



# GRACE COASTAL CHURCH

OKATIE, SC

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## CHURCH PROFILE

Confidential information intended for GCC Senior Pastor candidates

## INTRODUCTION

Grace Coastal Church (GCC) is a church in the Presbyterian Church of America (PCA), located in Okatie South Carolina in an area known as the “Lowcountry”. Local landmarks and well known locations include historic Beaufort (and county seat), Bluffton on the May River, the beautiful Hilton Head Island, and numerous golf and active living communities such as Sun City, Berkeley Hall, Margaritaville, and Hampton Lake.



## OUR PASTOR SEARCH COMMITTEE

The purpose of this profile is to give you and your family a high-level overview of who we are, what our values are, our heritage, our worship styles, what our ministries are, and where we live. Please see the accompanying Pastor Profile to discover what we seek in our next senior pastor.

The church has retained the services of Chuck Frost of **McGowan Global Institute** to assist us with this effort.

Chuck can be reached at [chuck@mcgowanglobal.com](mailto:chuck@mcgowanglobal.com)

If for any other reason you wish to contact the search committee chair, please email [psc@gracecoastalchurch.com](mailto:psc@gracecoastalchurch.com)

*Thank you for your time and interest in Grace Coastal Church!*



## OUR VISION & MISSION



We seek to honor God and to strengthen our faith in Him as we seek to glorify our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. We desire authentic faith and worship, to serve God, to share our faith in our community, and to grow in grace with the knowledge of Jesus. We strive to love and care for each other, bearing one another's burdens and lifting them up in prayer.

Grace Coastal Church, a member of the Presbyterian Church in America (PCA), is a gospel-driven, community-based church. We seek to share the gospel of Jesus Christ to Okatie and the surrounding neighborhoods where our members live, work, study, and play.

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### We are committed to serving God and seeking life transformation through:

- **Worship** - To honor God with holy, accessible worship with a focus on the preaching of the word.
- **Prayer** - To praise and adore God, to seek His will, and to lift one another up in constant prayer.
- **Evangelism** - To love one another as a community of God's people, that Christ might be formed in us.
- **Discipleship** - To bear witness to the good news of Jesus' resurrection both in word and deed.
- **Fellowship** - To commune with and to serve one another across generations as believers in love, friendship, and service, as Christ dwells in each of us.

### We seek to strengthen the foundations of faith in the Lowcountry community through:

- Making disciples, baptizing and teaching Jesus's commands - Matthew 28:18
- Seeking repentance and forgiveness of sins - Luke 24:44-49
- Evangelism by bearing witness to the testimony of Jesus - Acts 1:8
- Performing deeds in service to the message of Jesus - Acts 20:21
- Seeking forgiveness, reconciliation, and discipleship in the body of Christ—II Corinthians 4:5-6

### Our goals and objectives are:

- More balanced multi-generational demographic makeup, which means attracting more families.
- Attendance growth to 150-200, given the growth in the region
- Financial giving increased commensurate with the pace of new attendees/members
- Completion of strategic facilities plan to accommodate large sanctuary to accommodate one service, (vs. the existing 2 service split)

...and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace.

Ephesians 6:15



# OUR APPROACH

## Worship



We have been created by God, for God. He has placed within our hearts the desire to worship Him and the yearning to love Him. God's delight is to be worshiped by those who love Him. He is our rock and our Savior and has proven it by giving us His Son Jesus as a sacrifice to pay for our sins. Our Sunday morning worship services are the essential hub of our church. In accordance with God's Word, when we sing, pray, respond, affirm, and confess, we receive God's mercy and grace. The righteousness, peace, and joy of the kingdom of God are embraced and relished in worship.

## Prayer



Jesus encourages us to talk with our Heavenly Father in spirit and in truth. It is our privilege to communicate to God through prayer. Prayer is an essential element of our worship services, as we not only pray for God's redemptive work in our lives, but also for others in need of God's help.

## Evangelism



From the beginning, the heart of the church's mission has been the proclamation of the good news of the kingdom of God through Jesus Christ. Through our faith we share the love of God, in deed, lifestyle, and word. Speak and they shall hear. It is a blessing to verbally explain the good news of the Bible to family, friends, and neighbors. This message takes precedence over any other service the church offers.

## Discipleship



The church is responsible for developing and encouraging believers in Christ. In this we model Ephesians 4:11-12 and Colossians 1:28. We seek to train, to develop, and to mentor those who have trusted in Jesus. GCC encourages personal growth and discipline that will allow church members to reach out to others and form spiritual bonds.

## Fellowship



The fellowship of the body of Christ, and the joy that goes with it, is how the gospel works in practice. Fellowship is essential for Christians because it links Christians together as they grow in Christ; without it, the church stagnates.

## OUR HISTORY



Grace Coastal Church was founded in 1998, originally known as Okatie Presbyterian.

The church property now sits on 13.09 acres and includes 1 additional building, hosting a membership of over 150 people. In addition, the church also accommodates Learning Together Lowcountry, a Christian homeschool group with over 200 children from 120 families.

Since its inception, Grace Coastal Church has been a member of the Presbyterian Church in America (PCA) and is part of the Lowcountry Presbytery, which includes churches from Summerville to Charleston to Hilton Head.

In its almost 25 year existence, Grace Coastal Church has been blessed to have been served by only 3 senior pastors:

### **The Rev. Al Lutz, 1998-2004**

The founding pastor, served from 1998 to 2004. Pastor Lutz had a degree in horticulture from the University of Kentucky and developed a strong following of Marines from the Beaufort Marine Corps Air Station and the Marine Corps Recruit Depot at Parris Island.

### **The Rev. Bob Bates, 2004-2011**

Pastor Bob graduated from the Citadel and had a natural way of presenting God's Word. The church grew and flourished under his leadership.

### **The Rev. Sam Joyner, 2012-2021**

Pastor Sam was a undergraduate of Furman University and graduate from Covenant Seminary in St. Louis. Sam enjoyed leading Grace Coastal Church and delighted in mercy ministries within the community.

## STAFF & LEADERSHIP



### INTERIM PASTOR

Interim Pastor Rick Downs is 69 years old and has trusted in the Lord for 51 years. He and his wife, “T”, moved to Bluffton in 2021 from Cambridge, MA, where he was the pastor of Christ the King Church. Rick graduated from Florida State, Westminster Seminary, and Grace Theological Seminary.



### DIRECTOR OF WORSHIP ARTS & YOUTH MINISTRIES

David Seitzinger is 38 years old, grew up in a PCA church, and has been a believer for over 30 years. He and his wife, Katie, and family moved from Tennessee to the Bluffton area. David has a BA in Guitar Performance from Tennessee Tech. After graduating from Covenant Seminary in St. Louis, he and his family joined GCC in 2018. He is pursuing ordination in the PCA.



### DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

Llana Qualls is 29 years old. She and her husband, Brandon, and their two children have lived in the Beaufort/ Bluffton area most of their lives. Llana was home-schooled and has an Associates Degree from Liberty University in both Religion and Business. Llana has been a believer for 23 years and a member of GCC for 4 years.



### STAFF DEACON

John Ring is 62 years old. He and his wife, Janice, moved to Bluffton from Maryland 16 years ago. John is a graduate of Cedarville College and Loyola College and is currently Staff Deacon and Director of Hope for the Community. John has been a believer for 56 years and a member of GCC for 16 years.



### CHURCH ADMINISTRATOR

Sheryl Maddux is our Church Administrator and has been a believer for 25 years. She and her husband, Davis, moved here from Sarasota, Fl. Sheryl graduated from Aquinas College in Nashville, Tennessee.



### IT ADMINISTRATOR

Hannah Hicks lived in NE and KS before moving to Bluffton 21 years ago. Hannah has an Associates Degree in Business from the American Intercontinental University. She has been a believer in Jesus for 35 years and a member of GCC for 8 years. Hannah is married to husband Robert, and they have raised four children. Hannah's hobbies include homeschool activities, crocheting, and gardening.



# ELDERS OF GRACE COASTAL CHURCH

## MIKE SLAY

Mike Slay and his wife, Patti, moved from Maryland where Mike graduated from the University of Maryland and attended Chesapeake Theological Seminary. He has served as an elder since 2012 and writes a daily devotional called “the DEEP”.

## LARRY DECKER

Larry Decker is 81 years old and is married to Meredith. He was raised and educated in Los Angeles, CA, where he graduated from Harbor Jr. College and attended a local bible college. He flew for the U.S. Navy as a fighter pilot, then for American Airlines. Larry has been a believer most of his life and an elder for 10 years.

## TIM BRANDT

Tim Brandt is 59 years old and, with his wife Colleen have raised four children. Tim has trusted in the Lord for 33 years and has been an elder for 2 years. He was graduated from Ferris State College in Grand Rapids and from South University in Savannah. Tim and his family moved from Michigan and is employed as a physical therapist.

## DAVE MCGEE

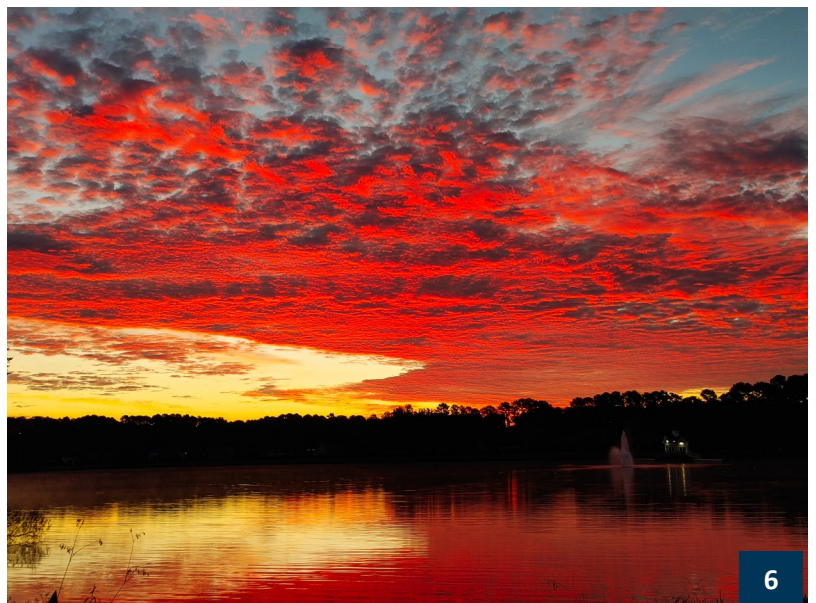
Dave McGee and his wife Lynn moved from Indiana to the Bluffton area in 2005 and have raised four sons. Dave is 69 years old, is a retired naval reserve officer and has worked in different manufacturing and purchasing leadership positions. He is a graduate of Miami University (Ohio) and UNC Chapel Hill. A believer for 62 years and an elder for 9 years, Dave is currently employed by Gulfstream Aerospace Corporation as a Lean Six Sigma Master Black Belt.

## MATT RICHARDSON

Matt Richardson is 48 years old and is the husband of Chris and father of two boys. Matt has been a believer for 35 years and an elder for 17 years.

Matt is a graduate of Erskine College and of Reformed Theological College, and is currently employed with 1st Federal Bank.

Matt is also a co-writer for “the DEEP”. He and his family moved to this area from Abbeville, SC.



## WORSHIP & MUSIC

### WORSHIP AT GRACE COASTAL

We practice an elder-led, informal-liturgical worship style, influenced by historic reformed liturgical structures. As people from varied backgrounds brought together in Christ, this includes traditional worship elements like responsive readings, recited prayers, and newer instrumentation and musical styles. Both styles are included in order to bring together the formal and traditional with the informal and modern.

Great effort is taken to curate worship music that is true, accurate, applicable to life, and singable by the congregation. The music of the church is part of the worship offering of the congregation to the living God, and must therefore be accessible by congregants, while prioritizing robust theology and biblical concepts.



**It was my sin that held him there  
Until it was accomplished;  
His dying breath has brought me life.  
I know that it is finished.**



The worship is gospel-focused and designed to follow the story of redemption, including aspects of each major section of that story: the initiating call of God, the praise in the garden, acknowledging the effects of the fall in confession, celebrating the joy of redemption and restoration in Christ, pointing in word and sacrament to the eternal kingdom of Our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, and a sending with God's blessing as we work in hope of that coming kingdom.

We are currently holding two services at 8:30 and 11:00 am, with well-attended Adult and Children's Education classes held between the services. We also livestream the 8:30 AM Sunday service to our website, Facebook, and YouTube. Audio versions of each sermon are also made available as podcasts distributed to services such as iTunes and Spotify. GCC also continues to expand and enhance its digital ministry activities, including through mobile platforms and member collaboration tools.



# MINISTRY TEAMS & FOCUS

## CORE MINISTRIES

Worship	Sunday worship services
Prayer	Weekly and when needed
Children	Sunday School, VBS, other special events
Student	Youth Group, special events
Adult	Men/women Bible studies, seminars, and small groups

## CURRENT OUTREACH

Radiance Women's Center	For expectant moms
Backpack Buddies of Bluffton	Providing food for children to take home from schools
Learn Together Lowcountry	Christian home school group (K-12)
Stephens Ministry	Christian care and support to those in need
Small groups	Small groups (Bible studies) that meet in homes
Grace Coastal youth	All youth in the church
Men's Bible Study	All men in the church
SOUP	Women's evening bible study
Women in Church - WIC	All women in the church
Hope for the Community	Led by John Ring

## ON HOLD OUTREACH

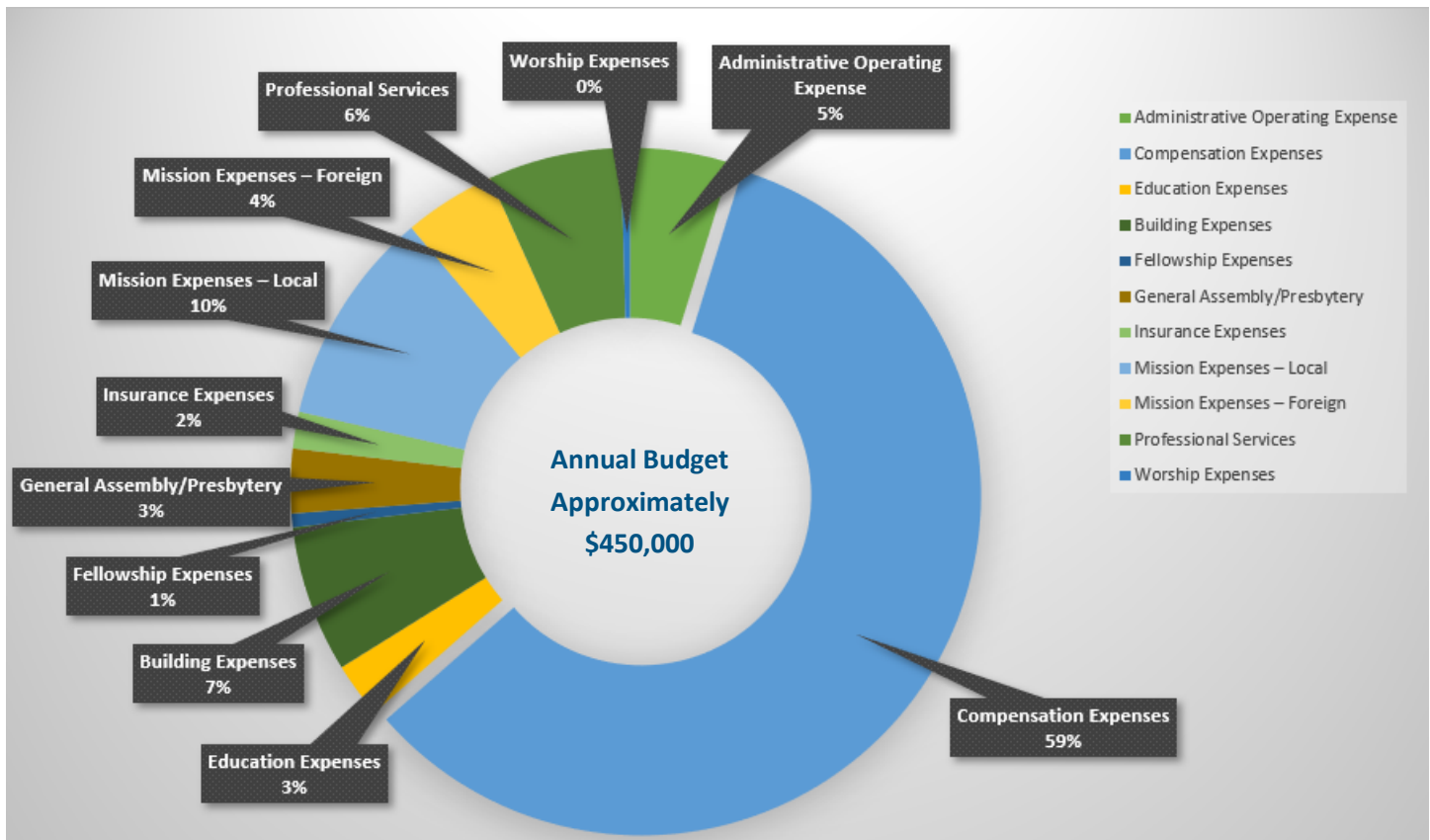
Family Promise	Providing shelter for the homeless
James Project	Community projects

## MISSIONS

Jon and Sarah Pfeil	Mission to the World, Japan
Charles and Bonita Davidson	Mission to the World, Monterrey, Mexico
Pamyla Burrack	Mission to the World, Germany
Bassam Chedid	Children of Abraham, The Muslim World
Rebekah Carson	World Witness, Germany
Captain Kenneth Conklin (USA)	Chaplain- 5 <sup>th</sup> Battalion, 25 <sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Regiment
Christina Thomas	Recruiter for Medical Missions with Christian Medical Ministry
Sammy Rhodes	Reformed University Fellowship at USC
Jacob Lee	Reformed University Fellowship at College of Charleston
Aaron Kalm	Young Life Leader (HHI/Bluffton)
J.P. Sibley	Church Plant in Orangeburg
Joel Brown	Mission to North America, College/Outreach Dir. in Orangeburg

## 2022 BUDGET INFORMATION

The following are high-level budget expense numbers for Grace Coastal Church fiscal year 2022. The expenses are shown as percentage of spend within the overall budget



*There is a separately collected, distributed, and accounted Deacons' Fund that is receiving roughly \$26,000 per year, and distributed roughly \$17,000 in 2021.*

## CAMPUS INFORMATION



## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- Sanctuary capacity: 125
- Sanctuary square feet: 4,025
- Total square feet, all facilities: 8,784
- Main building capacity: 3 offices, 1 medium meeting space
- Multi-purpose building capacity: 7 classrooms, 1 kitchen, 1 conference space that can accommodate 50+
- Location: 15 Williams Dr., Okatie, SC 29909
- Fenced playground
- Property acres owned: 13.09



# ABOUT OKATIE & SURROUNDING AREA

## WHAT TO KNOW ABOUT GCC & THE OKATIE AREA

Combined attendees for our two Sunday services about 125. Approximately 50 percent of our congregation is retired, 40 percent working and 10 percent students.

Grace Coastal Church is a community active church with its facilities being used by the following organizations: Cub Scouts, Beaufort Alliance, Sun City Bible Study, Learning Together Lowcountry, Beaufort Review Board, AL-Anon, and AA.

Within just a few miles of GCC there are four residential communities with over one thousand residences, Sun City being the largest, and six more with just under a thousand rooftops. Most of these communities have been developed within the last twenty-five years.

Okatie is located south of Beaufort and north of Bluffton, SC. Bluffton's population is about 33,000 with the median age being 35.1 years. Male/female ratio is nine males for every ten females, with 62% being married. Families with children under 18 years of age is 51%. The percentage of those speaking English is 83%, with 12% speaking Spanish.

Real estate prices for single family homes range from \$413,000 in Sun City, \$420,000 in Cypress Ridge, to \$365,000 in Margaritaville.

The Bluffton Campus of the University of South Carolina Beaufort is just four miles southwest of GCC. Also nearby is the Technical College of the Low Country (TCL). Bluffton and the surrounding area has eight public elementary schools, two public middle schools, two public high schools, four private schools, and a number of home school groups, including LTL. The schools allow for multiple options for children to participate, and are well placed in the area for accessibility.

