

Strong Tower Fellowship

Macon, Georgia

Pastor Search Information

Strong Tower Fellowship is a mission church of Central Georgia Presbytery. It was begun in 2009 after Vineville Presbyterian Church (PCA) voted to donate their property and church buildings to Central GA Presbytery for a church replant focusing on the Pleasant Hill Neighborhood which occupies a square mile in adjoining proximity to the church building.



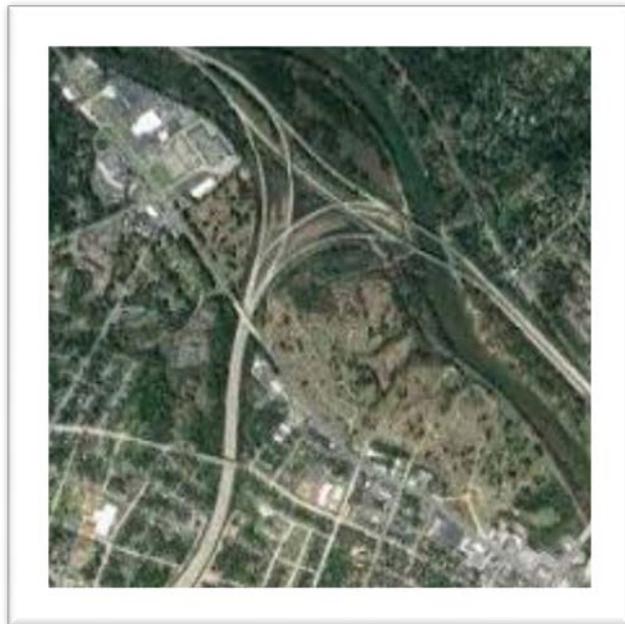
Tom Anderson was called by the Presbytery to be the church planter for the mission. Tom had been serving as an assistant pastor at FPC/Macon since 2001. A provisional Session of ruling and teaching elders was formed from the presbytery to give oversight to the mission. Tom served as church planter from 2009 until 2015 when he moved to disability status due to Multiple Sclerosis. He and wife, Sara, relocated to their hometown of Birmingham, AL. Gary Leibovich was called to become the organizing pastor in 2015 after serving on the mission field in Nairobi, Kenya. He and wife, Robin, continued the outreach into the community and served until August of 2017 before relocating in St. Louis. Gary trained several men to be candidates for church officers. Under the leadership of Tom and Gary, STF acquired 18 rental properties in Pleasant Hill and hired a part time staff person to



manage/maintain those. The staff was also expanded to include a Director of Children/ Youth Ministry, a pastoral intern, and a part time Music Director/Worship Leader.

The Pleasant Hill Neighborhood flourished from the early 1900's into the 1960's. It boasted such residents as musician Little Richard. The historic Linwood Cemetery in Pleasant Hill contains the grave of U.S. Representative Jefferson Franklin Long, Georgia's first African American congressman and the first African American to speak on the floor of the U.S. House of Representatives.

The 1960's brought many changes to Pleasant Hill. I-75 was constructed cutting the neighborhood in half. The slow downward cycle of multigenerational poverty began to manifest itself with illegal drug infestation and the expectant accompanying crime. Many residents and businesses relocated out of PH. The majority of the houses fell into disrepair and blight and remain so today. Presently, intact marriages and families are very rare. The few church buildings in the neighborhood are relics of the past since their congregations are not focused on ministering to the people of PH.



Vision and Goals

STF is attempting to bring hope and change to Pleasant Hill through the transforming power of the gospel of God's grace. We want to lead people to faith in Christ and equip them to serve Him. Our people are ministering to the community through word and deed. Sunday morning worship is attended by a racially diverse group of 50-75 people, many of them children. There is a weekly Bible study for men and one for women. A free meal is offered after Sunday worship twice each month.



Campus Clubs leases the three-story education building at Strong Tower. CC is a vibrant after-school academic program/ministry for at-risk children in the greater Macon area. You can learn more about it at: www.campusclubsmacon.org.

We are hoping the next man who serves as our organizing pastor will lead us through the process of becoming organized as a local church in the PCA. STF has survived financially due to the generous financial support of First Pres. Church and other churches in Central GA



Presbytery, as well as individual donors called the *Friends of Strong Tower*. There is also income from the 18 rental properties. The organizing pastor will need to continue efforts to underwrite the ministry and develop the grace of giving among members/attendees and the broader community of financial

supporters. He must not be intimidated in relating both to the wealthy and the poor.

Distinct Qualifications of the Man

- Willingness to love, befriend, and shepherd the people of STF.
- Willingness to build genuine relationships in Pleasant Hill neighborhood and to equip the people of STF to do the same.
- Proven track record of making disciples of Christ and equipping them to serve Christ.
- Ability and passion to communicate the gospel through word and deed.
- Ability to communicate clearly the vision of STF and build financial support bases for the ministry.
- Hope and faith which will enable a life of risk, passion, and unbridled faith in God for a better future for a community which has been ravaged by drugs, crime, addictions, and bad decisions.

Search Committee Members:

Cedric Andrews - Cedric has been a part of STF since 2014. He is a regular attender of the men's Bible study and Sunday morning worship.

Matt Armstrong - Matt has been involved with STF since 2014. He attends Sunday morning worship and is an elder in training.

John Carey - John and wife, Connie have been involved with STF since 2010. He leads the weekly men's Bible study and is an elder in training.

Lauren DeGeorge - Lauren and husband, Steven, along with their four boys, have been members of STF since 2011. She coordinates the nursery ministry and volunteers.

Chip Miller (chairman) serves as pastor of FPC in Macon. He has been involved at the presbytery level with STF since its inception and now serves on the Provisional Session.

Amber Pritchett - Amber and husband, Rhett, have been involved with STF since 2013. She leads the middle school girls' youth group on Wednesday nights and sings in the choir.

Patricia Smith - Patricia and son, Jeremy, have been a part of Strong Tower Fellowship since it started in 2009. She is a leader on the worship team and also attends home group.



For more information visit us at: www.strongtowermacon.com

Application Process

If you are interested in applying for this position, please send an email to Chip Miller at chipmiller2000@yahoo.com. Attach a resume or PCA Ministerial Data Form.

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