

HIStory of TWCC

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

1. Introduction:

This narrative is to record how God worked in His people from several different congregations to start what we now know as The Word Community Church (TWCC). This group had no agenda other than to follow God's will. The TWCC Story is one that should serve as a reminder of what God can do when His people genuinely seek to follow Him. The purpose of this story is to shine the light on our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, not on any one individual or group of individuals. May this story be a testimony to Him, and may all the people who comprise this congregation now, and who will join it in the future, see God's hand at work in and through TWCC.

2. SOT: The Beginning:

This story has its "roots" with The Sons of Thunder (SOT) men's group. In the fall of 2002, the first year Reverend Michael Miller was at St. Mark United Methodist Church, Northport, Alabama, the Lord led him to start a men's ministry that began as a prayer breakfast/Bible study at a Shoney's Restaurant. This core group would become some of the key leaders of SOT. In 2003, the Lord connected Tim Clements and Michael together as Tim recommitted His life to Christ. In the fall of 2004, Tim stepped up to take over leadership of the men's ministry which Michael had been leading. Sons of Thunder was the name given to the ministry.

At one of the early men's retreats at Zidon Avisha, Michael asked the guys to build an altar with stones at sunrise like Moses asked the Israelites to do in the Bible. Many of the guys who were there were called to plant TWCC. The stones are still there today.

(Comments from Tim Clements)

"Along with my recommitment to Christ I started a small Bible study with some pharmaceutical reps and doctors. Scott Gibson, Mark Freeman, Mike Howard, and Rodney Connell were some of the first participants. The Bible study became so good and the prayer time so authentic, we felt it would be better if we combined Wednesday night and Friday morning together. We started praying and seeing God move in a powerful way. After experiencing the powerful work of The Holy Spirit, we started enthusiastically inviting other people. One morning in my quiet time I felt like God told me to change the name to Sons of Thunder. The name accurately represented the way we would go on to try and reach men. When we listened to God and changed the name, God started growing the group exponentially. We decided to start a men's event in the spring of the year. It started with about 80 people in a camp house, and ended up with over a thousand in an outdoor event. We went from one church men's ministry to chapters in Alabama, Arkansas, Indiana, Illinois, Kansas, Colorado, and Louisiana. I have spoken in Indiana, Kansas and several places in Alabama."

The purpose of SOT was and still remains to be men who love Jesus, who seek to be the hands and feet of Jesus, and who want to be the best man they can be. The group is non-denominational in structure and has members who are from various denominational backgrounds. SOT does not adhere to any specific church denomination, rather adhering to what the holy Scriptures teach. SOT met on Wednesday nights at St. Mark, and the group was open to any man seeking to know how he could be more of a godly man through the

study of God's Word, the Bible. SOT continued to grow in number and strength. The scripture verse SOT claims as its theme passage is Proverbs 27:17 *"As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another."*

In May 2013, the pastor of St. Mark had doctrinal differences with the SOT ministry. The SOT leadership had several meetings with the pastor to discuss these differences. It became evident that common ground was not going to be reached. It was at this time that the SOT leadership decided to pray for the Holy Spirit's direction and met to discuss what needed to be done.

3. Initial Meetings:

On Sunday, May 19, 2013, at 7:00 p.m., the SOT leadership met with several of its members at a Kentucky Park pavilion in Northport to explain the current situation, to discuss the group's options, and what might need to be done in light of the situation at St. Mark. After prayer and discussion, the group agreed to have Tim Clements schedule a meeting with the pastor of St. Mark, to seek "common ground" so SOT could continue to meet at St. Mark.

On Wednesday, May 22, 2013, at 8:00 p.m., the SOT leadership met again with several of its members at Chuck Jay's home. Those in attendance were given an update on the meeting with the Pastor. After much discussion, the group agreed to arrange another meeting with St. Mark's pastor and SOT representatives. The purpose was to have an "open discussion" to seek a solution for SOT to continue meeting at St. Mark.

On Thursday, June 6, 2013, at 6:00 p.m., several of the SOT members met with the pastor in the Sanctuary to discuss their differences. Several members of St. Mark's Staff/Parish Committee were in attendance also. The meeting was a question and answer type format which covered the issues that divided the pastor and the SOT organization. The meeting took about an hour, and it was evident that doctrinal interpretations by the pastor would not allow SOT to continue meeting at St. Mark. The SOT membership believed it needed to pray about what was discussed in the meeting and determine what direction to take. Once again, the Holy Spirit would be called upon to lead the group in a direction that would glorify God.

4. Decision to Start New Church:

On Friday, June 7, 2013, at 5:30 p.m., the SOT leadership met with several of its members at Mr. Bill's Restaurant for an update on previous meetings with St. Mark's leadership. It was decided that the Holy Spirit was moving many of the families represented in the meeting to leave St. Mark and to start another church. In response to this decision, several members of St. Mark lay leadership suggested that a church service be planned in order to bless those families departing St. Mark. No time table was decided for the new church formation, but the seeking of another worship venue for the new church would be started immediately.

5. Preparations and Organization Of New Church

On Monday, June 10, 2013, an organizational meeting was held with the SOT leadership and several of its members at SOBCOM offices in Northport. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the formation of the new church.

Sometime between June 10, 2013, and June 30, 2013, the SOT leadership met again with several of its members at Chuck Jay's home and elected five (5) Elders who were charged with starting a new church.

During this time, the church leadership and many interested people who had heard of the church start up met at a vacated building in Coker, Alabama, which was for lease. The building formerly housed a church congregation and was available immediately for use. Those in attendance were given a tour of the facility. After much discussion, the leadership agreed to pursue leasing the facility as a worship place for the new church.

A social was planned at Northwood Lake swimming pool on an evening in June of 2013 for the families who were interested in starting the new church. The main purpose of the get-together was to come up with a name for the church. After several suggestions, the name "The Way Community Church" was presented by Russell Hammack. This name was selected, and thus "TWCC" became the acronym by which the church was identified.

On June 30, 2013, the Elders met in the home of one of the Elders to discuss the formation of the church. The decision was made that five (5) Elders would serve as the governing body of TWCC in charge of the administration of the church. *(It was decided at a later time that there would be twelve (12) Deacons to be responsible for the caring ministry of the church, i.e. visiting the sick, staying in contact with the families assigned to each deacon, and being alert to the spiritual needs of the church.)*

6. Departure Service at St. Mark:

On Sunday evening, July 21, 2013, a departure service was celebrated for the new church to be called "The Way Community Church" (TWCC) which was composed of many current members of St. Mark United Methodist Church. The service served as a means by which the St. Mark congregation could "send-off" this new church body of believers with the church's blessing. The service was very emotional; the Holy Spirit was present in the service, and all were committed to seeing God's Kingdom work being continued. Tommy Raburn delivered a "send-off" message during the service. His message represented the feelings of those who were departing St. Mark to start TWCC.

Tommy's message was as follows:

"The last few weeks have been an emotional roller coaster for many if not all of us. Tonight is a mixture of an odd combination of sadness and joy. Sadness for leaving a church where many have been a part of for several years, for some all of their lives, and joy for the excitement of what God has in store.

It would take all night to thank the many individuals who have made St. Mark the loving church we have called home. But I would like to thank two individuals that exemplify why many of us came to St. Mark, why many have stayed, and why it gives us courage to leave. Dr. Norman Carlson, for his support, wisdom, dedication, and foresight and Brother John Drawhorn for his servant heart, loyalty, spiritual mentoring, and friendship. These are not just memories that we take with us rather the characteristics we strive to emulate.

My hope and prayer for St. Mark and the new church is that in all we do we do to bring honor and glory to our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ--that we understand the Great Commission to be a command not an option. You are familiar with the saying, "God can get your attention by a whisper or a 2 x 4. "I think the 2 x 4 has been swung, and now it is up to all of us to take action.

Early on I was drawn to this particular verse because of its poetic flow, and you have all heard it recited at weddings countless times. Lately, however, when I read 1 Corinthians 13:1, it hits home in that we can talk and act a certain way but if it is not done and said in love it's just a bunch of clutter and noise. "If I speak in the tongues of men or of angels, but do not have love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal." Let us all take Paul's words to heart.

We love you all and may God continue to bless each and every one. Thank you."

7. A Church Body Gathered, The Homecoming

At about the same time the former members of St. Mark UMC were praying and seeking God's will in starting a new church, across town a group of believers were praying about making their own changes. These people were not aware that a new church was being formed. They just knew that they were to pray and wait on God. This is their story as they found their way home to TWCC.

Miraculously, God brought people from different denominational backgrounds together, and the power of the Holy Spirit moved to form this group of believers into one body of Christ.

Joining with those at St. Mark UMC to take this step of faith were believers from other churches in the area; one of those churches was Hargrove UMC. However, not all of the former members of Hargrove Methodist UMC left at the same time. It was more of a gradual calling. Sandra and Ronnie Brasher, Barbara and Ken Hanby, Carol and Jana Weaver, and Cecilia and Freddie Hammond felt God calling them away from Hargrove UMC at basically the same time. Some came to TWCC. Others visited but found a church home in other places. Suzie and Adam Tant, with their sons Alex and Davis, and Sheila Markham joined a little later. All became charter members of TWCC.

8. First Facility For TWCC:

The address for the leased facility for TWCC was 14585 Highway 82 West, Coker, Alabama 35452. The facility required some maintenance items, but none of the items were major.

One Saturday morning, a group of people met to circle around the church in Coker to pray. They were trying to decide whether to rent the building. While circling, Shirley Jay heard the song, "We Are Standing on Holy Ground" very clearly. The following Monday she read in her "Jesus Today" devotional that when people are in God's sacred presence, they are on Holy ground!!!!

9. Preparations For First Service At TWCC:

Many people were involved in preparing the facility for its first service. One of the major issues of work was adapting the sanctuary for the sound, lighting, and projection requirements. Austin and Logan Haskew worked tirelessly in getting these items ready. The Elders met frequently to establish the guidelines of running the church.

10. First Service at TWCC

On Sunday, July 28, 2013, TWCC had their first Sunday school and church service. Elder Tim Clements presented God's message to an excited and overflowing crowd. The attendance that day was 285.

On Sunday November 3, 2013, or “Charter Sunday”, all church members were asked for a commitment to the church, and to take a membership vow. *(Note: a listing of all the charter members is included in the appendix of this document.)*

11. Nursery and Children’s Programs

The first TWCC nursery started with two rooms. The Baby/Toddler Room was for children six weeks to 36 months old, and the Preschool Room was for three- and four-year-olds. The first TWCC Nursery Coordinator was Suzanne Gibson. Suzanne managed the schedule for the volunteers and worked tirelessly in the nursery herself on both Sunday mornings and Wednesday nights. During the first year, Susan Clements served as both the Preschool Sunday School and Wednesday evening Preschool FUEL teacher. The following year while still in the Coker location Tamlyn Skelton and Beth Zark served as teachers for Preschool Sunday School, while Susan Clements continued as the Preschool FUEL teacher.

When TWCC moved to its present location, Kristy Hammond served as the Nursery and Preschool Liaison for the Building Transition Team and worked endless hours preparing the new rooms for the move in the new facility. At that time, the name was changed to TWCC Sprouts Nursery and Preschool. There were many Sunday mornings when the one- and two-year-olds were divided, creating a two-year-old room during the worship service. After the move to the new location, Suzanne Gibson stepped down as nursery coordinator. Susan Clements and Holly McCollum began serving as the Nursery and Preschool Coordinators. Beth Zark and Cheryl Wells served as preschool Sunday school teachers, and Jenny Holman served as the toddler Sunday school teacher. Joy Aldridge served as the toddler FUEL teacher, and Susan Clements continued to serve as the preschool FUEL teacher.

During the fall of 2015, TWCC hosted its first TWCC Nursery and Preschool Training with a detailed policy and procedure manual and CPR training for the TWCC Nursery and Preschool Team. TWCC also hosted a “baby shower” for the TWCC Sprouts Nursery and Preschool. Many of the TWCC women helped create a beautiful and inviting atmosphere for the shower! During the fall of 2016, TWCC added several paid caregiver positions to the Sprouts Nursery and Preschool Team. One of the positions was a part-time Sprouts Nursery and Preschool Director. The elder who originally served over the nursery was Jay McCollum.

12. Youth Program

TWCC’s youth group, initially named “The Truth,” began with an average of 25 to 30 students and has steadily increased over time. The first TWCC youth leaders were Matt and Brooke Freeman, Russell and Natasha Hammack, Wayne and Alisa Sanders, and Wes and Jo Scarbrough. Several months later, Matt and Kristy Hammond joined the youth leader team.

Initially all students – high school and middle school, guys and girls – met together on Sunday mornings and evenings and Wednesday evenings. The youth eventually divided into Sunday school classes splitting guys and girls. Kristy Hammond and Alisa Sanders led the youth girls, and Stephen Dew led the youth guys. TWCC welcomed Jake Ellis as the next youth leader. Jake and the youth changed the name of the youth group to “Diakonos” which means servant.

When TWCC moved to its present location, students were divided into four Sunday school classes: high school guys led by Tim Clements, Jake Ellis, Wayne Sanders, and Wes Scarbrough; high school girls led by Kristy Hammond, Maggie Raburn, Alisa Sanders, and Suzie Tant; middle school guys led by Scott Gibson and Matt Hammond; and middle school girls led by Suzanne Gibson and Myra Qualls.

The youth group enjoys serving at TWCC in areas such as Vacation Bible School, Fall Festival, Nursery Worker, and handing out bulletins on Sunday mornings. They are also mission-oriented and serve at events such as the 5k for Kenya led by Maggie Raburn, Street Reach led by Niki Galloway, and serving at the local community soup kitchen.

The elder who served over the youth originally was Scott Gibson.

13. Activities at TWCC

The Sunday activities provided for the church included Sunday school for children and adults at 9:15 a.m. and the worship service and children's church at 10:30 a.m. The Wednesday night activities included supper served by the kitchen team at 5:00 p.m. followed by small group activities for children, youth, and adults at 6:15 p.m. Leadership for all these activities were performed by volunteers. In the months ahead, several portable trailers were purchased to serve as additional Sunday school class space as well as to be a location to house the new kitchen equipment and food preparation area.

In the early beginnings, Holli Maxwell met with Shirley Jay on the back porch of the Jay's home and discussed the children's ministry. The name of the children's ministry was The Way Kids. They decided to use the Flipt curriculum for the first year which encouraged kids to flip over Jesus. The following years they have used the Elements Kids Worship curriculum. Joy Collins and Tom, her husband, began coming to The Way, and she joined the team along with Sarah Joy Maxwell, Holli's mom, and Niki Galloway. Niki planned children's church for volunteers while the rest of the volunteers taught Sunday school.

The Way Kids began each Sunday with the whole-group and broke into small groups on the second, third, and fifth Sunday (if there is a 5th Sunday). The fourth Sunday was craft Sunday. Ken Hanby presented a flannel graph for the children on the first Sunday. Joy Collins provided leadership with a mission Sunday and mission Wednesday once a month.

Each year TWCC holds a VBS in June.

14. Call of the Permanent Pastor

In November 2013, Elder Tommy Raburn announced at the Sunday morning service that Reverend Aaron Chadwick had accepted the call to be Pastor of TWCC. The entire church body erupted in thunderous applause! This was a surprise to all, and credit was to be given to the Elders for keeping this appointment confidential until the church service. Aaron was known by the majority of TWCC since he had served several years at St. Mark UMC as an associate pastor. He, Sophia, and his three boys were loved by all who knew them. This was a very big decision for TWCC, and all were excited that Pastor Aaron would preach his first service on December 1, 2013.

15. TWCC Name Change

In August 2014, TWCC was threatened with legal action by The Way International. They contended the church was infringing on the right to use their name. After much discussion the Elders decided to not pursue legal proceedings. In 2015, the church officially changed the name from The Way Community Church to The Word Community Church. This decision would allow the acronym TWCC to remain while not expending any church funds for legal fees and court costs.

16. Decision to Move To New Facility

The church was quickly outgrowing its present facility. The Elders had been interested in the unoccupied church facilities on Highway 69 North in Northport previously named Harvest Church. The Harvest Church congregation relocated to another facility transferring the ownership of their buildings to the North American Mission Board (NAMB) of the Southern Baptist Convention, Inc. While TWCC was meeting at the Coker location, Shirley Jay was teaching “The Circle Maker” book study to a Women of the Word (W.O.W.) class. It talks about prayer walks, and how it is good to circle and pray. It was decided to go to the Harvest Church location one evening and circle the parking lot and pray. Months later, God gave TWCC the building!!!!

As a testimony to how God was working, the original asking price of the Harvest Church campus was \$2.1 million. This asking price was too much for TWCC to pay. The Elders began negotiating with the NAMB in August of 2014, and made several counter offers. NAMB was also in negotiation with several churches in the Tuscaloosa/Northport area. After much prayer (*and the Lord's intervention*), in July 2015, NAMB accepted TWCC's offer of \$1.2 million, with a down payment of \$100,000 provided by TWCC at closing.

17. Preparations for First Service at New Facility

In early July 2015, a “Transition Team” made up of nine members was formed to lead the TWCC family in accomplishing the tasks necessary to move into the church facility recently purchased. The team was composed of “task coordinators” Clarence Barger, Jake Ellis, Kristy Hammond, Ashley Haskew, Shirley Jay, Hugh Kilpatrick, Holli Maxwell, Jay McCollum, and Rob Moore. The Team Chairperson was Jay McCollum. The plan was for the team to meet twice a week. The coordinators were in charge of specific areas of responsibility, and each coordinator would report on their areas at each meeting. The areas of responsibilities for the coordinators were: Children's Rooms, Youth Rooms, Sunday School Rooms, Kitchen, Common Areas and Offices, Exterior, and Facility Use Policies. Each area coordinator selected church members as part of their sub-committee to assist in accomplishing their appointed tasks.

The coordinators communicated electronically whenever information was needed to be dispersed, or if questions needed to be answered. An “APP” was established on every coordinator's hand held device to aid in communications.

At the Transition Team's first meeting on July 15, 2015, after a prayer of thanksgiving, the following items were discussed: team member's responsibilities and assignments; the “game plan” to meet the tasks required; the important dates; and the team member's contact information. Also discussed were the ministries and the required

space needed for each. The layout of the new facility was reviewed, and the team walked through the spaces. The goal was to get all the work completed by the date of the first service, which was Sunday, August 30, 2015. The task was daunting considering the new facilities had a total of 45,000 square feet consisting of the Children's Wing, the Sanctuary, the Pre-school Wing, and the two-story Family Life Center which was a separate building. The exterior had a large area of landscaping, a large children's playground, and several paved areas that were in need of repair. In spite of the tasks at hand, the attitude of the TWCC church family was that God had provided these facilities to further His Kingdom. Next was the responsibility to do what was needed to achieve that goal. God was truly blessing TWCC!

The Transition Team's initial task was to have each sub-committee coordinator prepare a work plan and an estimated budget for their respective area of responsibility. At each of the bi-weekly meetings, the Chairperson would review the TWCC Transition Team Tasks spread sheet and each area coordinator would give progress updates. On July 22, 2015, the work plan and cost estimates would be presented to the Board of Elders for approval. *(The approved budget of the total repair and upgrades to the new facility was \$99,741.)*

On July 29, 2015, the detailed moving plan and work schedule was approved by the Board of Elders. All planning work was to be done prior to closing of the property, which was on Monday, July 31, 2015. The Transition Team met the scheduled deadlines, and the upgrades and the repairs to the new facility began on Tuesday, August 1, 2015.

The key milestone dates for the scheduled work were as follows:

August 12, 2015: Submit Facility Use policy

August 22, 2015: All upgrades and repairs completed

August 29, 2015: Complete move-in to the new facility

August 30, 2015: First service at new facility

August 31, 2015: Begin repairs to the previous facility in Coker

September 6, 2015: All repairs at the previous facility in Coker completed

During the weeks ahead, work days and work nights were scheduled on which various sub-committee groups would be able to work at the new facilities. The plan was to start on the major interior items of work in order to get the church program areas done as a priority. Major areas of exterior work were done simultaneously. Coordination of the interior work was done by the Transition Team, and closely monitored by Ashley Haskew. Wall removal, new construction, painting, mechanical, plumbing, electrical, fire protection, security, and overall cleaning work were the major items of interior work performed. Roofing repair, glass and window replacement, exterior painting, parking lot striping, exterior signage, and landscaping were the major items of exterior work to be done.

The church members responded outstandingly to the work that needed to be completed, and they did most of the work themselves. During one of the Transition Team meetings, there was a lot of discussion about paint colors and how to accomplish the painting, etc. One of the Elders, Chuck Jay, spoke up, and reminded everyone in the meeting with his good-natured comment, *"Folks, it ain't about the paint."* The purpose of the comment was to put what we

were doing in perspective and to remind us to not forget the real reason why we were doing this work which was to glorify God. The Transition Team appreciated this comment and used it quite often in future meetings. This statement also became the mantra throughout the work days “whenever things got a little tough.” It was always good to be reminded “to keep the most important thing, the most important thing.”

The work progressed on schedule. Several items that were not crucial to the use of the facility for the first service were delayed until later. The large picture window on the east façade of the Sanctuary was installed several weeks after the first service. Temporary measures were taken to close the opening until the window was installed. Overall, the interior and exterior of the new facilities were refurbished, renewed, and ready for the first service. The church is located at 9310 Highway 69 North, Northport, Alabama. God was given the glory for all the things He had done!

18. Prayer Team Beginnings at TWCC

As the church body at TWCC prepared for a move to the new location, several people began to feel the urging of the Holy Spirit to form a prayer team that would become operational as soon as the move was complete. The purpose of the group was to instill a prayer foundation for the church because the team believes that prayer is the living power in any church body. The Team began to pray about a location, and working with Ashley Haskew, identified an area that they felt could make work as a prayer room. The Kendrick Brothers movie “War Room” had just hit theatres, and the team was so inspired by the movie that it was decided to dub the prayer room the WAR ROOM, because of the belief that any spiritual battle must be fought through prayer.

Before the official move-in date, the group met in the sanctuary and had their own “polish and pray” service. They polished the wood on the pews and the altar and prayed over each of them, asking God to bless those who spoke from the pulpit, prayed at the altar or sat in a pew. It was a powerful time for the group. They also organized a prayer walk through the buildings and over the grounds. Prayer slips were handed out with prayer “suggestions” to get the congregation started in their prayer efforts. They walked the buildings and the boundaries asking God’s blessing on all of the ministries.

Every Sunday starting with the first Sunday in the new building, the prayer team has met with the pastor or the elder who was to be speaking to anoint them with oil and pray for them, the church body, and the ministries at TWCC. They take turns going into the War Room to pray during the time that the message is given. Prayers are offered to ask God to bless and strengthen the one bringing His Word to the church body. Prayers are made for those who are hearing the message to have open hearts and listening ears. The group prays over the prayer lists in the bulletin and also over any prayer cards (located in the back of the pews) that are turned in during the worship service. This is done all for and to the glory of Almighty God.

In the beginning, the team consisted of Sophia Chadwick, Mike and Gloria Miller, and Cecilia and Freddie Hammond. Now added are Shirley Jay and Nancy Hale to the group. Recently, the group has felt God’s urging to expand its prayer efforts to a regular 6:00 pm Sunday night prayer meeting. The first Sunday night prayer service began on July 3, 2016.

Philippians 4:6-7: Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

19. First Service for TWCC at New Facility

On August 30, 2015, TWCC held its first Sunday school, and church services in the new facility. Sunday school started at 9:15 a.m. and the church service started at 10:30 a.m. The attendance for the church service was 430, and the Sanctuary was filled to capacity. The Security and Hospitality Teams were in place to make sure members and visitors felt safe, secure, and received a warm welcome. Pastor Aaron Chadwick's sermon was on Mark 7:1-23 entitled "Vital Signs." The kids also sang a song from the children's play. It was a day of great joy and of glorifying our Lord for what He had done through His people.

20. Present Activities at TWCC

Presently, TWCC is experiencing an average attendance of approximately 250 people with many visitors present every Sunday. Several new members have been accepted into the TWCC fellowship, and several members baptized since the first service.

On Wednesday nights, there is F.U.E.L. (*Fellowship, Unity, and Encouragement for Living*) activities. The family dinner, prepared by the volunteer kitchen crew, is from 5:00 to 6:00 p.m. followed by small group meetings at 6:15 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. The Sons of Thunder men's group meets in the Family Life Center and includes men from several churches in the area. Women of the Word groups meet, and the Youth have their meetings. There are children's classes and a nursery.

TWCC has several planned events throughout the year. The annual activities that church committees plan are: Vacation Bible School and church-wide picnics for TWCC anniversary celebrations during the summers, Fall Festival at the end of October, and special Christmas gatherings such as church-wide sing-alongs in December.

With God's help, and the continuing work of TWCC congregation, the Kingdom of God will continue to be increased for His glory!

21. Women of the Word (W.O.W.)

The Women of the Word (W.O.W.) is a community of Christian sisters who are grounded and rooted in Christ, mission-minded, supporting, encouraging, and interceding for one another, making all feel welcome, free to express vulnerability with a focus on discovering our true purpose in Christ.

In February 2016 several women from The Word Community Church attended a simulcast of IF: 2016 conference at an area church. That weekend, through the encouragement of the message brought forth, excitement broke out among the TWCC women and a vision for uniting the women of our church with one purpose came forth. Quickly, an event leadership team was assembled and plans implemented to host a retreat at Timberlake Ministries in Millport the following month. Concurrently during this time, FUEL women's classes and a new women's Freedom class were

being held with all classes focusing on vulnerability, prayer and healing, which only further served to establish closer relationships.

At the March weekend retreat, an unexpected time of confession and prayer superseded any planned programming that Friday night. The next morning each woman, encouraged by the events that had taken place the night before, spoke out in front of all, a definitive word the Holy Spirit had laid on her heart. Some of those words were “hope,” “encourage,” “fearless,” “light and prayer,” to name a few. Summing up the events of that weekend each of the women represented a part and the whole would not be complete without all of us.

Energized and full of purpose at the end of April we hosted what would be our first church-wide women's event in the main sanctuary to encourage all there was a place at the table meant just for her. Since that time, we've continued to host more church-wide events and more women's groups and participation in mission has evolved as women have stepped into their place that God has divinely set before them.

22. Missions

TWCC from inception has been dedicated to being obedient to Jesus' command to “Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations...” (Matthew 28:19). Many TWCC members have walked hand in hand with those in need of physical, emotional, and spiritual needs in the local community, in the U.S., and in foreign missions. TWCC is also committed to financially supporting and praying for full-time missionaries and a variety of missions and outreach ministries. The following list is the current 2017 missions and outreach supported ministries. The Missions and Outreach Committee also considers other opportunities to serve as they are made known throughout the year.

- **Challenge Farm** – home, school, working farm, and worship center for former street kids in Kitale, Kenya
- **Kairos Men's and Women's Prison Ministry of Alabama** – sharing the Hope of Christ
- **Love INC** – Tuscaloosa county families in need
- **Brinkley Heights Urban Academy** – Street Reach-sharing the love of Christ to kids in Memphis
- **Community Soup Bowl** – feeding local hungry families
- **Youth for Christ** – serving Tuscaloosa area youth
- **Compassion Coalition of Tuscaloosa** – assisting local families
- **Sherill Brasher (YWAM)** – ministering to children in Mexico
- **Shelter of United Love** – sharing God's love with street kids in Busia, Kenya
- **Moody Radio South** – broadcasting God's truth throughout West Alabama
- **West Alabama Food Bank** – providing food for families in the Tuscaloosa/Northport area
- **Vision For Israel** – multiple missions throughout Israel sharing the good news of the Messiah
- **Honduras** – supporting mission trips and various ministries
- **Tenderfeet Kids** – meals and education for HIV-positive kids from the slums in Nairobi, Kenya
- **A Helping Hand Ministries** – pastor retreat in Irvine, Kentucky
- **Operation Christmas Child** – shoe box gifts for children throughout the world where the Gospel is presented when they receive the gift
- **Backpack Coalition** – school supplies for local children

- **Frontiers** – support for a full-time missionary to Muslims in Southeast Asia
- **The Brayden House** – providing housing for families with children with long-term illness
- **The Brown House** – diverse, regenerative, Christian community located in Northport
- **Teen Reach Adventure Camp (TRAC)** – ministering to local youth
- **Kiminini Small Home** – special needs kids in Kiminini Kitale, Kenya
- **Embrace a Street Kid** – drop-in center for street kids in the Kitale, Kenya area
- **Bethany Tonglamum** – full-time missionary in Thailand breaking the cycle of human trafficking
- **The Wellhouse** – rescue and recovery organization for women who are victims of sexual exploitation and trafficking in the US
- **Igniting a Nation** – worldwide broadcast center dedicated to spreading the truth of Jesus Christ
- **Tuscaloosa Young Life** – ministering to local high school and middle school youth
- **Amy and Maverick Hoenig** – full-time missionaries in China
- **5K for Kenya** – annual fund raiser for Challenge Farm and Tenderfeet Kids

23. Appendix

A. Personal Testimonials

Tina and Wes Walby

Wes and I were attending my home church for several years. Our daughter Mikellie was going into the 6th grade, and it was time for her to graduate up to the youth. At this time our youth program was really nonexistent with only maybe three current youth members. There wasn't a big emphasis on the youth program. After several incidents, Wes and I felt that it was time for our family to leave.

We spent the next year visiting several churches, but we were so on guard and worried if the church was based on moral values and a Biblical foundation. We were not moving forward spiritually which led to us not attending church at all. After a few months of no church, Wes was invited to a men's crusade called Sons of Thunder. To be honest, I had heard the name before, but I thought it was a motorcycle gang. Anyway, he went, and after that I could sense that God was using that crusade somehow with us but at the time didn't give it much more thought. A little more time went by, and I happened across a Facebook post made by someone I knew from school that mentioned they couldn't wait until July 28, 2013, to worship at The Way Community Church. I clicked onto her page to see if I could find out a little more info, and after scrolling thru a little ways, I noticed she had something on there about Sons of Thunder and put two and two together and realized that her husband had attended also. At this point I sent her a Facebook message asking about the church mentioned, and she immediately responded asking if she could call me. After talking with her, I understood that this was a new church basically branching off from Saint Mark, so I discussed my conversation with Wes and we decided to attend "Opening Day." IT CHANGED OUR LIVES!

We showed up and immediately sat down and avoided as much eye contact and uncomfortable handshakes as possible! I just knew everyone could tell we hadn't been going to church. Although there were some, we just couldn't out run Rodney Connell. But all in all we were hunkered down ready to see what all this was about. Tim

Clements was standing at the front with microphone in hand. After a hearty welcome and few off beat comments (who was this guy? He said the words that awakened my soul, "This is my Bible and I believe every word in it!" We never visited another church.

Bob and Nancy Hale

Bob and I first heard of The Way through our daughter Bobbi Perkins. She told us that the Sons of Thunder (SOT) Ministry had started a church. She visited and loved it, so we decided to visit. We had been going to Valley View Baptist Church, but my grandsons Bobby and Joey knew more of the youth at the Way than they did at Valley View. They too were much happier when their mom decided to change.

Bob had attended functions with SOT before and knew a good many of the guys affiliated with it. We knew we were not where we needed to be and had sort of just given up looking and stayed at Valley View. We started coming with our daughter and two grandsons and really enjoyed it but didn't feel God Had spoken to either of us about joining, but we continued to come. During that time I began to get this strange illness that no one could figure out. It kept me going back and forth to the ER and hospital. Every time I went Pastor Aaron showed up!! We hadn't had this in our lives for many years...a pastor that really seemed to care. On one of my really bad ER visits, Aaron and Sophia both came. I knew that we were in the right place. He prayed with us and even offered to get Bob food!! I was blown away!

Over the months, I decided I needed to get more involved and try to get to know more of the women. We settled in with the Seekers Sunday school class and loved it!! I pray God will use Bob and me both to further His Kingdom as we work through The Word Community Church.

Barbara and Ken Hanby

Our journey began many years ago in the 1950's in the church where we worshiped until June 2012. We dated and married and except for four years when we lived in Louisiana we were active members. We raised our two children and their families at the church and were blessed for many years at the same church. However, there came a time when we decided we were going to search for another church. We had some very dear friends we had worshiped with at that church that all decided to seek another church at the same time. We discussed what we wanted to do to seek a new church and agreed that we would each make our own decisions based upon how God led each of us.

We decided to try different churches and then meet and spend time in prayer and discuss the worship experience and allow time for God to lead us. On the Monday following the Sunday of our last worship at our home church, we learned that a large group of members had left another church in Tuscaloosa and would be starting a new church. A number of the members that had left the other church were friends of ours through our involvement in the Emmaus Community. We learned that they planned to have their first worship service July 28, 2013. While we waited for the first service at TWCC, we attended a non-denominational church in Northport. After attending these services, we would meet together as a group to pray and seek God's will. It was good to be excited about attending worship services again. Several people who were involved in the starting of TWCC invited us to come to a meeting. The

group had located a building to rent and set up a time for a gathering to discuss plans for the new church and service opportunities. We all went to the gathering, saw many friends, and met many others.

We decided that each of us wanted to share in the experience of the new church which was having its first service the next Sunday. We prayed during the week for the new church and for God's guidance for each family involved. It was a joy to be present at the initial worship of The Way Community Church (TWCC) on July 28, 2013. The spirit was awesome, and the turnout was more than was expected, and a body was formed. That afternoon we shared again together in a time of reflection and prayer especially for God's faithfulness in leading us as we all felt he was doing. We would each decide where we would worship the next week. The Lord led each of us to return to the TWCC the next week and again were very blessed by the feeling of the presence of the Holy Spirit and amazed at how our spirits had been so squelched at the church we had been going to for so many years.

We attended for several weeks and got involved. As we discussed with each other, we felt God calling us to serve at TWCC. One of the strong feelings we all had was that the other church we had gone to for those three weeks before the first service at TWCC was a big church with a solid base and a lot of serving members didn't need us as much as being with a brand new church where we could be of more service. Within a short period the Elders had put together a set of by-laws for the church and organizational structure. We were very interested in that before making a decision to join TWCC.

Another couple from our old church additionally came to our worship service and other activities and they were also interested in the church and the plans. When the by-laws and organizational structure plans were presented we attended and listened to the plans and questions. There were several points that were of concern to us and we asked for an opportunity to meet with the Elders and present our concerns and the reasons we believed some of the planned structure and qualifications for leadership needed to be re-visited and if the scriptures supported our concerns modify the planned by-laws and organizational structure as appropriate. We were given a warm atmosphere to have our views and supporting scriptural references looked into.

The Elders spent some time meeting on the issues that were presented and made the decision to modify where necessary the by-laws and operational structure in accordance with our concerns. We continued worshipping at TWCC and became involved. Independently each family came to the conclusion to become members, and we all joined the new assembly. We were part of the charter membership.

We have all become active members in TWCC and are looking forward to being present as God moves us where He wants us to go in His mission field either right here in Alabama or abroad. We never lost faith in the fact that God was leading us and opening doors for us.

Sandrea and Ronnie Brasher

About 12 years ago we felt the leading of the Holy Spirit to start attending Hargrove Methodist church in Tuscaloosa. We didn't know why at the time but just knew we were at the place that God wanted us to be at that time. A little over a year later, Ronnie was asked to lead a new Contemporary Praise Worship Service on Sunday

Morning. Over the years many people were led to Christ and introduced to a new freedom to worship through this ministry.

Sandra helped start a ministry there called the "Prayer Weavers" where they ministered to those who needed prayer by making prayer shawls which were prayed over and then delivered to people who requested them from inside and outside the church. They were hand delivered to these people at their homes, hospitals, or hospice. Many said they felt the very presence of the Holy Spirit wrapping His arms around them as they wrapped the shawls around themselves.

After 10 years of ministering there, we felt the leading of the Holy Spirit removing the call to ministry at Hargrove and leading us somewhere else. We didn't know where we were going, so we visited several churches for about two months and found "The Word Community Church" was forming at that time. We were familiar with several of the people that would be attending, and we contacted them about their first service, and attended a fellowship and prayer service before the first official service. We attended for a while and felt this was the church that God was leading us to for this time.

Wanda and Hugh Kilpatrick III

Our story of how we came to join TWCC is probably similar to many who were former members of St. Mark United Methodist Church. To leave a church family, of which we were members for about 22 years, was like experiencing a "divorce," even though Wanda and I never had been through such an event in either of our families. We were faced with choosing between two church families whom we loved dearly. The final decision came on January 25, 2015, when we were two of 16 new members who were welcomed into the TWCC congregation. The other new members were: the Dew family-Steven (the Youth and Praise Team Leader), Calah, Eli, Micah, & Koen; the Hannah family-Jeff, Melissa, Brileigh, & Bayleigh; Jeff & Matt Lary; Anna Payne; and Check & Jennifer Swindle. The decision was the correct one, and one which we have never regretted.

The "back story" of our decision is one we would like to share. The journey started in mid-2013 when we heard that the St. Mark pastor had doctrinal conflicts with the activities of the SOT men's group which was meeting weekly at St. Mark. Through the various meetings documented previously in this document, Wanda and I prayed that an amicable solution could be reached between both parties. I even met with the pastor in our home to discuss our concerns with hopes of mediating the situation.

This was not successful, and I could see that the eventual St. Mark separation by many of its members was eminent. This left us with a choice of what our family would do.

After the formulation of TWCC as a church body, we decided to remain at St. Mark. After a few weeks, however, we decided to alternate our attendance on Sundays, attending St. Mark one Sunday and TWCC the following Sunday, etc. We attended Sunday school and church services at each church every other Sunday. We attended the Wednesday night supper and small group meetings at TWCC only. I was on the Trustees Board at St. Mark and was involved in an elevator addition project which kept me committed. We eventually decided that we needed to decide for ourselves the church to which we would commit. We each felt the Lord moving us to TWCC through the Spirit-

filled worship at TWCC and through our relationships with the people. This would mean separating from the St. Mark church family whom we loved. We decided that we would leave once I felt my responsibilities on the Trustees were not jeopardized and could be handled successfully by someone else. I submitted my resignation to the committee, and we joined TWCC the next Sunday. As painful as that decision was, we both felt that we were following the Lord's call by joining the TWCC church family.

Tommy Raburn and "The Kenya Connection"

I received rumblings of a split while on a mission trip to Africa from May 30 through June 13, 2013. A team from St. Mark including Philip Smith and myself were on a mission trip to Kitale, Kenya. Prior to leaving on the trip, Philip and I had participated in discussions with other SOT members concerning the growing issues with the St. Mark Senior Pastor. We left for Kenya with uncertainty as to how the issues were to be resolved; however, there appeared to be a compromise in the offering where the SOT would not be a ministry of St. Mark but would continue to meet there similar to the arrangements with the Boy Scouts. During the mission trip as internet access became available (it was often sporadic), we started receiving SOT group texts that indicated the above mentioned compromise was not going to resolve the issues. This was a difficult time as the team was concentrating on the mission; we all were also concerned about the happenings back home and relying on sporadic text messages. As the mission trip grew near to the end, it became obvious that a split in the church was being seriously discussed. I do not recall how much we discussed with the rest of the team of what was going on, but I am sure it was talked about. However, it was particularly disturbing to Philip and me due to our involvement with SOT and our family's longtime membership at St. Mark. Upon return, we joined in on the discussions and were updated on what all that had transpired by the SOT leadership. I personally met with the Senior Pastor and to my disappointment it became clearer as to what divided us and that a split was inevitable. It was still a difficult decision to leave and not done so without much prayer and discussions with my wife, SOT brother,s and other St. Mark members.

B. Staff :

Pastor: Reverend Aaron Chadwick, (December 2013 – December 31, 2016)

Praise and Worship leaders:

Logan Haskew (July 28, 2013 - March 2014)

David Tidmore (March 2014 - May 2014)

Stephen Dew (May 2014 - March 2015)

Jake Ellis (May 2015 - June 2016)

Jason Morris (November 2016 – December 2016)

Suzie Tant (December 2016 - Present)

Youth Ministers:

Stephen Dew (May 2014 - March 2015)

Jake Ellis (May 2015 - June 2016)

Jason Morris (November 2016 – December 2016)

Casey Ferrell (July 2017 – Present)

Children's Ministry Director:

Holli Maxwell Wilson (July 28, 2013 – December 2016)

Ketina Freeman (November 5, 2017 – Present)

Financial Secretary:

Tiffany Lyles (April 4, 2016 – October 13, 2017)

Lyn Smith (November 6, 2017 – Present)

C. Elders: *(Lay leadership elected by congregation to serve for 3 years on a rotating basis)*

Original Elders were as follows: Tim Clements, Scott Gibson, Tim Haskew, Jay McCollum, Tommy Raburn,

D. Deacons: *(Lay leadership elected by congregation to serve for 3 years on a rotating basis.)*

The original Deacons were as follows: Michael Allgood, Ronnie Brasher, Rodney Connell, Russell Hammack, Ken Hanby, Matt Hartley, Zak Holman, Wes Scarbrough, and Randy Simpson

E. SONS OF THUNDER (SOT) CRUSADE TESTIMONIALS:



TWCC offers a powerful men's group called Sons of Thunder. SOT had humble beginnings almost a decade ago with a small group of men who had a deep desire to grow in the Lord. Today, SOT has grown to encompass over a dozen chapters in multiple states.

The Sons of Thunder ministry offers men a place to grow spiritually, have accountability, and opportunities to minister to one another. Whether it's at one of the yearly crusades, outreaches, fellowships, or weekly meetings, God is using SOT to raise up an army of spiritual leaders.

Each year, SOT hosts an area-wide crusade with a Christian celebrity speaker. The Crusade had its beginnings in Greensboro in 2004 and 2005 with few men in attendance. These were followed by a meeting at a small hunting lodge near Jena, Alabama, in 2006. Several men gave their testimony, accepted Christ as their Savior, and were baptized that weekend. Through the years the Crusade has grown. The Crusade has been held at a large, privately owned, hunting and fishing preserve named Zidon Avisha in Elrod, Alabama. This event is free and includes great food prepared by SOT members, along with fellowship and worship. Average attendance has ranged from 300 to 500 men.

Guest speakers have included: professional wrestlers Lex Luger and Nikita Koloff, pro angler Clay Dyer, former Florida State University football coach Bobby Bowden, John Godwin with the Duck Dynasty television program, B.A.S.S. Chaplain Chris Wells, former University of Alabama football coach Joe Kines, and many others. The Friday night Crusade is open to men ages 13+. The Saturday afternoon event is open to family members who wish to

attend. The Crusade is funded entirely by donations. The Crusade has attracted men from all denominations, faiths, as well as those who are unchurched. There have been many men and women who have accepted Christ, and been baptized in the lake at Zidon Avisha. The Lord has truly blessed the all those who have been a part of these Crusades.

The following internet posting testimonials are from those who have attended past crusades.

Tim regarding Nikita Koloff testimony at 2012 Crusade: (from Nikita Koloff website)

Hey, Nikita, you guys stirred up The Holy Spirit while in Tuscaloosa. I have been getting calls all day Monday and Tuesday telling me what the weekend did for them. I pray you guys got a huge confirmation for The Power Hour! How can some of the guys get that cassette tape. I know it was only out on the table for TWO days but some are wanting to know how to get one? Thanks brother.

Billy Patton, Patton's European Mounts, April 2013 Crusade:

Just thought I'd post a link to the website for the Sons of Thunder (SOT) Men's Ministry and tell everyone a little about the upcoming retreat. It is going to be held at Zidon Avisha, a very nice, rural piece of property filled with bass & catfish lakes, rolling fields, and beautiful woodlands located in Elrod, Alabama. This place has been through an owner or two after it was first built, and it is amazing at how God has worked in allowing this place to fall into the hands of an owner who allows it to be used to glorify and uplift Him.

The SOT is a non-denominational Christian Men's Ministry, and they host this retreat each year in April. Two day event beginning on Friday evening, April 26th and concluding on Saturday evening, April 27th. Friday night is a great supper (last year was ribeye steaks & shrimp boil), preaching, music by a prison choir and you can stay and spend the night. Bring tents and camp with your sons. Fish in the lakes. Saturday morning is breakfast, more singing, preaching and then baptisms in the lakes for those who make professions of faith in Christ. Saturday evening is family night for wives and kids. This year's special guest will be Duck Commander's John Godwin. Should be a great event. This place is only about 8 miles from my house and I just started attending the event last year. It is a blessed event.

Here is a link to their website. <http://thesonsofthunder.net/>. You can read about who they are and what they are about. I'd like to invite anyone to attend.

Ben Workman, 2013 Crusade:

Been going to the crusade for five years now. This one was most special for me. Friday night with my son. Saturday with my daughter and being a part of her baptism. Could not have been any better weekend. Also awesome testimony from John and Rodney.

Stephen Frost, 2013 Crusade:

This Crusade was a first for me, and I was blessed to be involved all weekend. I watched the Holy Spirit move in ways that I had never seen before. This amazing weekend started with a breath taking sunrise prayer and ended with brothers and sisters of all ages accepting Jesus Christ as their Savior. Words cannot describe the thoughts and emotions that are still flowing through me. God is so good, Amen!!!

Anonymous, 2013 Crusade:

Day 2 was another awesome day to mark in the books for the Crusade. It started with a wonderful testimony followed by fellowship. We got to hear John Godwin speak again with his great testimony and wrapped the night up with folks young and old dedicating or rededicating their life to Jesus Christ as their Savior. It just doesn't get any better than that. Amen!!

Anonymous, 2016 Crusade:

21 men and boys accepted Christ tonight at the Sons of Thunder Crusade. Dozens more made recommitments to Christ. Two got baptized in the lake! Great message by Chris Wells and great music and food. Families invited tomorrow at 10:30.

G. TWCC CHARTER MEMBERS

Allen Aldridge	Lisa Berger	Allie Champion
Joy Aldridge	Brian Boyington	Krista Champion
Keith Aldridge	Bryson Boyington	Mary Evelyn Champion
Natalie Aldridge	Sheri Boyington	Nathan Champion
Ansley Allen	Ciara Brady	Jackson Clements
April Allen	Leslie Brady	Julia Clements
Caleb Allen	Patrick Brady	Susan Clements
Meredith Allgood	Ronnie Brasher	Tim Clements
Michael Allgood	Sandra Brasher	Brantley Collins
Angie Baines	Mark Brothers	Jennifer Collins
Kelsie Baines	Deborah Bryan	Joy Collins
Ken Baines	Anna Grace Bush	Tom Collins
Kenneth Baines	Christy Bush	Morgan Connell
Clarence Barger	Michael Bush	Rodney Connell
Jacob Barger	Robert Bush	Bailey Davis
Megan Barger	Cade Cash	Heather Davis
Nick Barger	Callie Cash	Beth Dyer
Don Berger	Chris Cash	Linda Early
Julie Berger	Crystal Cash	Leigh Ann Fair

Brock Ferguson
Morgan Ferguson
Debra Fleenor
Joe Fleenor
Brooke Freeman
Joseph Freeman
Matt Freeman
Shelby Freeman
J.T. Galloway
John Galloway
Mattie Galloway
Niki Galloway
Sydney Galloway
Caroline Gibson
Noah Gibson
Scott Gibson
Suzanne Gibson
Austin Hallman
Natasha Hammack
Reagan Hammack
Riley Hammack
Russell Hammack
Cecilia Hammond
Freddie Hammond
Kristy Hammond
Matt Hammond
Dana Hamner
Barbara Hanby
Ken Hanby
Cory Harbin
Logan Harbin
Lorraine Harbin
Monica Harbin
Shae Harbin
Bobby Harless
Joey Harless
Doyle Hart
Wanda Hart
Chera Hartley
Grace Hartley
Jessie Hartley
Leia Hartley

Matt Hartley
Ashley Haskew
Austin Haskew
Logan Haskew
Tim Haskew
Beth Henry
Emma Henry
Isreal Henry
Kate Henry
Danny Hicks
Emma Hicks
Felisa Hicks
Logan Hicks
Bruce Higginbotham
Traci Higginbotham
David Hill
Doug Hinerman
Jay Hinton
Cade Holman
Collin Holman
Colton Holman
Jenny Holman
Ruthie Holman
Zak Holman
Chuck Jay
Shirley Jay
Drake Jones
Jacob Jones
Joshua Jones
Karen Jones
Madison Jones
Michelle Jones
Parker Jones
Robin Jones
Samantha Jones
Spencer Jones
Vicki Jones
Debbie Keeth
Haley Keeth
Emily Kelly
Frank Kelly
Hanna Grace Kelly

Hayden Kelly
Nikki Kelly
Clay Kilgore
Susan Kilgore
Joshua Koster
Abby Lee
Ella Kate Lyons
Elliott Lyons
Leah Lyons
Marvin Lyons
Shelia Markham
Debra Matherson
Lincoln Matherson
Rhett Matherson
Sam Matherson
Holli Maxwell
Kelvin Maxwell
Sarah Joy Maxwell
Cole McCollum
Emily McCollum
Holly McCollum
Jason McCollum
Jay McCollum
Olivia McCollum
Wyatt McCollum
Bill McCook
Drew McCook
Hinton McCook
Mandie McCook
Mary Nell McCook
Martha McDow
Jesse McWhorter
Kellie McWhorter
Michael McWhorter
Blake Meggs
Lexi Merrick
Claire Mills
Roger Mills
Lexie Nix
Millie Nix
Melanie Parker
Candi Pate

Chase Pate
Jason Pate
Kinley Pate
Presley Pate
Bobbi Jo Perkins
Paxton Plott
Cade Qualls
Chastin Qualls
Mylie Qualls
Myra Qualls
Maggie Raburn
Tommy Raburn
Jackson Rhodes
Kevin Rollins
Lauren Rollins
Aidan Rosamond
Cheryl Rosamond
Keith Rosamond
Alisa Sanders
Lexi Sanders
Wayne Sanders
Jay Scarbrough

Jo Scarbrough
John-Wesley Scarbrough
Wes Scarbrough
Aaron Sherman
Randa Simpson
Randy Simpson
Tonia Simpson
Allen Skelton
Darlene Skelton
Tamlyn Skelton
Caroline Smith
Philip Smith
Penny Straughn
Ben Stringfellow
Gwynne Stringfellow
Graham Summerlin
Adam Tant
Alex Tant
Davis Tant
Suzie Tant
David Tidmore
Reba Tidmore

MiKellie Walby
Tina Walby
Wes Walby
Anne Walker
Kensley Walker
Darrell Watkins
Traci Watkins
Carol Weaver
Jana Weaver
Cheryl Wells
Scott Wells
Wayne Wells
Drew Woods
Hunter Yeatman
Michael Yeatman
Michael Yeatman
Teresa Yeatman
Jennifer York
Beth Zark
Steve Zark

Just the beginning of HIStory....

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Jeremiah 29:11 - New International Version (NIV)

“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the LORD, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.”

The Scripture verse above is the backbone of the formation of TWCC, and we, who put this document together, foremost want to acknowledge and thank our Lord and Savior for this promise! We know He holds the plans for TWCC, and for that we are truly grateful. I personally am grateful for those who agreed to serve with me on the HIStory committee in order to have made sure that we documented accurately what represented the history of our church. Those who served were: Cecilia Hammond, Kristy Hammond, and Scott Gibson. They contributed stories, reviewed multiple draft documents, and provided editing comments for each.

The idea for this document came to me after TWCC completed all the transitional plans for moving into the present facility which was vacated by Harvest Church. I wanted to make sure that the establishment of TWCC was documented and preserved for those who were unaware of how our Lord “formed” this church family.

I started this project with the first draft in November 2015. Since that time, many people took time to help develop the HIStory of TWCC. (By the way, the title HIStory of TWCC was the idea of Cecilia Hammond. The title is so appropriate, and I want to thank Cecilia for her idea.)

This section acknowledges those who helped, with hope that I did not omit anyone.

- *Our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.*
- *TWCC HIStory committee.*
- *Reverend Michael Miller whose leadership developed the idea of the Sons of Thunder (SOT) Men's Ministry and who provided information on the beginning of SOT ministry.*
- *Tim Clements for his leadership in the Sons of Thunder ministry and for providing information on SOT.*
- *The Elders of TWCC who agreed to this project and who read drafts as they were presented.*
- *Tim Haskew and Rob Moore for their edits and comments.*
- *Wanda Kilpatrick who patiently provided grammatical reviews of this document for her husband when requested.*
- *Ashley Haskew for providing historical data, dates, names, and edits when requested for this document.*
- *Susan Clements for providing information on the Infant and Preschool areas.*
- *Shirley Jay for providing information on the Children's area.*
- *Kristy Hammond for providing information on the Youth area.*
- *Susan Rue for providing information on the women's programs.*
- *Those people who submitted their stories which have been included in this document.*
- *And last, but not least, for any other person(s) whom I may have forgotten....*
- *Our Lord knows who you are.*

"Thank you all for your help. All for Him!" - Hugh W. Kilpatrick III