



COMMUNITY CHURCH GRIFFIN of Griffin, GA is a part of the Presbyterian Church in America (PCA) and seeking to call a Pastor to lead and serve alongside our congregation.

OUR VISION

Wade and Jill Miller sensed the call to ministry while he was an accountant in South Georgia. After changing directions and moving his family to St. Louis, he graduated with a Master's in Divinity from Covenant Theological Seminary. Having been confirmed in a call to plant a church in a small community in Georgia, Wade and Jill clearly sensed God leading them to Griffin. With a keen interest in smaller communities, and with the goal of starting a gospel-centered, grace-driven church, they moved here in 2012. They knew no one and did not have another church providing people to help them begin. By the spring of 2013 a local group of around 20 individuals and couples were meeting in their home. Those meetings were a sweet time of fellowship, Bible study, dreaming, praying, and planning. Downtown Griffin was identified as the ideal location that would bring in people from all areas. The name Community Church Griffin was decided by the group after much prayer, brainstorming and discussion. We desired a name that would be welcoming to anyone regardless of where they were coming from. We wanted to be characterized by our community feeling, not one of exclusivity.

Most of the original families and individuals came without a PCA background. People were simply wanting to be a part of a church built on preaching of God's Word and authentic relationships. In fact, there was much discussion and expectation our church would not take on some of the more rigid and legalistic characterizations by which some PCA churches past and present could be described. This openness extended into other areas as well, and the result was people of every background were welcomed and drawn to our fellowship with different income levels, denominational backgrounds, ethnicities, etc.

Wade's original vision was for a gospel-centered, God-centered church with theological richness that would build deep roots into God's love and Word. The best way to sum this up is to say we believe in:

<p><u>Scripture Alone</u></p> <p>All our teaching & preaching must be scripturally grounded.</p>	<p><u>Christ Alone</u></p> <p>Theology must be Christ focused.</p>	<p><u>Faith Alone</u></p> <p>The Gospel is not a work. Our whole life must be faith driven.</p>	<p><u>Grace Alone</u></p> <p>Everything from God is by grace.</p>	<p><u>God Alone</u></p> <p>God alone is to be glorified.</p>
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OUR PILLARS

Wade inspired us to see God-centered versus man-centered expositional teaching leads to conviction, repentance and growth in Godward-ness, holiness, and life change. With this in mind, we started with a few core pillars:

<p><u>WORSHIP</u></p> <p>Ex 20:2-6 (One True God)</p> <p>1 Chron 16:23-31 (He is Worthy)</p> <p>Ps 99:5,9 (He is Holy)</p> <p>2 Tim 4:2 (Preaching is Predominant Activity of a Worship Service)</p>	<p><u>EQUIP</u></p> <p>2 Tim 3:16,17</p> <p>Eph 4:12</p> <p>1 Peter 4:10</p> <p>2 Peter 1:3</p> <p>2 Tim 4:2</p>	<p><u>REACH</u></p> <p>Mark 16:15</p> <p>Jer 1:7</p> <p>Acts 1:8</p> <p>Matt 25:35-40</p> <p>Is 52:7</p> <p>Matt 28:19-20</p>	<p><u>COMMUNITY</u></p> <p>Acts 2:42-47</p> <p>1 John 1:3,7</p> <p>Matt 18:20</p> <p>Heb 13:16</p> <p>Phil 2:1</p> <p>Heb 10:24-25</p>
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After planning and praying for several months, we had an outdoor worship and installation service for Wade at a local spot called Spalamar. We began worship services in August of 2013 at Safehouse Coffee in downtown Griffin, meeting at night for a good while.

The atmosphere was casual and coffee-house style, and our worship was characterized by authenticity. We wanted worship songs as well as hymns, with a high standard for biblical lyrics and musicianship. Luke Hardie emerged as our worship leader and continues to lead faithfully.

Wade and Jill were very hospitable, reaching out to their neighbors and anyone they met. They loved to gather all types of men and women, hosting “Beef and Beer” and other small groups for meals in their home. Wade would say that “80% of ministry is hang time.” People were drawn to his open personality and the way he asked questions and drew people out. He regularly reached out to men and women in the congregation for feedback and ideas. Wade was known for his humility and modeled authentic repentance to us all in real relationships.

After a brief stint of meeting at Shoal Creek Clubhouse, by August of 2015 we began meeting at Joey Scanlon’s building on East Solomon Street. People regularly commented on the welcoming atmosphere the congregation had. The first elder installation and church particularization service was held on January 28, 2018. Otis Blake and Chris Piland were the first elders. Later, the first Deacons ordained were Charles Gilbert and Jordan Piland.

For the first few years, we did not have any children in the nursery. Now however, there are plenty of children filling the nursery along with children’s church. One of the distinctives of our church is the diversity in ages. There has always been a sweetness in the building as the seniors among us love on the teenagers and little ones and the families treasure the intergenerational atmosphere.

When Wade and Jill felt the call to transition away from full-time ministry, the deacons and elders formed a search team. During that time, as candidates came to town, the elders’ and deacons’ wives would join in with the team for a meal to ask the candidates questions. It was a time of camaraderie and richness as we prayed and worked together as couples. Meanwhile, Dr. Charley Lynn Chase, a retired pastor and recently retired

chaplain of First Presbyterian Day School, was suggested to fill the pulpit from time to time. His strong preaching style captivated young and old, and he was soon asked to be the interim pastor.

After several months, CCG called Dr. Chase to be our pastor. Dr. Chase is the author of two books, *Grace-Focused Optimism: Learning to Live the Grace-governed Life of Optimism About God*, published in 2017, and *Good, Good Father: Knowing God as He Wants to be Known*, published in 2021. His content-rich, biblical, metaphor-laden sermons inspired the congregation to trust God more, depend on Him more, and dig deeper into His Word and His grace.

While Dr. Chase and his wife, Sue, were here, Covid-19 hit Griffin. Dr. Chase, the elders and deacons held to the conviction services should continue after a brief closing. Community Church Griffin was one of the few churches who carried on with preaching and singing and it was a great encouragement to the congregation.

The congregation continued to grow during and after this time, and chairs were needed to be brought in regularly. The nursery was bursting with children, and we had a team assigned to find new property options. After much prayer and searching, the “old Cartledge Furniture building” on Taylor Street was purchased and renovations began. Our own Luke Hardie led the construction team, Jim Yeagle headed up the volunteers, Greg Morgan did the design work, and the process was overseen by Elder Chris Piland. Christmas Eve of 2022 marked the first worship service in the new building.

Community Church Ministries

Community Church has several growing ministries.

The Prayer Ministry: We meet every Wednesday at 6pm at the church and it is open to everyone. We recognize this ministry is of utmost importance and is crucial to the success of every other ministry.

Men's Ministry: Several bible studies have been offered to grow and develop our men toward maturity in Christ. We have also had opportunities to minister to the needs of families within our church body as well as in our local community.

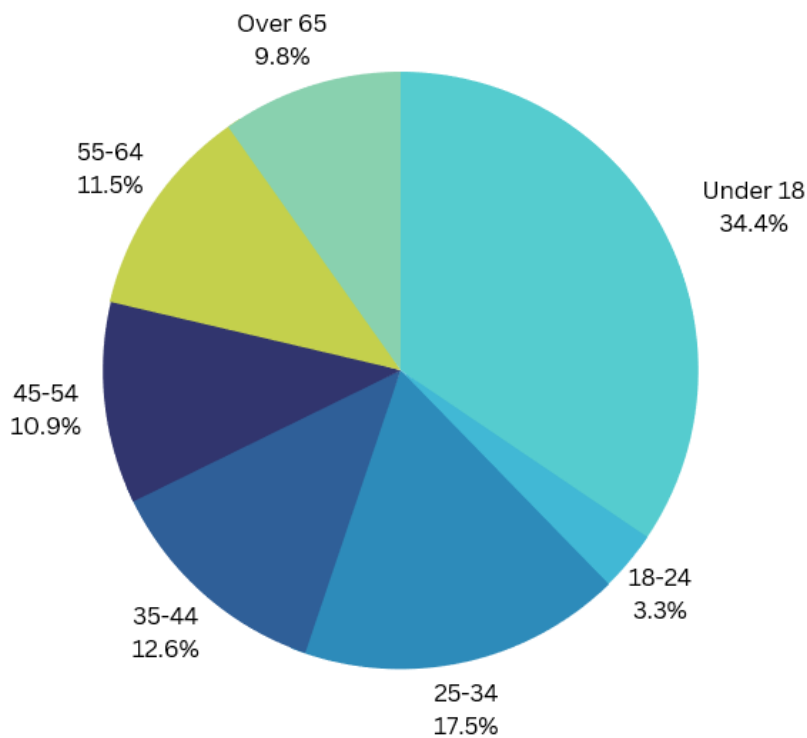
Women's Ministry: In the summer of 2021, Community Church's Women's Ministry was started. The Women's Ministry Team plans and oversees a variety of activities focusing on bible study, testimonies, social activities, and book clubs. The women's ministry currently meets every Tuesday from 6-8.

Children's Ministry: On Sundays, the children's ministry provides classes for ages 3 - 10. The 4th Sunday of each month is reserved for family worship and there is no Children's Church provided. The children are to attend the worship service with their families. The children's ministry also provides care for infants and toddlers each Sunday.

Family Kids Club: Family Kids Club grew out of a desire for more fellowship with our growing number of children. Meeting once a month, this time serves as a chance for the kids to serve the community as well as do a variety of fun activities.

Demographics

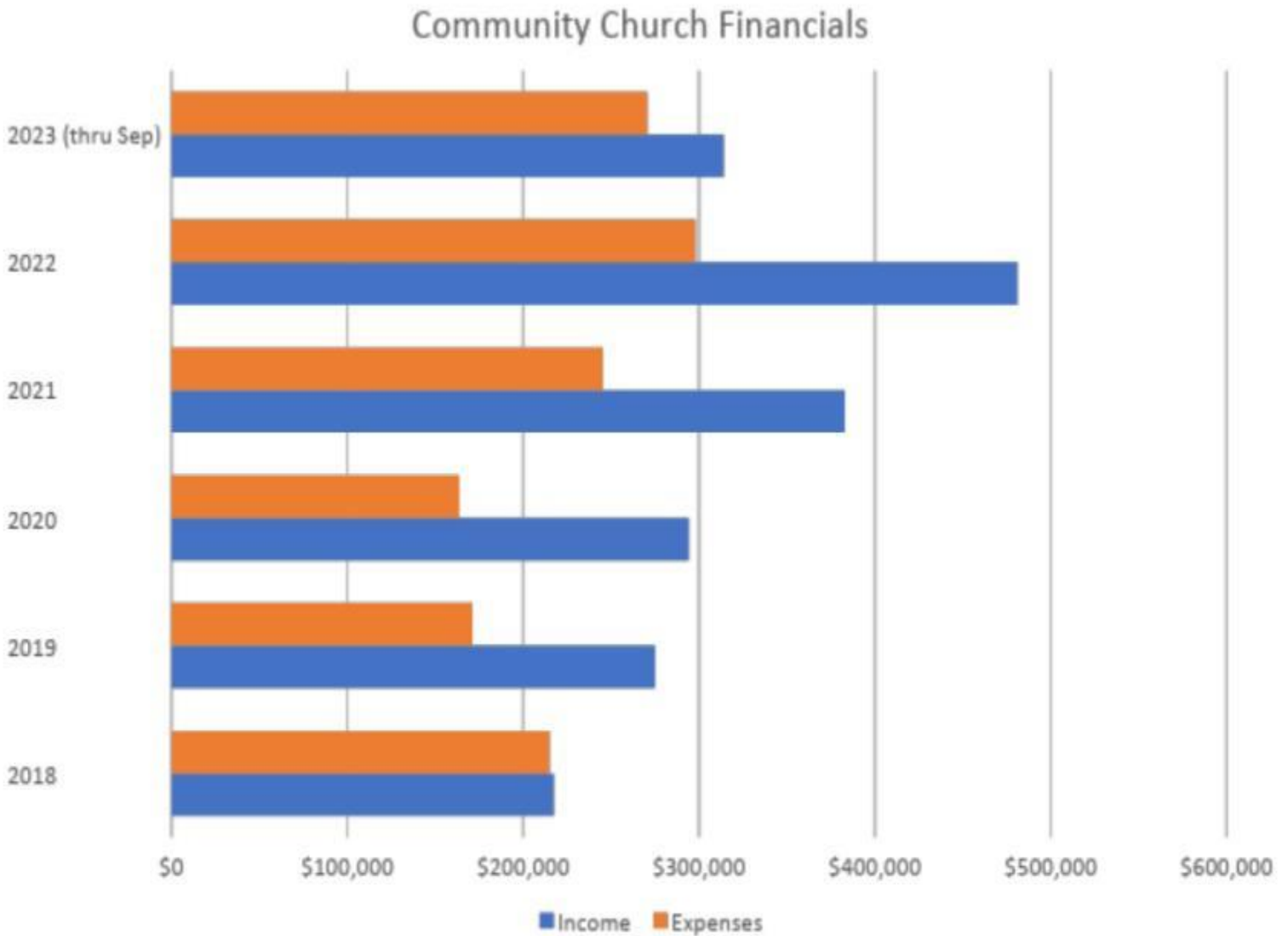
Community Church Griffin has members and regular attenders participating in Sunday worship on a weekly basis. Each week, we have an average of 125 attendees. This includes children, volunteers, members, as well as regular attenders.



Married: 94
Single: 85
Widowed: 4

Community Church Finances

CCG purchased a building in 2021 and put down 20% on the building loan. Our renovation cost was \$725,000. We paid \$600,000 in cash leaving us with a second loan in the amount of \$125,000. As of 10/11/23, we raised enough capital to pay the second loan off. Community Church has been given such generous and giving people – truly a tremendous blessing from the Lord.



Outside Ministries

CCG is a generous and missional church. Our goal is to allocate 10% of all giving towards missions. We qualify and prioritize funding based on the following tier system:

Tier 1: CCG Members or regular attenders: get priority of available funds and focus

Tier 2: Local Presbytery or PCA missionary

Tier 3: Local missionary known to members of CCG outside our denomination

Tier 4: Missionaries outside our state, denomination, and unknown to congregation

Young Life: Young Life is on a mission is to introduce adolescents to Jesus Christ and help them grow in their faith. Young Life is a non profit organization and is run in Griffin by area director, Cody Thomas.

Young Lives: Young Lives falls under the branch of Young Life but is a ministry that supports pregnant + parenting teens through MENTORSHIP, COMMUNITY, AND A LIFE WITH CHRIST. KATIE BUCKLES IS THE DIRECTOR IN GRIFFIN FOR THIS MINISTRY.

Families 4 Families: Families 4 Families is a faith based non-profit foster care agency in Georgia.

ELIC: We support a member, Hannah Grubbs, to teach English in Asia, with the ministry, ELIC .

George Mixon & Jonathan Jakes- Serge: A grace-based, international missions organization bringing together mission and spiritual renewal.

Rushtons Hope: Exists to impact lives with hope in Christ by meeting physical and spiritual needs wherever the Lord leads.

Daryle Smith - FCA: To lead every coach and athlete into a growing relationship with Jesus Christ and His church.

Dr. Jeff Lowman - ELI: Our mission is to equip and multiply biblically mature leaders who make disciples in every area of community life.

Michael Gordon - FCA: RUF connects the big truths of the Bible with the big questions college students face. We reach students for Christ and equip them to serve.

Fellowship

Community Church Griffin was built on a foundation of breaking bread together and enjoying simple hospitality as a church family.

When we first started meeting on Sunday evenings at Safe House Coffee in 2012, we hosted weekly dinners after church that helped bond our founding worshipers together as a unified body.

Now after a decade of being a congregation, our fellowship times have taken on a variety of forms including potluck lunches after church, children's Easter parties and church building celebrations featuring comical skit characters. Dinners and lunches in homes have been important in our history as well, and we have had organized as well as organic gatherings over meals in homes over the years.

Our Kid's Club has provided a monthly platform for a variety of fellowship and service activities ranging from Operation Christmas Child to flower planting, advent crafts and skating parties.

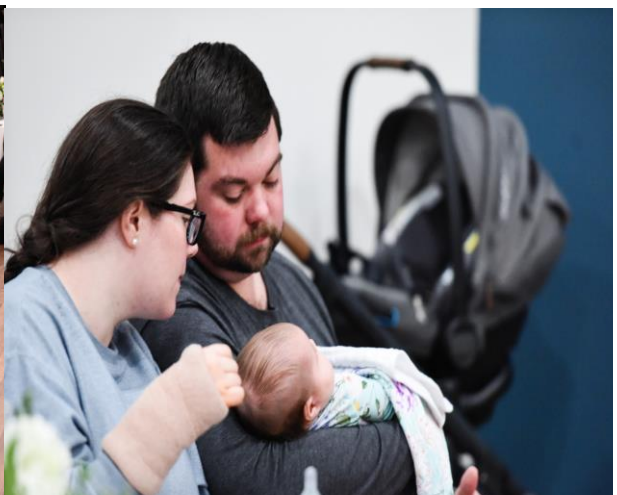
One of our favorite venues to gather is Spalamar, a spacious property with a cabin, pool and lake located five miles south of Griffin. From summer pool parties to fall barbeques and potluck dinners with live music and hayrides to student vs. parent games of ultimate frisbee, we have enjoyed the space there.

For the past several years the men have gathered there in the spring for a men's breakfast and time of encouragement. In addition to enjoying breakfast cooked on the Blackstone griddle, the men have participated in an elder-led time of Bible study and discipleship.



Likewise, the women have used the space for book clubs in addition to their other fellowship times of flower arranging and pottery painting.

We look forward to continuing to strengthen our bonds as a church body in a variety of ways in the coming years.



Community Church Worship & Music

CCG is led in a mixture of hymns and contemporary songs. Lyrics of all songs praise the Father in His infinite glory and reflect our need for Jesus. Singing songs Scripturally based is of the utmost importance. Worship is led with a sincere heart of awe and wonder at the God we serve; and a deep love for Jesus. The band includes guitar, drums, bass, keys, and a mandolin.



Elders & Deacons

CCG currently has 3 elders & 8 deacons. Each one of these men has been chosen and prayed for as they continue to help lead the present and future of the church.

Elders:

Brian Scoggin

Otis Blake

Chris Piland



Deacons:

Don Crider

Chad Doughtie

Jesse Edwards

Charles Gilbert

Andrew Harrison

Stephen Mann

Jordan Piland

Ben Veatch