



STILLWATER CHURCH

"People helping people love and serve Jesus!"

OCTOBER 2025 NEWSLETTER



A Special Message from Pastor Mike Hoppe

What Causes Spirit-Led Church Growth?

Several days ago, six Stillwater members attended the New Room Conference--an inspiring, Spirit-filled gathering of Methodists from across the country. The experience was powerful. In many ways, it represented the best of Methodism, with passionate worship, deep conviction, and faithful teaching of biblical truth.

One speaker reminded us what true, Spirit-led growth looks like, just as we see in the book of Acts when more than 3,000 were saved in a single day. The early church did not grow because it had the most talented preachers, the largest children's ministry, or the most impressive facilities. None of those things existed. And yet, the church flourished. Why? Because it was marked by the following:

- 1. Humility - Lifting up Jesus above ourselves, our programs, and even our church.**
- 2. Dependence on God - Relying more on His Spirit than on our own abilities.**
- 3. Consecration - Regularly repenting of sin and pursuing holiness.**
- 4. Prayer and Fasting - Living in constant prayer and fasting weekly.**

The speaker then offered a sobering reminder: *"God can make things grow, but God is not the only one who can make things grow. The devil can make things grow, too. If something is growing without these marks of the Spirit, it's growing for reasons other than the Spirit."*

That truth struck me. It's easy to assume that church growth comes from being the biggest, the best, or the trendiest. But the early church grew because it lived like Jesus. And if we want the results of the early church, we must live like the early church--humbly, prayerfully, wholly dependent on God.

At Stillwater, our mission is simple: *"People helping people love and serve Jesus."* Notice the emphasis on the last word--**Jesus**. Our health and growth as a church don't come from trends or strategies but from keeping Him at the center. As we walk in humility, dependence, consecration, and prayer, we trust that God Himself will bring the growth--growth that lasts, because it is rooted in Jesus.

Blessings,
Pastor Mike

Mark Your Calendars!

- Mondays - Food Pantry, 9-11am
- Tuesdays - Tuesday Adult Small Group, 10am, Choir Room
- Tuesdays - Prayer Team Meeting, 6pm, Sanctuary
- Wednesdays - Wed. Night Dinner & Program, 5:30-7:15pm, Fellowship Hall
- Thursdays - VIBE Ministry, 6pm, Sanctuary
- Oct. 5 - Men's Breakfast, 7am, Fellowship Hall
- Oct. 9 - Nurture Team Meeting, 10am, Choir Room
- Oct. 10 - Club 345, 6-8pm
- Oct. 12 - Charge Conference, 2pm, Stillwater Church, Sanctuary
- Oct. 19 - Missions Team Meeting, 12pm, Choir Room
- Oct. 31 - Trunk or Treat, 6pm
- Nov. 2 - All Saints' Day & Time Change
- Nov. 19 - Thanksgiving Potluck Dinner, 5:30pm

October Sermon Series "The Kingdom"

We live in a world that feels divided, broken, and restless—but Jesus announced something greater: the Kingdom of God is here. In this series, we'll discover how God's reign is breaking into our everyday lives through Jesus, how His Spirit is advancing hope and healing, and how the Church is called to carry this Kingdom until Christ makes all things new. Come and see how God's Kingdom changes everything—our homes, our work, our community, and our future.



- Oct. 12 "The King and His Kingdom" Daniel 7:13-14 and Mark 1:14-15
- Oct. 19 "God's Mission Has a Church" Ephesians 3:10-11
- Oct. 26 "How the Kingdom Advances" Colossians 1:13-18
- Nov. 2 "The Stillwater Way" Acts 2:42-47

Wednesday Night Dinner and Program



Dinner: Join us for dinner on Wednesdays at 5:30pm to meet new people and experience community. First time guests and college students always eat for free. Meal cost: \$9/adults, \$7/children, \$28/family max. Please sign up for dinner on the Sunday connection cards or contact the church office.

Studies: Starting at 6:00pm, all ages have great opportunities, including nursery, elementary school, middle school, high school, and adults. We encourage adults who have not yet experienced the Alpha class to attend this option. Alpha is created for people new to faith, seeking faith, or wanting to grow deeper in faith. Another adult group, led by Pastor Tony, is studying basic Christian doctrines by diving into the Creeds.

Cooks Needed

Individuals or groups may cook a dinner, with any proceeds benefitting your group or project. Contact the church office at info@stillwaterchurch.com to learn more or sign-up to coordinate a meal.

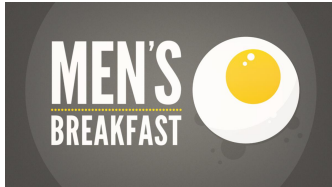
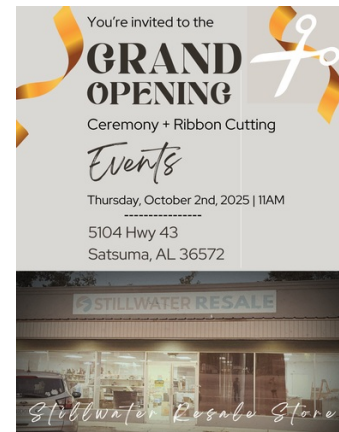
Stillwater Resale Store Opening!

Join us for this historic event for Stillwater Church - the Ribbon Cutting of Stillwater Resale Store on Oct. 2 at 11am!

Then, come to the Grand Opening on Saturday, Oct. 4, 10am-2pm! Come enjoy the festivities, free food, and children's activities!

The Stillwater Resale Store address is 5104 Hwy 43, Satsuma, AL 36572.

Website: stillwaterchurch.com/stillwater-resale
Phone: (251) 800-9928



Men's Breakfast, Oct. 5

All men of the church are invited to Men's Breakfast at 7am in the Fellowship Hall on Oct. 5. Cost is a freewill donation, and we enjoy casual conversation and a short devotion. Join us Oct. 5!

Nurture Team Meeting, Oct. 9

The Stillwater Nurture Team is a group that cares for the people in our church in their time of need. Members of the team visit, call, and send cards to shut-ins and those recovering at home after surgery. Anyone who is interested in being part of this team is invited to attend the next meeting on Oct. 9, at 10am, in the Choir Room.



Charge Conference, Oct. 12

Charge Conference will be held at Stillwater Church on Sunday, October 12, at 2pm, for those interested in attending.

Kids Korner

Stillwater Church is having **Trunk or Treat** on Friday, Oct. 31, 6-7:30pm, and your trunk is needed! Sign-up sheets will be posted at the church on Sunday, Oct. 12. This year we will also have some fun activities in the Fellowship Hall and will continue those activities until 8:30pm so that those hosting trunks can participate, too! Lots of help will be needed!

KidCheck is up and running! Parents please make sure to register your child/children in the KidCheck program. If you need more information, please contact Betty (251-604-0949).

Nursery volunteers are needed! Extra hands are often needed to help with

our babies and toddlers. Requirements are that you love babies and that you are 13 years old or older. If you would be willing to serve in the nursery for an hour once or twice a month, please contact Betty.



TRUNK OR TREAT



Join us on October 31 for Trunk or Treat and lots of family fun! Trunk or Treat will be from 6-7:30 pm followed by games and fun in the Fellowship Hall. We will have hot dogs, s'mores, hay rides, pumpkin painting and more!



Student Ministry Update

Students in grades 6-12 are invited to join us for all student ministry events, and friends are always welcome!

Oct. 5 & 12 - Regularly scheduled student gathering, 4-6pm

Oct. 19 - Possible trip to McKenzie Farm corn maze in Fairhope!

Other Weekly Opportunities

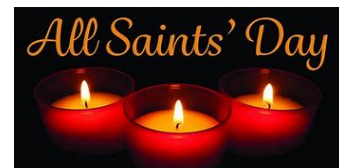
Wednesday Night Dinner and Studies - Every week, 5:30pm dinner and 6pm studies

Sunday School - Every week, 9:30am

For more information contact Travis Grimes at travis@stillwaterchurch.com.

All Saints' Day, Nov. 2

All Saints' Sunday is Nov. 2. We will recognize loved ones who have passed away since last November. Please submit names to our church office at info@stillwaterchurch.com to include a relative in our remembrance.



Stillwater Church Christmas Ornament

In honor of our 70th anniversary, Stillwater Church is selling a special edition Christmas ornament. The cost of each ornament is \$15. We have a limited number, so be sure to get one soon!

A **Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD)** is a powerful tool that allows IRA owners aged 70-1/2 or older to make direct donations to eligible charities, exempting these funds from taxable income and potentially lowering your tax bracket. QCD's offer a way to meet your required minimum distribution in a tax efficient manner. Rather than taking a required taxable distribution in its entirety, a QCD enables you to give directly to a charity and avoid paying income tax on the portion you donate. To qualify as a QCD, donations must go directly from your IRA to a recognized 501(c)(3) charity. Stillwater Church meets this requirement. For more information, contact Linda Burr at linda@stillwaterchurch.com or check with your tax professional or financial advisor.



Backpack Ministry

Our Backpack Ministry feeds hungry students at all four of the Saraland schools. We need your help to pack bags, deliver bags on Fridays, and to donate food items throughout the school year.

Sign-up sheets for packing bags and delivering bags are available at the Welcome Desk in the church lobby.

Food items needed include ravioli, spaghetti-o's, soup, pop tarts, Vienna sausage, canned chicken, canned tuna, fruit cups, pudding cups, jerky sticks, small boxes of raisins, small packages of cookies, cheese crackers, breakfast bars, Ramen Noodles, instant grits and oatmeal packets, macaroni and cheese cups, and juice boxes. No items with peanut butter are needed due to allergies. Donated items can be dropped off in the lobby at our missions table. Thank you for serving students who require food assistance on the weekends.

Serve in the Food Pantry

Join us in serving our community! The following is a list of volunteer opportunities in the Stillwater 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 1st, 3rd and 5th Friday each month. Time: 10:00am-1:15pm. Light lunch is usually provided on Produce Day.

You may also give directly to this ministry by clicking [here](#) with "Food Pantry" noted on the memo line. Your gift helps touch the lives of people needing nutritious food, prayer, and a listening ear.



October Birthdays



10/01 Susanna Hoppe
10/02 Stacie Beckner, Jason Robbins
10/03 Logan Nabholz, Jungwon Shin
10/06 Scott Passmore, Rebecca Reed
10/07 John Rocker
10/08 Trish Martin
10/09 Marie Helton
10/11 Diane Finklea
10/12 Alvin Allen, Dotty Armour
10/13 Rosie Davis, Aubree Smith
10/14 Cindy Messer
10/15 David Boshell
10/17 Pat Epperson, Kyle Oglesby, Rebecca Sherrer
10/18 Ron Malinoski, Brian Sullivan
10/19 Nathan Killingsworth, Cheryl Scott
10/20 Hannah Pearce
10/21 Luke Carnley
10/22 Elaine Bates Moore
10/23 Breanna Cales
10/27 Pat Pownall
10/29 Dick Callen, Tricia Jennings, Paul Knight, Trapper Short
10/30 Whitney Rocker
10/31 Megan Smith



Thank You from Charlie Higdon

To my extraordinary church family at Stillwater:

Thank you for making my 95th birthday celebration so unbelievable!

A very special thanks to Rev. Mike Hoppe, Pastor Tony Barnes, Kim Whisonant, Judy Callen, Elaine Moore, Therese Brown, Judy Barlow, Lynn Feemster, Jean Davis, Mike Davis, Pat Hopper, Ainsley Hopper, Bobbie Pope, Renee Grimes, Joyce Boshell, Betty Moye, Gwen Waltman, and Rylee Ladnier for all your “hands on” work making the day such a success. Please forgive any names I have omitted.

Special thanks to these “family members” who gifted me with their time, resources, and talents:

J & Tim Kim (Family of the heart)
Melanie Ziebach (Buttercream Bliss)
Sheila/Allen Kirksey (Rose Bud Flowers)

My girls have made a contribution to the “Kitchen Renovation Fund” as a thanks to all of you! They were told that I have helped wear out the current one!

I am so very BLESSED!!

Joys and Concerns

CONGRATULATIONS TO...

~ Bre and John Cooch on the birth of baby girl, Murphy.

~ Liz and Kyle Oglesby on the birth of baby boy, Aden.

Weekly Prayer List

To submit a prayer concern or a praise to be shared on our weekly prayer email, or to sign up to receive our weekly prayer emails, please contact the church office at info@stillwaterchurch.com.

Telephone: (251) 675-2728
Email: info@stillwaterchurch.com
Website: stillwaterchurch.com

To give online, [click here](#) or scan the QR code below!



Stillwater Church | 415 McKeough Ave | Saraland, AL 36571 US

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