



FAMILY MEETING 2025

A YEAR AT A GLANCE



THE BRIDGE
EXISTS TO
GLORIFY
GOD BY
BECOMING
& MAKING
DISCIPLES
OF JESUS
CHRIST.

**THE
BRIDGE**
COMMUNITY
CHURCH

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OUR STAFF & MINISTRIES

THE BRIDGE KIDS

Lori Waits

Director of The Bridge Kids

Beth Foster

The Bridge Kids Ministry Associate

Anna Garmon

The Bridge Kids Volunteer Coordinator

THE BRIDGE STUDENTS

Jake Handley

*Director of Student Ministry
& Global Missions*

Madeline Davison

Student Ministry Associate

THE BRIDGE COLLEGE

Trenton Fiscus

Director of College & Worship

MISSIONS

Jake Handley

*Director of Student Ministry
& Global Missions*

MacKenzie Davidson

Director of Local Ministry & Outreach

STAFF

Scott Byrd

Elder, Executive Pastor

Kay Laningham

Director of Women's Discipleship

Chris Hanchey

Elder, Teaching Pastor (Gatherings)

Raine Neilson

Office Manager

Matt Slate

Elder, Teaching Pastor (Groups)

Tyler Cory

Worship & Media Associate

Mary-Arthur Plette

Communications Director

Cindi Woods

Office Assistant

STAFF CHANGES

Kay Laningham
Director of Women's Discipleship, June 2025

Magan Causey
Transitioned out of Director of Women's Engagement, March 2025

Raine Neilson
Director of Connection & Administration September 2025

DEACONS

Andrew Neilson
Audio/Visual

Cameron Robertson
Facilities

Chris Reigelman
Finances

Caity Johnson
Member Care

Logan Hunt
Toby White
Mercy Ministries

Derek DeCoux
Landon Hunt
Security

ELDERS

Mark Boersma
Scott Byrd
Chris Hanchey
Brad Martin
Sid Moller
Tim Reeves
Matt Slate
Wayne Smith
Brandon Waits

SUMMER:

This summer, our church family experienced a sweet and unique season as we temporarily gathered at our Downtown Campus on Sunday mornings. While our North Campus underwent much-needed renovations to the air conditioning units, our church showed incredible flexibility and patience - adjusting routines, drop off and pick ups, and embracing a different space. We're so grateful for each of you who continued to show up, serve, worship, and make community happen no matter the location. Thank you for being part of this special chapter in the life of our church - it reminded us once again that the Church is never about a building, but about the people. We are thankful for ours!



MONTHLY GATHERINGS:

This year, we continued our four monthly rhythms: Elder Morning Prayer, First Saturday, Men's Monthly Breakfast, and the Missions Prayer Lunch. Each of these gatherings has continued to grow in both attendance and depth, as men and women from all ages and stages of life come together to pray, learn, and grow in their faith. It's been deeply encouraging to witness the way God is using these simple, consistent spaces to build community and deepen our understanding of who Jesus is. We hope these rhythms provide opportunities to gather, meet new people, encourage one another, and follow Jesus - together.

FOUNDATIONS:

We are so thankful for our church family and the many ways you continue to step into spaces to learn more about who we are at The Bridge. This year, 90 people participated in Foundations—a seven-week small group experience centered around the 5 Cs. In an informal and welcoming setting, participants got to know one another while exploring what the New Testament calls us to as followers of Christ. Foundations is the first step for anyone seeking to become a part of The Bridge, and it's been exciting to see so many take that step. We're grateful for each person who joined, for the honest conversations shared, and for all the new faces we met this year!



S.H.A.P.E. CLASS:

This year we hosted our first S.H.A.P.E. class where we went deeper into the unique ways God has designed us and how those things can be used for His glory and to further His kingdom inside and outside of the church. We are excited to see this class grow and more people begin to understand how they can use their spiritual gifts, heart, abilities, personality, and experiences for the kingdom.

OUR ELDERS

Our elders have been charged by God with shepherding His flock here at The Bridge. (1 Peter 5:2) Though largely unseen, they gather faithfully each week to “direct the affairs of the church.” (1 Timothy 5:17) This involves praying for and caring for the members of The Bridge and the needs they bring forward, supporting and encouraging our staff, and bringing clarity to doctrinal questions as they arise. They also seek out and raise up new elders who are qualified for the role. Areas of focus this past year have been implementing our philosophies for global and local missions and how to more intentionally develop a culture of discipleship at The Bridge.

WORSHIP AT THE BRIDGE

This past year has been a very special and encouraging season for our Worship Ministry. God has been faithful to grow and deepen our team in both skill and heart. One of the greatest wins we’ve seen is the incredible engagement from our volunteers. These volunteers take extra time throughout the week to practice and learn songs, and spend five hours on a Sunday helping lead worship. We’re blessed with a group of talented and committed musicians who care deeply—not just about excellence—but about leading our church to worship in spirit and truth.

Another exciting development has been the growth of our college and youth bands. It’s been a joy to watch students step into leadership and begin using their gifts to serve the church. We’re not just building a worship team—we’re raising up the next generation of worship leaders who are passionate about Jesus and the church.

Throughout all of this, our central aim remains unchanged: to sing songs that are rich in truth, theologically sound, and centered on the gospel. Our desire is to help people lift their eyes to who God is and to respond in worship to what He has done for us through His Son, Jesus.

We’re grateful for what God has done this year and are expectant for what’s ahead.

FIVE C'S

FRAMEWORK TO DESCRIBE A
GROWING DISCIPLE OF JESUS

COMMITTED

Committed to Jesus Christ,
His Word, and the mission
of His Church

COMPETENT

Competent in doctrine
and doing

CONNECTED

Connected in
authentic community

CONTRIBUTING

Contributing our time,
talent, and treasure

CREATIVE

Creative in using our God-
given design for God-given
opportunities

ONGOING OPPORTUNITIES

Sunday Gatherings

9AM | 10:45AM

CollegeLife Group

Sunday Mornings | 9AM

Hide & Seek Kids

Wednesdays | 5:45PM

Wednesday Night Events

Students 6PM | College 8PM

Groups & Bible Studies

Offered throughout the week

Elder Morning Prayer

First Tuesday of each month | 6:30AM

First Saturday

Informal Women's gathering | 9AM

Missions Prayer Lunch

Last Monday of each month | 12PM

Legacy Group

Events each quarter

Foundations

Offered throughout the year

Baptism Classes | The Bridge Kids

Offered quarterly

Family Nights at the Park

Men & Women's Events

Outreach Opportunities



MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS

“I asked if Jesus could be my Savior.
We need to be saved from our sins,
and I wanted to pray right then!”

Elle Foster



“From a very young age, I was around the church, but I believed that in order to be baptized, there had to be an immense pull or feeling, or that I had to earn the right to be baptized. When we began attending the Bridge, I learned that I could never earn it—I just had to accept Jesus. I came to the realization that after accepting Jesus Christ as my Savior, baptism is the next step.” *Justin Owen*



“Our prayer for you, Evie, is that you would be filled with a love for God’s word, a light to the world, and your life would be a reflection of Jesus and His goodness to those around you. As you grow, we pray you desire to know God more so you can love Him more.”

Lindsey Carlisle, Evie’s mom

“I want to be baptized because I feel there needs to be an outward display of what’s happening in my heart and in my life. I chose to do this at The Bridge - a place that has transformed my life and my walk with Christ. I was baptized as an infant, but today, I want to reaffirm that commitment now that my walk with the Lord is intentional.”

Jude Ardoin



THE BRIDGE KIDS

What a year it has been for The Bridge Kids! We celebrated 12 baptisms, averaged close to 100 kids at Hide and Seek Kids and about 160 kids on Sunday mornings. There were over 130 volunteers helping make all these things possible. We hosted several fun events this year including our first ever Bible Boot Camp and a fun trip to CentriKid Camp in Mississippi.

Sundays with The Bridge Kids:

On Sunday mornings we offer classes from birth through fifth grade. We value teaching God's Word starting at the youngest age. Our Toddler One and Toddler Two classes engage in Pat the Bible lessons each week. These are hands-on, repetitive Bible stories that help introduce the truth of God's Word. Our three-year-olds through fifth graders use the Gospel Project curriculum from Lifeway. This curriculum walks us through the entire Bible in the span of three years. Each week the kids are able to see how their Bible story directly points back to Jesus!

Hide and Seek Kids:

Hide and Seek Kids is our Wednesday night discipleship program for kindergarteners through fifth graders. This year we enjoyed walking through stories in the Bible using a new curriculum from Lifeway called Hyfi. Each month we walked through an "I am....because of who God is" statement and memorized scripture together! We enjoyed worship each week and time with our small groups to dive deeper into God's word.

CentriKid:

For several years now we have been praying about potential camp opportunities for our kids during the summer. Two summers ago we decided to place our name on a waitlist for CentriKid Camps. CentriKid is a camp specifically designed for elementary-aged kids that was created by Lifeway. They have a 3 day/2 night camp option and a 5 day 4/night camp option. In the fall of 2024 we were notified that we got into their 3 day camp for this summer, 2025. This past July we were able to take a group of 35 people (24 kids and 11 chaperones) to Timber Creek Camp in Pulaski, Mississippi. It was a fast paced, fun-filled 3 days of camp! Our theme for camp was Higher! We spent our time talking about how God has called us to live a higher life of loving Him first so that we can then love others! Our theme verse for the week was Mark 12:30-31. We got to dive deep into God's word through a time of worship, Bible study, and church hangout time which is where we unpacked all that we learned that day. Our kids also got to participate in some really fun activities like archery, canoeing, pickleball, arts and crafts, Survivor course, swimming, ga-ga ball and more! We are currently on the waitlist for summer 2026.



It's been a wonderful year with The Bridge Kids! We're so grateful for every moment spent with our kids and their families. Looking back, we clearly see God's faithful hand at work throughout the year. As we look ahead, our prayer is that the Lord will continue to lead us as we guide these children to know Him more deeply and grow in His Word! ***Lori Waits, Beth Foster, + Anna Garmon***

THE BRIDGE STUDENTS

The priority of The Bridge Students is to consistently proclaim the truth of the Gospel and emphasize that making Jesus the Lord of your life changes everything. From Wednesday nights to activities and trips, all things center around students knowing and following Jesus. We are thankful for a fun and energetic group, but we are even more thankful that God is moving within the ministry, drawing these boys and girls to Himself, and growing them in faith. We hope to equip and steward the students in a manner that loves, serves, and graciously leads. It's just so special and a ton of fun!

Jake Handley + Madeline Davison



OUR PRAYER for this upcoming year in student ministry is that we would continue to prioritize that which lasts for eternity. We desire our students to love Jesus and surrender their lives to Him (Romans 10:9-13). May they follow Him all the days of their lives, and that begins with establishing a great foundation today. We pray our students would submit to the Word of God and grow in their walks with Him, being guided by the Bible as it sanctifies them (John 17:17). We also pray that our students would develop deep, meaningful relationships with one another as we spur each other on to love and good works (Hebrews 10:24).

UPCOMING IMPORTANT DATES

Winter Retreat | January
Mother/Daughter Retreat (out of town) | March
Father/Son Retreat (local) | April
Mission Arlington | June

100+

middle school &
high school students
involved in weekly
ministry events

SALT RECAP

SALT (Servanthood and Leadership Training) is an opportunity for our high school students to grow in their faith. Students are a part of intentional accountability and we desire each of them to be discipled by an older Christian. We dive deeper into biblical and practical topics, and this year we studied Max Anders' *30 Days to Understanding the Bible*. We engaged in conversations and teaching about the eras of Biblical history and how each one ultimately points to Jesus.

"I have loved the student ministry. It is such a great place to come each week and be in fellowship with other believers and learn about the Lord together and more about each other. Small group is such a great time to create friendships with people your own age and older believers like my leaders Ashley, Ms Robyn, and Melayna. They have all encouraged us to grow in our walk with the Lord and live different from nonbelievers. It has been such a great way for me to grow as a believer and as a person. Winter Retreat has held some of my favorite memories with my group! Madeline, Jake, and Sammie do a wonderful job each week preparing to share with us the wisdom the Lord has given them from His word."

KaraLin Hoover | 12th Grade



"The people in student ministry are not only extremely fun and friendly, but they are also a group of individuals who constantly reminds me of how much my life should be grounded in Christ. Meeting every Wednesday night with my small group has helped me understand the Lord alongside an amazing group of guys and grow a close relationship with them, a bond that really isn't found anywhere else. Being part of student ministry isn't just about going to Wednesday night activities, but it's about developing a connection with the believers in our community and a relationship with God through it."

Caed Baines | 11th Grade

**student
ministry**
THE BRIDGE

THE BRIDGE COLLEGE

This past year, the college ministry at The Bridge has continued to be a vibrant and growing community where students are spiritually formed and meaningfully connected. Through a wide variety of events, gatherings, and intentional conversations, students have been given space to explore and deepen their faith in Jesus. With a strong emphasis on discipleship, students were encouraged to engage deeply with Scripture, worship authentically, and invest in fellowship with one another. Our dedicated university leaders and group leaders have fostered an atmosphere marked by hospitality, service, and spiritual growth—equipping students to walk through college with both faith and purpose. A central question we continued to ask as a ministry this year was: “Is Jesus enough for you?” This ongoing pursuit shaped our rhythms and culture, pushing us toward Christ-centered character and deeper ownership of our identity in Him. We are truly thankful for the ways the Lord moved through The Bridge College this past year and eagerly anticipate all He will continue to do in the year ahead. Our desire remains to cultivate a place where students can not only grow spiritually but also enjoy meaningful community, serve our church family, and impact the world around them—together.

Kay Laningham + Trenton Fiscus

24

Total College Groups

175-225

Students at College Life on Wednesdays

21

University Leaders

EVENTS FROM THIS YEAR

College Life every Wednesday night
CollegeLife Group every Sunday morning
LaTech Orientation Org Browse | Summer
Burgers in the Quad | September
University Leader Orientation | September
College Life Worship Night | October
Mental Health Talk | October
Christmas Parties | December
21 Days of Prayer | January
Relationship Series + Panel | January
Inaugural College Ski Trip | February
Spring Worship Night + Communion | March
University Leader End-of-Year Party | May
End of Year College Life PickleBall Tournament | May
College Guatemala Mission Trip | August



FOOTBALL INTRAMURAL CHAMPIONS - FALL QUARTER 2024



WELCOME BACK TO SCHOOL BINGO NIGHT



HALLOWEEN PARTY



GIRLS SMALL GROUP FRIENDSGIVING



WORSHIP NIGHT



MONDAY MORNING GUYS SMALL GROUP



BURGERS IN THE QUAD 2024



END OF YEAR PICKLEBALL TOURNAMENT



SKI TRIP



HO HO HOEDOWN



GUATEMALA MISSION TRIP AUGUST 2024

THE BRIDGE WOMEN

The Bridge Women exists to help women glorify God by becoming and making disciples of Jesus Christ. Whether you are asking questions about God or have walked with Him for years, come grow with us as we turn to God's truth for answers as we love and support one another. *Come as you are!*

This past ministry year with the women at The Bridge started strong with a deep dive into the doctrine of the Trinity at Women's Weekend 2025. We had 20 homes scattered around town filled with women eager to learn more about who God is as a triune God. Several groups branched out from that weekend studying the attributes of God - meditating on how he has shown us in his Word (and in our own lives) time and time again that he is good, faithful, infinite, sovereign, just, jealous, merciful and gracious, among many other amazing and praiseworthy attributes! We have also continued to meet the First Saturday of every month to provide a time and place for the Holy Spirit to fan into flames the gift of faith in our lives. We gather there to learn more about God, pray together and become better friends while we're at it. As is always our prayer every year - our hope is that as God reveals himself more and more to us, we'll get to know him better, love him more, trust him more and obey him more! We're looking forward to what God has in store for us in 2025-26!

Magan Causey



HIGHLIGHTS FROM THIS YEAR

Women's Weekend

1st Saturday Monthly Fellowship

Recharge Working Moms Small Group launched

1:1 Discipleship opportunities continue to grow and flourish

OUR PRAYER

Thank you for each and every woman that calls The Bridge Community Church their church home. Thank you for the way you have uniquely and intentionally gifted each woman in our church in order to serve the Body and contribute to the needs of others, not just at the Bridge, but in our own families, workplaces, neighborhoods, and specific contexts as we seek to make You known in all areas of our lives. Lord, please give each woman in our church vision, direction, and conviction on how you would like to use each one of us this year for Your glory and in order to accomplish the good work you have for us to do for the sake of Your Gospel. Would you grant the women of our church unity as we grow, serve, and learn alongside one another with hearts, souls, and minds completely devoted to You alone. Would the lives of the women at The Bridge be Spirit-filled and Spirit-led as we pursue knowing, loving, trusting, and obeying Christ in all things. Father, my whole-hearted prayer for the women at The Bridge is that each and every one of us would consider everything that might be gain to us as a loss compared to the surpassing worth of knowing and making known Christ Jesus our Lord (Philippians 3:7-8) and that we would embrace our Great Commission call to become and make disciples for Your glory. Amen.



GROUPS

At The Bridge, we believe you have a place here, and that connecting with one another in authentic community is at the heart of becoming and making disciples. That's why Groups play such a vital role in the life of our church. We're convinced that life change happens best in the context of relationships, and we pursue those through home groups, equipping classes, weekly Bible studies, and one-on-one discipleship. Our desire is to continually raise the value of community, encouraging every follower of Jesus at The Bridge to pursue relationships that challenge them to grow deeper and more complete in Christ. We believe that a growing believer engages the church on multiple levels - gathering on Sundays to worship together, and scattering throughout the week into homes where meaningful conversations, prayer, and transformation happen. What takes place in living rooms is just as sacred and significant as what happens on Sunday mornings.

We love to hear from our Groups! Be sure to keep sending photos and write-ups throughout the year to maryarthur@thebridge.cc!

640

People in Groups

64

Groups at The Bridge



LEGACY GROUP

The Legacy Group is a cherished part of our church family, made up of our 60+ friends, empty nesters, retirees, and those in a rich season of life marked by wisdom, faithfulness, and perspective. Our purpose is to create and leave a legacy of faith for our families, our church, and our community. The Legacy Group gathers a few times a year for luncheons, day trips, and special events that are designed to foster fellowship with a mission - creating meaningful connections among adults in this life stage. Our desire is to offer opportunities for older adults to build new relationships, connect with others outside their usual circles, and enjoy friendship rooted in shared faith. The group plans activities throughout the year with this age group in mind—always with the goal of growing together!

Our Prayer for our Legacy Group:

Lord, let them know they are deeply seen and valued by you and by this church family. Remind them that they're treasured as living testaments to your enduring grace. We thank you for the wisdom they carry, for the knowledge earned through years of experience, and for the spiritual insight that only time with you can bring. May their stories continue to teach us. Open doors for connection, for ministry, and for meaningful relationships with generations coming behind them. Help us at The Bridge to honor them well, to listen well, and to learn well.



MISSIONS

LOCAL

This last year saw not only an increase in financial help to our partners but also an increase in time given to those partners. One big way our church family came together was to serve MedCamps in April with a supply drive and a work day at Camp Alabama to get camp ready for the summer. About 90 of you gathered to weed eat, pick up sticks, paint, powerwash, build tables and benches, and clean cabins and the kitchen. Another way our church showed love and kindness was by serving teachers, staff, and students at Glenview Elementary. The teachers on the kindergarten and first grade hallways and the janitorial and cafeteria staff were “adopted” by three small groups.

In the last few months, The Bridge was asked to take over The Family Village, which is the foster and adoptive care ministry of The Well. Much prayer and discussion went into the decision to assume the care for foster and adoptive families. Family Village of North Louisiana will begin **September 1.**



MEET OUR PARTNERS

LOCAL	Adopt-A-School (Cypress Springs & Glenview Elementary)	DOMESTIC	The Duncan Family (Asheville, NC)
	Boys and Girls Club		The Prescott Family (Springfield, MO)
	Bridges International		The Pyles Family (Baton Rouge, LA)
	Christian Community Action		Elizabeth Norred (O'ahu, Hawai'i)
	Domestic Abuse Resistance Team (DART)		David Windley (Plano, TX)
	Fellowship of Christian Athletes	GLOBAL	The Williams Family (Exile International in Congo & Uganda)
	Freedom13 Ministries		The Murimi Family (Share International in Kenya, Ethiopia, and South Sudan)
	Life Choices of North Central Louisiana		The Reji Family (God for Nations in South Asia)
	MedCamps of Louisiana		The Bock Family (Spain)
	SEARCH		The L Family (Central Asia)
	Teach One to Lead One		The L Family (South Asia)
	The Well		The B Family (South Asia)
	Young Life		
	Young Lives		

GLOBAL

Our global mission philosophy is focused on glorifying God and being faithful to where He has placed us. And while the call of Christ to make disciples of all nations is an urgent mandate, it is not one that is to be done frantically and chaotically. As the elders and staff at The Bridge have systematically processed through our missiology and methodology, we have determined that our initiatives are not for the purpose of simply expanding the number of partnerships but deepening the relationships and opportunities we already have with trusted, healthy local churches. This past year, we were able to take a tangible step in that direction.

In October, we took a small team to three different partners in three different countries. We provided care and encouragement to these families as they labor and minister in their context. We also were able to brainstorm potential future short-term trips to meet the various needs of these partners. In April, we took an exploratory, vision trip to Italy to plan out a college-specific mission trip. This will come into fruition this upcoming November when a small team of college students will be going to Salerno, Italy to minister on the nearby college campus alongside the local church there. There are also other trips to Central and South Asia in the works to meet our partners' specific ministry needs. All-in-all, we are very thankful for where we are at and where we are strategically moving towards in our global mission initiatives.



THE BRIDGE
COMMUNITY CHURCH

MISSIONS

STAY CONNECTED

SUNDAYS 9AM | 10:45AM

CONNECT@THEBRIDGE.CC

(318).251.1951



INSTAGRAM:
THEBRIDGE_RUSTON



FACEBOOK:
THE BRIDGE
COMMUNITY CHURCH



YOUTUBE:
THE BRIDGE
COMMUNITY CHURCH



FACEBOOK:
THE BRIDGE
MEMBER CARE

**SIGN UP FOR OUR TEXT REMINDERS TO
STAY INFORMED: TEXT "THEBRIDGE"
TO (833) 453-1503**

COMMUNICATION REMINDERS

We want to help you stay in the loop with everything happening at The Bridge. Make sure you're connected through these communication channels:

- + Sunday Morning Announcements
- + Sunday Morning Pre-Service Slides
- + Sunday Morning Handouts (Check the back for additional announcements and reminders!)
- + This Week at The Bridge & Reflections Emails
www.thebridge.cc/newsletter
- + Social Media (Facebook, Instagram, YouTube)
- + Text Reminders
- + Group Leader Emails (For Group Leaders only)

Facebook Groups:

Parents of The Bridge Kids
Parents of The Bridge Students
The Bridge Women
The Bridge Member Care
Things in Common

Email maryarthur@thebridge.cc if you have any questions about church communication!

Look again at that dot. That's here. That's home. That's us. On it everyone you love, everyone you know, everyone you ever heard of, every human being who ever was, lived out their lives. The aggregate of our joy and suffering, thousands of confident religions, ideologies, and economic doctrines, every hunter and forager, every hero and coward, every creator and destroyer of civilization, every king and peasant, every young couple in love, every mother and father, hopeful child, inventor and explorer, every teacher of morals, every corrupt politician, every "superstar," every "supreme leader," every saint and sinner in the history of our species lived there--on a mote of dust suspended in a sunbeam.

Ecclesiastes Series | Summer 2025



Living Life Backward







