



2018-2023

BROOKHAVEN PRES

MINISTRY PLAN

BROOKHAVEN PRES MINISTRY PLAN 2018- 2023

BROOKHAVEN 2018

Brookhaven is a five-year-old city in DeKalb county Georgia, with Buckhead to the south, Chamblee and Dunwoody to the north, Sandy Springs to the west, and Tucker to the east. Though one city, Brookhaven can be thought of as three thirds: the western third to Peachtree Rd is comprised of historic homes around the Capital City Club and the gentrified neighborhood of Lynnwood Park. The central third from Peachtree to Buford Highway (and northern portion) is a historically blue collar community that has seen quick and widespread gentrification, with many old homes torn down and new, more expensive homes built in their place. Many young professionals also live in this area in some of the many new apartment complexes. The eastern third, from Buford Highway to Interstate 85 is a historically ethnically diverse area of town. While it retains its immensely rich character for now, the threat of redevelopment looms. In recent years the eastern two thirds have increasingly become a hub of new business development, and growing interest among young single people, young families, and empty nesters who desire to move closer to the city. Over the past 25 years growth in Brookhaven has outpaced the national average by nearly 300%. Brookhaven as a whole is highly educated with an average household income of approximately \$97,000/year. Brookhaven has become a traditional urban suburb, an enclave of increasingly wealthy people who desire more space than is affordable in Buckhead but wish to avoid Atlanta traffic in their commute to Buckhead, Midtown, or Downtown. While a trendy place to move to, Brookhaven is by and large a desirable place to live for young people who have urban sensibilities with more traditional values. There are few growing and thriving churches in Brookhaven proper, and the percentage of non-Christians is ever-increasing.

Brookhaven is a culturally rich and historic community with much that reflects the common grace of God. At the same time, as with any place in this world, sin knocks at the door and desires to possess this community. If left unchecked by the love of Christ, the current trajectory of this community will result in material prosperity without deeper fulfillment, insular gentrification leading to exploitative expulsion of minorities and the less-fortunate, worldly success at the expense of healthy families, comfort that is blind to the plight of neighbor, and most importantly, separation from God and a consequent lack of fulfillment, joy, and peace, due to self-idolatry and the pursuit of 'the good life.'

Brookhaven Pres seeks to be a representative of the kingdom of God and the historic Christian church in our community of Brookhaven and the surrounding areas. By God's grace, if we are able to be a faithful witness to our risen Lord, people will experience salvation for their souls and the resultant flourishing that happens as those who have been redeemed engage a lost world. For that to happen, our church must resist falling prey to the false gods of money, success, approval, comfort, and power. We must resist Mammon through generosity, redefine success in terms of fulfilling God's desire for us, find our approval in Christ alone rather than the world's approval, and fight for the health of the family unit through a greater spiritual understanding of the family of God. We must become a church that does not merely mimic the surrounding culture but engages the surrounding culture and calls it to repentance, faith, and joy.

BROOKHAVEN PRES MISSION

Brookhaven Presbyterian Church exists to glorify God and enjoy him forever.

BROOKHAVEN PRES VISION

Over the next five years BPC seeks to continue to build on the foundation we have been given in the first five years of our church. We envision a church that is well-balanced: that puts effort and energy into doing all of the tasks of a church well: evangelism, discipleship, service, worship, and fellowship. Our vision is that in five years we would be an incarnational church and not an attractional one: going deep in relationships; prioritizing people over programs and processes; and expecting to pursue others rather than expecting them to pursue us. We see a generous church, one that is continuing to give 25% of its tithes and offerings away to other ministries and organizations that promote human flourishing and the work of our Lord, Jesus Christ. We desire to be a church that fights the idol of control through being deeply prayerful. We envision a church

that is devoted to human flourishing: that of our community, our people, our leaders, and our staff. By God's grace we will be biblically literate and thoughtful; intellectually challenging, yet accessible; in worship, sermons and in theological formation.

We also envision a church that is structurally driven by its leadership structure, encouraging our people to invest in others as Christ has invested in us. As such, we see ministry increasing through our ministry teams: Gathering, Discipleship, Diaconal Ministry, Family Ministry, Missions, and Young Professionals. Through our diaconal ministry, we will continue to solidify our ministries to the homeless, immigrants and refugees, and those working with foster care and adoption. We also will continue to become increasingly diverse as a church, both racially and socio-economically, and we will pursue racial reconciliation. We will continue to be ecumenical in our approach to our community, building relationships with many churches and being involved in our denominational body. We will continue to be relationally deep and desegregated in our approach to children in our Family Ministry, and we will prioritize those with special needs in our Family Ministry and our church. We will invest deeply in our Foundations program to provide structure and discipleship for young adults exiting college, and we will deepen our involvement with several key strategic partners in missions around the world: in Berlin, Kuala Lumpur, El Salvador, and Ethiopia. We envision being a church-planting church. We plan to continue adherence to Reformed theology and the Westminster Standards as we maintain our connection to the historic Christian Church. And we pray to God for wisdom, courage, humility, and holiness as we seek to see His kingdom come in all we do.

OUR VALUES

Prayer

Often we move straight to action mode without undergirding everything we do with prayer. However, to truly fulfill our calling as followers of Christ, it is imperative that we remember that of ourselves we are nothing, but our worth is in the One who gave his life for us rather than anything we do for ourselves. Therefore, we fulfill our calling out of love, and we approach the throne of God in the confidence of the One who allows us to participate in His work. We are committed to being a people of prayer.

"...Pray continually..." - 1 Thess. 5:17

"Therefore let everyone who is godly pray to you while you may be found." - Ps. 32:6

Human Flourishing

Jesus' care for the sick and dispossessed of society indicates that He is wholistically concerned with mankind. The verses below indicate that true Christianity expresses itself in a significant concern for the well-being of all people. Our concern as Christians for human flourishing is a picture of the redemption that is ours in Christ: it flows out of our understanding that though we were poor, wretched, and despised as enemies of God, we have been made objects of His affection through the cross of Christ. Therefore, we seek the greater good of humanity in all areas of life, and plan to address the local issues of poverty, lack of education, and injustice. Additionally, we desire to be a spiritually and emotionally healthy people who flourish in pursuing God's will for us. We desire not to place an undue burden on people, but for them to have gospel-balanced lives; to be a church that offers something, not just one that only asks.

"I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full." - John 10:10

"Also, seek the peace and prosperity of the city to which I have carried you." - Jeremiah 29:7

"Suppose a brother or sister is without clothes and daily food. If one of you says to him, 'Go, I wish you well; keep warm and well fed,' but does nothing about his physical needs, what good is it?" - James 2:15-16

"Is not this the kind of fasting I have chosen: to loose the chains of injustice and untie the cords of the yoke, to set the oppressed free and break every yoke?" - Isaiah 58:6

"He defends the cause of the fatherless and the widow, and loves the alien, giving him food and clothing. And you are to love those who are aliens, for you yourselves were aliens in Egypt." - Deuteronomy 10:18-19

Redemption

Christ redeems us, changing our hearts from ugly to loved and turning objects of wrath into objects of love. As such, we seek to see this great truth realized in all areas of life. Primarily, we desire for others who live in the rejection of God to be made new, to experience new life, to be transformed, and to experience the overwhelming joy and peace that comes from worshipping the King of the Universe. Additionally, we desire to experience the theme of redemption in even the small things in our lives: to see old things made new, broken things made whole, and dirty things made clean.

"O Israel, put your hope in the Lord, for with the Lord is unfailing love and with him is full redemption." - Ps. 130

"He who was seated on the throne said, 'I am making everything new!'" - Rev. 21:5

Generosity

Those to whom much has been given, much is expected. This truth reflects the fact that we who were spiritually poor have been given the riches of Christ through his redeeming work. Consequently, we demonstrate how much we have been given by God, and we seek to be overwhelmingly generous to others, in and out of the church, with our time, finances, talents, and possessions.

"For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich...Remember this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver." - 2 Corinthians 8:9; 9:6-7

"From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded." - Luke 12:48

Incarnational Ministry

God did not wait for us to come to him to visit his salvation and blessing upon us, but came to us, even becoming one of us, in the person of Christ. In the same way we cannot sit by and expect people to come to us when they have spiritual or physical need. We seek to reflect Christ in meeting others where they are rather than expecting them to come to us. This is true in sharing the gospel of Christ, loving our neighbors, and serving those in need.

"You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous man, though for a good man someone might possibly dare to die. But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: while we were still sinners, Christ died for us." - Rom. 5:6-8

"We loved you so much that we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God but our lives as well, because you had become so dear to us." - 1 Thess. 2:8

"The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us." - John 1:14

BROOKHAVEN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, 2013-2018

God has tremendously blessed our church since its birth. Brookhaven Pres began as a leadership team of 17 adults in January 2013, and has grown to 84 leaders in March 2018. We have given 25% of our income away every year to 4 church plants, several local organizations, Promise 686 (an adoption and foster care initiative), World Relief and Immigrant Hope (two immigration and refugee initiatives), Vision Collegiate Ministries (a ministry at the Atlanta University Center), FCA, and the Atlanta Mission. We have established strategic missions partners in Berlin, Kuala Lumpur, and El Salvador. We support several missionaries, have established a scholarship fund for the Theological Seminary of Malaysia in Kuala Lumpur, and have sent many people on short-term missions trips. We have 200 adults in discipleship groups, and have established discipleship groups for our 2nd-5th graders and middle school students. We have 4 full-time staff and 6 part-time staff. People generally feel welcomed and have an incarnational mindset, but most importantly, we believe God has been glorified in our short existence.

BROOKHAVEN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, 2023

By God's grace, in 2023 Brookhaven Pres will continue to be a church that glorifies God by our existence. We seek to build on the foundation that we have been given. By 2023, Brookhaven seeks to have 220 adults on leadership. We desire to maintain our giving at 25% (continuing with 17% to diaconal giving and 8% to missions). We hope to have developed a student ministry program to minister to middle and high school students, both within our church and outside our church. This ministry will have at least 2 guys and 2 girls discipleship groups. We hope to have a permanent worship facility, or to have raised \$4 million toward the purchase of one. We hope to have solidified and expanded our current diaconal ministries to our four target categories: Racial Reconciliation, Adoption/Foster Care, Immigrants/Refugees, and the Homeless. We hope to have at least 20 people as part of our community who are or were on the street at one point. We hope to have 50 young professionals in our Foundations program. We plan to plant at least one church in the next 5 years, and we hope to be sending 1 full-time missionary per year to the mission field by the year 2023. We hope to have had at least 15 more families foster a child or children. We hope to have resettled 4 refugee families closer to our church so that we might better minister to them. We hope to have an established ministry at a local apartment complex. We will have a custom built system in place for spiritual and theological formation. We hope to see several new believer baptisms per year. We hope to have a steady rotation of 30 musicians leading worship, and a partnership between our musical worship and missions. We hope to have solidified at least one more strategic missions partnership, and to strongly develop our relationships with our existing strategic partners, sending and receiving missionaries from those places each year. We desire that the sense of deep relational connection and incarnational ministry will increase, even if we continue to grow numerically. Finally, we hope to have raised money in order to buy a building with cash, so as to maintain our current budget value priorities of human flourishing through relational ministry through prioritizing staff, and generosity through giving away 25% of our budget. And as always, we desire that all that we do will serve to glorify our risen Lord.