serve those who might never step inside a church. Since there are no other Christian resale stores in our area, we believe this is a unique chance to meet a real need - providing a place for community members to donate goods and offering affordable items to those who need them most.

For several months, a dedicated team of Stillwater members has been praying, brainstorming, and planning for this initiative. At our recent church-wide Town Hall, we received valuable feedback, and now we want to share our vision for what this Resale Store could become.

### How the Store Would Work

**Proceeds with Purpose:** All store proceeds would support Stillwater Church's mission. First, funds would cover store-related costs such as salaries and building expenses, ensuring that the store operates independently of the church's main budget. Start-up costs will come from various sources, including our upcoming Yard Sale and private donations. Second, all net profits would directly benefit our community - supporting major initiatives like our Food Pantry, which has significant needs and a growing vision for expansion.

**Staff & Volunteers:** We envision hiring a paid store director to lead this ministry (a job description is available in the church office). Other paid positions may be considered in the future, but this mission will rely on a strong team of volunteers. Opportunities include sorting, organizing, staging, online sales, cleaning, and serving on the Store Team.

**Finding the Right Location:** We are actively searching for a high-visibility, accessible location with ample parking. This space could be either rented or purchased.

**Store Hours & Growth:** We plan to start small and expand as donations, leadership, and volunteer support grow.

### A Long-Term Vision: A Community Mission Center

Looking ahead, we dream of creating a Mission Center - a space that could house both our Resale Store and expanded community services. This could include a larger Food Pantry, social services for those in need, and possibly even a shower/laundry facility for the homeless. Our prayer is that the Resale Store will flourish, allowing us to make an even greater impact for Christ in our community.

### How You Can Get Involved

We are excited about what God is doing through Stillwater and this potential Resale Store! If you'd like to be part of this mission - whether through prayer, volunteering, donating, or sharing ideas - please contact Stephanie Moye, our Missions Chairperson, or Pastor Mike. Above all, please pray for this project. If this is God's plan, we trust that He will provide, and we pray for the faith and obedience to follow where He leads. Together, let's step into this vision and make a lasting impact in Jesus' name!

God Bless,  
Pastor Mike  
[mike@stillwaterchurch.com](mailto:mike@stillwaterchurch.com)

# PEOPLE HELPING PEOPLE LOVE AND SERVE JESUS

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

### WEDNESDAY NIGHT DINNER AND PROGRAM

Join us for Wednesday Night Dinner and programs for all ages from nursery through adults. We have 3 adult group studies:

1) **Alpha:** Are you seeking deeper faith, have questions, or wonder about God's plan for your life? This amazing course will help you seek faith in a judgement-free, safe environment. Invite friends and family to join us in the Fellowship Hall. Study facilitators: Pastor Tony, Laurie Anne Nix

2) **The Heart of Jesus:** A study of the book by author Max Lucado. This book explores the compassionate love of Jesus and challenges readers to reflect His heart in their daily lives. Study facilitator: Linda Burr

3) **Living Fearless:** A study of the book by author Jamie Winship. This book explores how to overcome fear by embracing your true identity in Christ and walk in your divine purpose. Study facilitators: Cindy Messer and Lenzie Overton

Dinners begin at 5:30pm with the studies following at 6:00. Meal cost is \$8 for adults, \$6 for children, \$25 family maximum, and first-time guests and young adults (18-25yrs) eat free.

**\*\* Wednesday night dinner and program will not take place on March 12 due to church yard sale preparations.**

### ASH WEDNESDAY, MARCH 5

Join us on March 5, for Wednesday night dinner at 5:30pm, followed by our Ash Wednesday Service with the imposition of ashes in the Sanctuary at 6pm.

### COFFEE BAR SUNDAY, MARCH 9

Daylight Saving Time begins on Sunday, March 9. Don't forget to spring forward one hour before you go to bed! Then, join us that Sunday morning for Coffee Bar Sunday in the church lobby, 9:30-10:30am.



### DISCOVER STILLWATER CHURCH CLASS

Are you interested in connecting with the many opportunities at Stillwater Church? Contact Pastor Mike at [mike@stillwaterchurch.com](mailto:mike@stillwaterchurch.com) to learn more about the Discover Stillwater Class beginning on March 9.



### OTHER UPCOMING EVENTS

- Mondays - Food Pantry, 9-11am
- Tuesdays - Tues. Adult Small Group, 10am, Choir Rm
- Tuesdays - Prayer Team Meeting, 6pm, Sanctuary
- Thursdays - VIBE Ministry, 6pm, Sanctuary
- Mar. 2 - Men's Breakfast, 7am, Fellowship Hall
- Mar. 5 - Ash Wednesday Service, 6pm
- Mar. 9 - Coffee Bar Sunday, 9:30-10:30am
- Mar. 13-15 - Church Yard Sale (see page 3)
- Mar. 16 - Missions Team Meeting, 12pm, Choir Room
- Mar. 16 - Nurture Team Meeting, 12pm, Youth Room
- Mar. 16 - Hospitality Team Meeting, 12pm, F. Hall
- Mar. 21 - Club 345, 6-8pm, Fellowship Hall
- Mar. 29 - Lions Club Pancake Breakfast, 6:30-10:30am

### FRIDAY NIGHT LENTEN SERVICES

During Lent, James Currie and the Prayer Team will be leading sermons on select Fridays at 6pm. Everyone is invited to hear the following messages:

- Mar. 7 "Why Did I Just Give Up \_\_ for Lent?"
- Mar. 21 "Fasting Means More Than Food"
- Mar. 28 "Star Wars: Spiritual Warfare Isn't Just in the Movies"
- Apr. 4 "Is This How I'm Supposed to Spend My Fridays?"
- Apr. 11 "Faith, Friendship, and Forgiveness"

### LIONS CLUB PANCAKE BREAKFAST, MARCH 29

On Saturday, March 29, 6:30-10:30am, the Lions Club Pancake Breakfast will be held on our campus. The cost is \$10 per person and \$5 per child 6 years and under, drive-thru or eat-in. Purchase tickets in the church office.

### SERVE SUNDAY, APRIL 27

Our favorite time of the year is quickly approaching! Serve Sunday! Serve Sunday is scheduled for April 27. Be sure to mark your calendar for this amazing day of being the hands and feet of Jesus to our community. Throughout the month of March, you can check the Missions Table in the lobby for how you can help us prepare. It is a joy to serve the Lord alongside each of you.

# PEOPLE HELPING PEOPLE LOVE AND SERVE JESUS

## LENTEN SERMON SERIES, "40 DAYS OF DECREASE"

This Lenten season, take on a challenge that goes beyond giving up "stuff." "40 Days of Decrease" is a transformative sermon series and personal journey inspired by Alicia Britt Chole's profound insight: *"Decrease is less about the sacrifice of stuff and more about the surrender of our souls... more about thinning our lives in order to thicken our communion with God."* Through this 40-day challenge, we will explore the beauty of self-decrease, letting go of distractions, and making space for the deep, abiding love of God. Join us on this spiritual journey and rediscover the fullness of life that comes from surrender.

### SERMON SCHEDULE

Mar. 5	Ash Wednesday, "40 Days of Decrease"	Deut 8:2-3
Mar. 9	"Comparison: Choosing Contentment Over Competition or Envy"	Matt 20:9-15
Mar. 16	"Material Things: Detach from Material Excess to Embrace Simplicity"	Matt 6:19-21
Mar. 23	"Isolation: Stepping Out of Self-Imposed Solitude to Connect with Others"	Eccl 4:9-12
Mar. 30	"Criticism: Replacing Judgment with Compassion"	Matt 7:1-6
Apr. 6	"Fixing Things: Embracing Messiness to Let God Work"	Luke 10:38-42
Apr. 13	"Noise: Embracing Silence to Hear God's Voice More Clearly"	Luke 5:15-16



## CHURCH YARD SALE

It's time to do some spring cleaning! We are accepting donations of items to sell at our Church Yard Sale to be held on March 13-15. Small items can be brought to the church Fellowship Hall. Pick-up of large loads or heavy items can be arranged. Contact the church office or Betty Moye (251-604-0949) for more information. Sign-up sheets for workers are posted on the ledge in the church lobby!

Invite your friends, neighbors, and co-workers to come and shop! Our presale event will be on Thursday, Mar. 13, 5-7pm. Admission is \$5 for the presale. The doors will open on Friday and Saturday, Mar. 14 & 15, at 7am. Breakfast will be available for sale on Friday and Saturday. Pulled pork dinners will also be sold as part of the yard sale. Each plate will cost \$8 and will include pulled pork, bun, baked beans, chips, and a brownie. Last but definitely not least, please pray for this event! The proceeds from this sale will be used for the food pantry and as start-up costs for our proposed resale shop. Pray that God will bless our efforts and keep all of our workers and shoppers safe.

## SERVE IN THE BACKPACK MINISTRY

Do you want to serve needy students in the Saraland School system? Sign-ups are located in the church lobby Welcome Desk. This is an easy way for families or small groups to serve together. If you are serving this ministry for the first time, please contact the office (or Judy Callen) so we can show you how to pack bags and prepare them to be delivered to the schools.

**\*\* Food items currently needed: Ravioli, Vienna Sausages, pudding cups, Capri Suns, fruit cups, cheese crackers.**



## KIDS KORNER

CLUB 345 will meet on Friday, March 21, 6-8pm. We will have dinner, a devotion, and work together on an Easter mission project. All 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders are invited to come! Friends are always welcome! Please let Ms. Betty know if your child will be coming.



Mark your calendars for Vacation Bible School! The dates are June 23-27. Lots of volunteers (youth and adults) will be needed to make this year the best VBS ever!

Our **EASTER EGGSTRAVAGANZA** will be held on Saturday, April 19, 9-11am. We will have breakfast with the Easter Bunny, egg hunts, games, crafts, and music!

## STUDENT MINISTRY UPDATE

On Sundays, 4-6pm, our students are growing in faith using Alpha Youth. During this time, we also have great games and snacks. Alpha is a great foundational course to invite friends who are seeking or growing in faith, and to help all students take the next steps in their walk with Christ.

## Upcoming Events:

**Student Lock-In on April 4.** This event is for all students in grades 6-12, and friends are invited! Stay tuned for details!

**Bake Auction on Wednesday, May 7, at 5:30pm.** Everyone is invited to bring their best dessert (or meat) and \$\$\$ to this fundraiser for Students, Kids, and VIBE Ministries.



# Happy Birthday!



- 03/02 Marsha Lee  
Miles Redmond
- 03/03 Melinda Malinoski  
Abby Sasser
- 03/04 Carter Barbetta  
George Coate
- 03/05 Angelina Crownover
- 03/06 Peyton Brown
- 03/07 Kim Whisonant
- 03/08 Josiah Nabholz
- 03/09 Randy Chestang
- 03/11 Logan Armour  
Scott Brookerd  
Owen Martin
- 03/14 Juanita Simison
- 03/15 Arlene Bynum  
Audrey Lloyd  
Melody Moore
- 03/17 Diane Brookerd
- 03/18 Lorna Marchiolo  
Mary Ella Passmore
- 03/21 Patrick Bonvillain  
Nicholas Whisonant
- 03/22 Wanda Andrews
- 03/26 Lyle Knight
- 03/28 Ben Martin  
Jon Martin
- 03/30 April White



**Luncheon**  
**Sunday, March 30, 2025**  
**At Noon in the Church Fellowship**  
**Hall**



**Bridal Shower**

**The *LADIES* of Stillwater Church are invited to attend a Bridal Shower Luncheon for Sarah Robbins, bride elect of Justin Snuggs. Sarah is the daughter of Jason and Lauren Robbins, longtime members at Stillwater.**

**Please RSVP by Wednesday, March 26, to [lrurr@aol.com](mailto:lrurr@aol.com) or call (251) 232-9860.**

**Sarah and Justin are registered at Target: <https://www.target.com/gift-registry/gift/robbinssnuggswedding>**

## Monthly Financial Update

	Attendance		General	Capital
	In-Person	Online	Fund	Fund
Feb. 2	188	51	\$ 14,406	\$ 329
Feb. 9	187	46	\$ 7,471	\$ 135
Feb. 16	159	61	\$ 7,849	\$ 60
Feb. 23	173	50	\$ 5,774	\$ 10

### WAYS TO GIVE

1. Scan the QR code with your phone.
  2. Mail your gifts to the church at P.O. Box 415, Saraland, AL 36571.
  3. Recurring giving online by creating an online giving account at <https://www.stillwaterchurch.com/online-giving>.
- Thank you for your faithful giving to God's work!**



**Find us online at [stillwaterchurch.com](http://stillwaterchurch.com) and Facebook. Email us at [info@stillwaterchurch.com](mailto:info@stillwaterchurch.com).**

### WELCOME TO...

~ New members, Cheryl Scott and Cecile Wilson.

### FOOD PANTRY UPDATE

Join us in serving our community! An average of 75 families per week use our Stillwater Food Pantry for assistance. The following is a list of volunteer opportunities in the Food Pantry:

**UNLOADING FOOD TRUCK:** Days vary. Receive 1-2 food trucks per month. Arrival time is usually in the mornings.

**BAGGING FOOD BAGS:** Thursday, every other week. Time: 3:00pm-5:30pm

**FOOD DISTRIBUTION:** Mondays. Time: 8:30am-11:15am

**PRODUCE DISTRIBUTION:** Fridays, on the 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Friday each month. Time: 10:00am-1:15pm (Light lunch is usually provided on Produce Day)

If you would like to volunteer, a sign-up sheet is available in the church lobby on the ledge. Thank you for your service to Christ in this mission. We look forward to having you on the team.  
*Therese Brown*