

RENEW

And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God

(Romans 12:2)



VISION 2026

KARNS CHURCH OF CHRIST

RENEW

And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by
the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that
good and acceptable and perfect will of God
(Romans 12:2)



VISION 2026

KARNS CHURCH OF CHRIST

**We exist to be transformed by God,
to reflect the life of Jesus,
to give hope to the lost,
to grow as a family,
being bound together by the cross.**



Table of Contents

Our Vision	7
Story of the Karns congregation	8
2025 Accomplishments.....	10
2025 Calendar	13
Our Elders	15
Our Ministers	19
Our Deacons	20
Church Staff	24
What is Ministry?.....	25
Worship.....	26
Fellowship	27
Evangelism & Outreach	28
Jail Ministry	31
Missions	32
Education	33
Special Programs	
Vacation Bible School	35
Forever His Ministry	36
Lads2Leaders	38
New Christians	39
Encouragement & Visitation.....	39
Widows, Widowers and Shut-ins Ministry	40
Ladies' Programs.....	41
Men's Programs.....	42
Family Involvement Ministry	43
5th Grade & Under Ministry	44
Youth Ministry	46
College-Age & Young Professionals.....	48
Young Adult Ministry	49
Growing Families Ministry	50
Middle Members	51
Young at Heart Ministry.....	52
Benevolence	53
Facilities	54
Southeast Institute of Biblical Studies.....	56
Southeast Staff.....	58
Southeast Adopt-A-Student Program.....	60
Budget.....	61

Our Vision: *Renew (Romans 12:2)*

Your Shepherd's Goals

Shepherd the flock of God, which is among you, serving as overseers, not by compulsion but willingly, not for dishonest gain but eagerly; nor as being lords over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock (1 Peter 5:2-3).

It is our goal to mentor, communicate, and encourage our brothers and sisters to please God. We want to empower people to use their God-given talents and gifts to His glory and to bless the flock through these gifts. Our desire is to help each member grow to their fullest potential as they serve the Lord.

We see the role and work of elders to be shepherds who lead the flock, nurturing it and encouraging it to remain true to what pleases the Chief Shepherd and Father. We ask for your prayers as we continually seek to improve in shepherding this flock. Pray for us so that we may equip the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ (Eph 4:11-12).

Our Family Goals

In 2026, our theme verse is Romans 12:2, *Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect.*

We are asking God to **renew our hearts, rekindle our passion, and realign our church family with His mission.** We recognize how easy it is to grow comfortable, to settle into routine rather than pursue renewal. But God is calling us to transformation, not complacency. As individuals and as a congregation, we want to move from **comfort to calling**, from **spectators to servants**, and from **maintenance to mission.** Our prayer is that through the renewal of our minds and the power of God, our church will shine with new focus, energy, and love for God's work.

Our Vision for 2026 is for every member of our family to:

- **Renew Our Heart (*Personal Transformation*).** Psalm 51:10 — *Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.* Goal: Reignite personal passion and faith.
- **Renew Our Purpose (*Discovering Your Gifts*).** Ephesians 2:10 — *For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works...* Goal: Move from spectator to servant.
- **Renew Our Mission (*Refocusing Ministry*).** Matthew 28:19–20 — *Go therefore and make disciples...* Goal: Strengthen what is fruitful.
- **Renew Our Unity (*Building Love and Connection*).** Philippians 2:2 — *Being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind.* Goal: Build a unified church family that works together in love.

In 2026, we want to see:

- Members living out transformed, renewed faith in daily life.
- Members stepping into new service for the first time.
- Ministries refocused or refreshed for greater impact.
- Our church family with a stronger sense of unity and excitement.

Karns' Story

Remember the stories which were read to us when we were young that usually began with the phrase "Once Upon a Time"? This is our story.

Once upon a time, a young preacher named Billy Nicks held a gospel meeting in the Karns community. Brother Nicks, minister for the Highland View congregation, borrowed a tent from the New York Avenue congregation and held a "tent meeting" in a sparsely populated area between Knoxville and Oak Ridge. The tent was located on the north side of Oak Ridge Highway near where the Exxon station is now located. He preached the good news of Jesus Christ and nine people were baptized for the remission of their sins.



First building, 1950's

Beginning on July 5, 1953, these New Testament Christians regularly met in the Karns community school house. This small congregation in the Karns community began to grow and they looked forward to the time when they could meet in their own building to worship God. A small tract of land on Beaver Ridge Road was purchased in 1953 for \$2000. Plans to construct a building began with \$100 deposited into the building fund. God blessed this small congregation and construction began in August 1954, with much of the work being done by the members. A small white concrete block building capable of seating 112 people was completed, and they met for the first time in their new building on January 2, 1955. The first sermon was preached by Bill Nicks.



*New addition in 1960's
(Current Large Multipurpose Room)*

budget of only \$770, a school of preaching was established in 1971. God blessed the congregation and school of preaching and both have continued to grow in numbers and influence.

A larger auditorium capable of seating 450 people was constructed in the year 1992. The student housing at Hillbrook for students attending the school of preaching and the Bill Nicks Library were completed in 1993. More classrooms to accommodate the growing congregation and the school of preaching were

Karns' Story *(Continued)*

added in 1998. By the year 2011, over 300 gospel preachers had been trained and were serving God in places around the world.

In December 2014 additional land across Beaver Ridge Road from the current building was purchased to allow the Karns congregation to again expand our facilities. In the Fall of 2017, we officially broke ground for the construction of an expanded auditorium and additional classroom space. Construction also began on a separate facility for the Southeast Institute of Biblical Studies. Construction was completed in 2018 and we thanked God for his great blessings. The new Southeast facility was completed in 2019 and was formally named the “Meadows Bible Center” in honor of the late James Meadows, a former Director.



1990's Addition

After several years of growth with new members and baptisms, the decision was made in 2024 to proceed with plans to convert the land across Beaver Ridge Road into additional parking. With generous contributions from the church family, the parking lot was completed in early Fall of 2025.

With a zeal and commitment like the first members, we ask God to continue to bless us as we strive to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ to the Karns community and the world beyond. Seventy years after meeting for the first time in that small white building, the Karns congregation still wants to do more and greater things to serve our Lord. Thank you, Lord, for blessing us.



Accomplishments During 2025

Church-Wide Accomplishments for 2025

Our goal for 2025 was “Speaking the Truth in Love—Ephesians 4:15”

- 36 - Total baptisms
- 25 - Restorations/prayer requests
- 51 - Placed membership
- 412 - Average Sunday a.m. attendance
- \$25,836- Average weekly contribution (\$936 increase since 2024)
- Provided extra funds for mission works. Collected \$17,640 for Texas flood relief.
- We continued to provide Bible classes for all ages, from birth and up.
- Enjoyed a successful Vacation Bible School.
- The Bible correspondence statistics are as follows:
 - 269 Bible correspondence courses started (decrease of 53 since 322 in 2024)
 - 93 Bible correspondence courses completed (decrease of 57 since 150 in 2024)
 - 445 ongoing Bible correspondence course students (increase of 50 since 395 in 2024)
 - 65 members have participated in grading lessons (increase of 5 since 60 in 2024)
- We assisted 11 families in the community with food from the pantry. Families were encouraged to attend services and were provided information on the correspondence course program. Members with special needs were provided financial assistance.
- The congregation enjoyed a Spring picnic in May and a Fall Festival in October.
- The Forever His ministry had two day camps with over 85 children and adults in attendance. Approximately 170 volunteers helped with the two camps. We also conducted a Forever His VBS class, and one Forever His student participated in Lads to Leaders Bartimaeus group.
- We enjoyed a Summer Series each Wednesday with lessons on the topic “Bold Christianity.”
- The “TLC” ministry met at the building to prepare and deliver food to the sick and shut-ins. Meal trains were also planned for various needs.
- Our ladies participated in a Ladies’ Day in October, a retreat in winter and several attended the Transform Ladies’ Conference in Pigeon Forge. Ladies’ Bible class took place each Tuesday morning.
- Men participated in a retreat in Pigeon Forge during the Winter.
- 1.5 million views on Facebook. 4.5k new Facebook followers, making us one of the largest Facebook pages among churches of Christ.
- Our livestreamed services via Boxcast had 4,791 unique viewers throughout the year. Our sermon videos are now being archived on YouTube and we have had 192,000 views. We continue to archive sermons on Vimeo, but our primary video outreach is through Youtube. As a result, statistics from Vimeo have dropped somewhat: 119,000 hits and 1034 unique viewers. (Youtube statistics continue to rise.)
- The church website, Karnschurch.org, had 63,000 unique visitors (15% increase), and 128,000 hits.

Accomplishments (*Continued*)

Youth Accomplishments for 2025

- 3 week-long church camps for our young people (Leadership Camp, Horizons, TCC). This year, we combined Leadership Camp with Vacation Bible School in order to give the campers hands-on experience in helping with VBS.
- 2 - Weekend retreats provided for our students to learn and grow in their walk with God
- 3 - major trips taken. We attended Evangelism University, CYC in Pigeon Forge, and Horizons at Freed-Hardeman.
- 30+ volunteers helped teach in our student ministry
- 100+ classes and Bible study opportunities offered for our students
- 10 - Students put on Christ in baptism
- 3 – Students responded to the invitation, requesting prayers.
- Will Kirby and Bohdan Riaboshapka worked with us as summer interns this year.
- **100% - Glory to God for His great blessings on our Student Ministry here at Karns in 2025!**

Southeast Institute of Biblical Studies Accomplishments for 2025

- Participated in door-knocking campaigns in Hopewell, VA and Scarboro, TN.
- The students held two student lectureships, one in the Spring and one in the Fall.
- These men graduated in 2025: Brian Gentle, Dayne Grider, Warner Haley, Rochoy McFarlane, and Trevor Tattersall.
- Conducted the annual lectureship and banquet.
- Southeast completed its 54th year training preachers in May of 2025
- Currently have 15 preaching students in the daytime program.
- Currently have 6 women in the wives' program.

2026 Calendar

This calendar is a general schedule of events to help you plan the year and is subject to change. The following events occur regularly and are not listed in the calendar below: Weekly TLC meal prep/deliveries to shut-ins, weekly ladies' class, Lads2Leaders practices, children's singing, walk/run club, and Summer fellowship meals. Teen devotionals and other group get-togethers will be announced as they are scheduled.

Watch bulletins & announcements closely for calendar changes. Events marked in RED indicate church-wide events.

January

- 2 – Southeast Orientation
- 5 – Southeast 3rd Quarter begins
- 8 – MS/HS Devo
- 11 – Baby shower A. Frans
- 16-18 – Grief Seminar
- 23 – Men's Retreat
- 25 – Bridal shower M. Williams

February

- 1-5 – FHU Lectureship
- 1 – Jail Ministry Info Meeting
- 6 – Ladies' Retreat
- 14 – Young at Heart activity
- 20 – CYC
- 22 – Baby Shower T. Rivas
- 27-28 – Parenting Seminar

March

- 1 – Spring Bible quarter begins
- 12-15 – Southeast Lectureship
- 20 – Marriage Seminar
- 22 – Baby shower D. Itzen
- 23 – Southeast 4th Quarter begins
- 27 – Spring Advance (youth)
- 29 – Bridal shower K. Harrison

April

- 2 – L2L Convention
- 12 – L2L Wrap-Up
- 12 – New Buddy Meeting
- 18 – Forever His Camp (teens & adults)
- 19 – Baby shower S. Jones

May

- 2 – Church Picnic
- 3 – Senior Night
- 15 – Southeast End-of-Year Party
- 22 – Summer Advance (youth)
- 23 – Southeast Ladies Banquet
- 23 – Southeast Graduation & Banquet
- 5/30– 6/7—Leadership Camp
- 5/31—6/3—VBS

June

- 5/30– 6/7—Leadership Camp
- 5/31-6/3 – VBS
- 7 – Summer Bible quarter begins

August

- 1 – Southeast Orientation
- 1 – Southeast Welcome Party
- 3 – Southeast 1st quarter begins
- 9 – Southeast dessert fellowship
- 14-20 – PTP

September

- 11 – Transform Ladies Conference
- TBA – RUSH
- TBA – Karns Ladies' Day

October

- 4 – SEIBS Campaign Week
- 11 – SEIBS Student Break
- 11 – New Buddy Meeting
- 17 – Forever His Day Camp
- 19 – Southeast 2nd Quarter Begins
- TBA – Fall Festival

2026 Calendar *(continued)*

November

26 – Song & devotional service

TBA — Young at Heart Fall Party

TBA — College-age & young adult Friendsgiving

TBA — Middle Members Friendsgiving

TBA — Fall Advance (youth)

December

3 – Student wives' party

6 – Winter Bible quarter begins

5 – Young at Heart Progressive Dinner

11 – SEIBS Holiday Party w/adoptive parents

24 – Song & devotional service

TBA — Middle school holiday party

TBA — High school progressive dinner

TBA — 5th grade & under party

TBA — College-age & young adult party

TBA — Widows & widowers luncheon

TBA — Ladies' ornament exchange

Our Elders



David Baldwin — elder since 2024

David “Boomer” Baldwin grew up in Coalfield, TN. He became a Christian in 1997, and has been a member at Karns since.

David became an elder in August 2024. He previously served as a deacon for the youth and family ministry from 2016 to 2024. He has taught many middle and high school classes. He serves as co-chair for Hillbrook Christian Association and is a board member for Teenage Christian Camp (TCC). He is also a camp director for week 3 at TCC.

David works at UPS. He is married to Leah and they have 3 children: Victoria Maguffee (husband Keegan), Eli and Charlotte.



Terry Clark — elder since 2016

Terry Clark grew up in Nashville, TN and became a Christian in 1973.

He attended Tennessee Technological University earning a degree in Civil Engineering. Terry has been a member of the Karns congregation since 1989. He served as deacon before becoming an elder in 2016. Terry has participated in mission trips both stateside and in Honduras.

He is married to Teresa, and they have two married sons, and three grandsons. Both sons and daughters-in-law are very active in the Lord’s church.



John Seibel — elder since 2023

John Seibel was born in ND and attended the Bismarck church of Christ after being converted in 1981. After graduating from high school in Bismarck he attended Harding University for 2 years where he met his wife, Christy. From Harding he transferred to the University of TN in Knoxville in 1989 and finished his electrical engineering degree.

He and Christy were married in 1990 and started attending the Karns church of Christ in 1991. They have 4 daughters, including a set of twins.

John has been a working member of the Karns body since becoming a member in 1991. He has actively supported the education program by teaching elementary and middle school classes, and was a helper to Christy in the pre-school program teaching the cradle roll and 2’s classes for many years. He and Christy have also coordinated and run the story room for VBS and Forever His. He has worked in the sound room, supported mission trips to Honduras and St. Croix, chaperoned countless youth retreats and events, coordinated the communion program, and prior to becoming an elder, was the deacon over the women’s programs at Karns.

Our Elders



Jeff Snyder — elder since 2023

Jeff was born in Bolivar, TN and shortly after, his family moved to Michigan. In 1972, his father's job brought them to Knoxville. They lived in the Karns area where his mother, Jeff and siblings attended Karns church of Christ. Jeff was baptized in 1976 at the age of 12.

After high school, he attended Freed Hardman College, where he met his wife, Candy. He graduated with a degree in Art in 1987. After college, they returned to Karns, where he worked for Whittle Communications in graphics and later for High Resolutions in graphics and commercial photography. Jeff also did wedding photography for 25 years as a side business. In 2005, he started a house painting company which continues to this day.

Jeff has served on several mission trips to Honduras and St. Croix. In 2008, he began serving as a deacon with primary responsibility over outside maintenance. In 2023, he became an elder.

Jeff and Candy have been married since 1987 and have three children and two grandchildren: Jarrett Snyder and his wife Sarah (Jasper, Solina), Stacey Harbison and her husband Zak, and Samantha Jones and her husband Jonathan.



Tony Williams — elder since 2008

Tony was born in 1964 in Chattanooga and was baptized in 1975 at the East Ridge congregation. He graduated from the University of Tennessee with a Bachelor's Degree in 1988 and a Master's Degree in 1991. He is a member of the Board of Trustees of Freed Hardeman University and is presently employed by Custom Foods.

Tony placed membership with the Karns congregation in 1999 and later served as deacon over education, insurance, and building maintenance before becoming an elder in 2008. He has served on mission trips stateside, in Russia, Curacao, and St. Croix. He married Deanna Perry in 1995 and they have three daughters and a granddaughter: Claire Higginbotham and her husband Matthew (Eleanor), Maggie, and Ella.

Our Elders



Gary Woodall — elder since 2016

Gary graduated from Farragut High School and later earned a Bachelor of Science Degree at Freed Hardeman University and then Doctor of Dental Surgery Degree at the University of Tennessee Health Science Center in Memphis. After practicing full-time in Scott County, TN and part-time in Knoxville for 5 years, he established a full-time practice in Knoxville in 1989.

Gary attended the Karns Church of Christ from approximately 1962-1964 as a toddler and as a teen from 1976-78. He returned to Karns in 1984 and has served in several capacities as Bible school teacher, chairman of the building committee for multiple building projects, fellowship team captain, deacon in charge of worship, deacon in charge of insurance, deacon in charge of education, and several other capacities. Gary has served in Honduras on medical mission trips.

He met Donna Jo McAntyre here at Karns and they married in 1982 after they started dating at Hillbrook Christian Camp approximately 6 years earlier. They have three children, one son-in-law, and three grandchildren.



Gregg Woodall – elder since 2005

Gregg Woodall, a Knoxville native, has been a member of the Lord's church since 1968. He first attended Karns as a child from 1962 to 1964 and then returned in 1976 during his college years. He served as treasurer beginning in June 1980 and then served as a deacon from 1982 to 2005. He began serving as an elder in February 2005. Gregg has worked on mission trips to Honduras and St. Croix. He is a member of the board of trustees for Freed-Hardeman University and served on the board of directors for Ministering to Youth Conference. He has written for the Gospel Advocate and has presented at brotherhood lectureships and conferences.

Gregg married Sherrye Floyd in 1977, and they have four children (all members of the Lord's church) and eleven grandchildren. Stephanie Harder and her husband Wade (Wrigley, Walton, and Webb), live in Union City, TN and attend the Martin Church of Christ. Tiffany Dresser and her husband Dan (Adalynn, Brooklynn, and Carrigan), Benjamin Woodall and his wife Andrea (Luke, Lexi, and Logan), and Jonathan Woodall and his wife, Lauren (Austin and Owen), all live in Knoxville and attend Karns.

Gregg married Sherrye Floyd in 1977, and they have four children (all members of the Lord's church) and eleven grandchildren. Stephanie Harder and her husband Wade (Wrigley, Walton, and Webb), live in Union City, TN and attend the Martin Church of Christ. Tiffany Dresser and her husband Dan (Adalynn, Brooklynn, and Carrigan), Benjamin Woodall and his wife Andrea (Luke, Lexi, and Logan), and Jonathan Woodall and his wife, Lauren (Austin and Owen), all live in Knoxville and attend Karns.

Gregg, Sherrye and their children are graduates of Freed-Hardeman. Gregg is a CPA, CVA and works in his own firm, Woodall Group.

Our Ministers



Steve Higginbotham

Preaching Minister

Steve Higginbotham was raised in Chester, WV. He is a 1984 graduate of Freed-Hardeman University. He and his wife, Kim, have four children, two grandchildren, and one on the way.

Steve has been preaching for the past 42 years, the last 16 of which have been at Karns.



Spencer Clark

Evangelism/Outreach Minister

Spencer was born in Knoxville and grew up at the Karns congregation. He met his wife Hannah at Karns and they now have two sons together. He graduated from Freed-Hardeman University with a Bachelor of Arts in Bible (2012) and a Master of Divinity (2019). Before transitioning to the evangelism role, he served for 10+ years in youth-related ministry (including 3 years as a MS/HS Bible teacher). In addition to evangelism, he enjoys working with technology, reading, and cycling.



Christian Frans

Youth Minister

Christian Frans met Abbie while they were studying at Freed Hardeman University. They were married in September of 2020 and have two dogs. They are expecting their first child in March 2026.

While in school Christian studied Bible with an emphasis in ministry and a minor in missions. Since graduation in 2020 he has have served in full time Youth Ministry.

Our Deacons



Mike Albert

Buses

Michael is married to Terry and they 2 children: Catherine Talbert (Mark) and William.

Besides maintenance and upkeep of the buses, this area involves the approval and safety training of all drivers of these vehicles. We want our church buses to be used in a way that will allow us to teach the Word of God, to promote fellowship, and provide outreach.



Jason Champion

Worship

Jason is married to Rose and they have two children, Seth and Emma.

Jason manages the worship assignments for each month. We want to make sure all men have the opportunity to lead in the worship service. Whether it is preparing a devotional topic for Wednesday night or serving as an usher to welcome our members and visitors, every aspect of worship is important. He also schedules men and women to work at the Welcome Center to help greet our visitors and help direct them to Bible classes.



Dan Dresser

Property Management

Originally from Kansas, Dan (better known as "Jinx") met his wife Tiffany while they were both students at Karns High School. They married in 2006 and are now the proud parents of three daughters: Adalynn, Brooklynn, and Carrigan. Since 2012, Jinx served as the security deacon here at Karns and starting in 2025, he'll take on a new role as the property management deacon to help the church continue to grow and thrive.

At Karns, we are committed to creating spaces that support our church family and the missionary congregations we serve. This Property Management role focuses on overseeing larger projects, such as upgrading facilities, building new spaces, and supporting mission efforts. The goal is to meet the needs of a growing community in Christ by providing spaces where people can worship, grow in their faith, and build meaningful connections. Working closely with church leaders, deacons, and volunteers, this role ensures that each project is thoughtfully planned and aligns with the church's mission. With God's guidance, I am dedicated to creating environments that draw people closer to Him and to one another, both here at Karns and with our missionary partners around the world.

Our Deacons (*Continued*)



Walt Hillis

Men's Fellowship Ministry

Walt and his wife Suzanne have three children: Nathan, Isaac, and Madalyn. They have been members at Karns since 2009.

The purpose of the men's fellowship ministry is to provide opportunities for men to grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. This is accomplished by fellowshiping with one another spiritually and physically with the goal of leading His church, our families, and community in a manner that brings glory to God.



Gentry Jackson

Computer Systems, Baptistery Maintenance

Gentry has been a member at Karns since 1997 and is married to Amy Jackson. They have 2 daughters: Casey Haley (Warner) and Julie. They have one granddaughter.

Computer and network maintenance involves all needs related to the church and school of preaching. Baptistery maintenance involves weekly cleaning and less frequent general maintenance or repair issues.



Chris Pegg

Missions

Chris married Beth Cookston in 1992 and they have 3 boys: Tyler, Joshua, and Andrew. He placed membership with the Karns congregation in 2000.

Mission work is critical to the survival and growth of the church. The purpose of this ministry is to reach the world with the gospel of Christ. This is accomplished by providing our missionaries with spiritual, physical, and financial support as well as sending our own teams overseas.

Our Deacons (*Continued*)



Dustin Roberts

Youth

Dustin has been a member at Karns since 2005. He and his wife Heather have 2 children: Dryden, and Drake.

Dustin assists the youth minister with various activities and needs of our children from 6th—12th grade. He also assists in mentoring our young people through the teen education ministry and various activities.



Daniel Salmon

Youth Education

Daniel was born and raised in the Huntsville, Alabama area. After completing graduate school, Daniel and Rachel married in 2012 and lived in Henderson, TN. For the first 9 years of their marriage, they attended at the Estes church of Christ where Daniel served as the deacon of adult education. They moved to Knoxville in 2021 and began attending at Karns. Daniel and Rachel have one child, Clara.

The purpose of the youth education program is to teach our children at Karns so they grow in the nurture and admonition of the Lord (Eph. 6:4) and to be complete and equipped for every good work (II Tim. 3:17) as they grow into their teenage years and begin committing their lives to Christ. Our youth education is divided into 3 main categories: cradle roll, K-5th grade, and 6th-12th grade. The work of the youth education program is made possible by excellent teachers who prioritize both the physical and spiritual protection of our children at Karns.

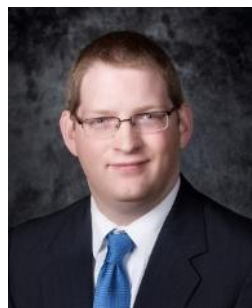


Donald Sawyer

Outside Maintenance

Donald and his wife, Whitney, have been members at Karns since 2021. They have a son named Jason. Donald is an Automation Sales Engineer. In Donald's free time, he enjoys working on his cattle farm, hunting, and being with family.

Outside Maintenance involves all needs related to keeping the outside lawn, landscaping, parking lot, signage, and building exterior in good working order and neat in appearance. We want the building to be used as a tool, accessible to all members, for the purpose of bringing glory to God. We want our facilities to be used in a way that will allow us to teach the word of God, edify the saints, and positively impact our community.



Daniel Tanner

K-5 Youth Ministry

Daniel and his wife, Jessie, have three children: Simon, Ella, and Nathan. They have been married since 2012 and have been members at Karns since then.

Daniel became the deacon for the K-5 youth in January 2020. He assists with various activities and needs of our children and families in this age group.

Our Deacons (*Continued*)



Lee Toothman

Lads2Leaders

Lee has been a member of the Karns congregation since 2006. He and his wife Lynlee were married in 2007 and have one son, Hunter.

His area of responsibility is the Lads to Leaders program, which trains our youth on how to become leaders in the church in areas such as speech, scripture reading, and song leading, as well as offering programs for adults to strengthen their Christian walks.



Chris Trice

Young Adults Ministry

Chris and his wife Meagen have been members at Karns Church of Christ since 2017. He and his wife Meagen have two children: John and Jude.

The young adults ministry was created to provide an atmosphere where singles and married couples who do not yet have children can grow in Christ while connecting with their peers. It is designed to help those transitioning from college life to adulthood maintain their Christian zeal while being edified by Christians in a similar stage of life.



Nathan Watkins

College-Age Ministry

Nathan is married to Shannon, father of 3 girls, and a business owner. He was born in Saudi Arabia and moved to Tennessee when he was 9 to a farm that where his parents still live. He enjoys old cars and trucks, cooking, and traveling the world.

The purpose of the college-age ministry is to provide an environment where emerging adults can be encouraged, challenged, and strengthened in their faith as they are being transformed into the image of Jesus.



Ben Woodall

New Christian Program, Sound Room

Ben Woodall was born in Knoxville, TN and was baptized at Karns Church of Christ in 2001. He and his wife, Andi, have three children: Luke, Lexi, and Logan. Ben graduated from Freed-Hardeman University in 2010 with a Masters in Accounting.

The new Christian program endeavors to help new members develop their knowledge of God's word, build relationships with fellow Christians, and create strong faith to last throughout their lives. The sound room ministry assists with worship by providing amplification of the speakers as well as assisting those who are hearing impaired. Those serving in this ministry also assist in the projection of songs, sermon notes, and scriptures as well as livestream our services.

Our Deacons (*Continued*)

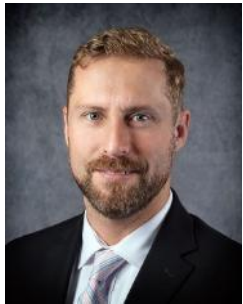


Jonathan Woodall

Community Outreach & Ladies' Ministry

Jonathan grew up at Karns. He married Lauren in 2011 and they have two boys, Austin & Owen.

The goal of the community outreach ministry is to be involved in and serve the Karns community. We take advantage of local events and needs to make a connection with our community. During these events, we distribute teaching materials, as well as making personal contact. The ladies' program encompasses various functions devoted to the spiritual growth and encouragement of the Karns ladies. Examples include Bible studies and classes, Ladies' Day, Ladies' Retreat, and other events such as showers.



Brandon Wyrick

Inside Maintenance

Brandon Wyrick has been a member of Karns since 2017. He and his wife, Cindel, have two children Hattie and Ellie.

Inside maintenance involves all needs related to keeping the church building and Southeast offices in good working order and neat in appearance so that they can be used as a tool in our efforts to worship God and teach others His will. This includes maintaining the building at the level required.

Church Staff



Shirley Lyell
*Administrative
Assistant*



Tony Maddox
Custodian



Cindy Powell
*Administrative
Assistant*



Sherrye Woodall
Bookkeeping

What is a Ministry?

A Ministry

If you're doing it because no one else will, it's a job.
If you're doing it to serve the Lord, it's a ministry.

If you're doing just enough to get by, it's a job.
If you're doing it to the best of your ability, it's a ministry.

If you'll do it only so long as it doesn't interfere with other activities, it's a job.
If you're committed to staying with it, even when it means letting
go of other things, it's a ministry.

If you quit, because no one praised you or thanked you, it was a job.
If you stay with it even when no one seems to notice, it's a ministry.

It's hard to get excited about a job.
It's almost impossible not to get excited about a ministry.

People may say "well done" when you do your job.
The Lord will say "well done" when you complete your ministry.

Worship

Purpose:

Our purpose is to conduct an orderly, God-honoring, and spiritually uplifting worship service, led by men who are qualified and have the desire to serve the Lord.

Reaching Our Goals:

- Conduct periodic men's training classes.
- Increase the number of men who are willing and qualified to serve.
- To achieve excellence in all we do and help facilitate the worship of others.



Opportunities To Serve:

Public Opportunities for Men to Serve

- Lead singing
- Lead prayer or read scripture
- Preside over and serve the Lord's Supper
- Make announcements
- Wednesday night devotionals
- Sound room and video projection
- Coordinate those scheduled to serve
- Usher

General Activities for Men and/or Women

- Greeters
- Prepare communion
- Clean baptismal clothing

Highlights From 2025:

- Integrated new members in leading our worship and ensured all men have the opportunity to lead if desired.
- Worshiped our God every first day of the week in spirit and in truth.
- We had several special services to give thanks to our Lord and for good things that have happened as well as prayers for wisdom, guidance, and the future.
- We are fully utilizing the Lightpost app to manage the worship assignments and provide easy notification.

Deacons:

Jason Champion—Worship Schedule

Ben Woodall — Sound Room

Fellowship

Purpose:

Enjoy the fellowship of our brothers and sisters of our congregation and visitors outside of the regularly scheduled worship times.

Reaching our Goals:

- Hold periodic meals after morning worship and on Wednesday nights during the Summer.
- Host members and visitors in our homes.
- Hold special meals/events for new members and visitors.
- Provide an annual church picnic, which includes food, games, and visiting with one another.



(Photo courtesy of Mark Cawood)

Opportunities to Serve:

- Help set up and clean up for regularly scheduled meals and any other additional meals, such as a new members' dinner or Fall Festival.
- Volunteer to host members and visitors in your home for a meal.

Highlights from 2025:

- We enjoyed meals together on Wednesday nights during the Summer and meal teams resumed on Sundays in the Fall.
- We had a church picnic, a Fall Festival, and other congregational meals.
- There were plenty of other opportunities for fellowship in smaller groups, such as during baby showers, holiday parties, and devotionals.

Coordinator:

David & Aron Bouknight

David & Kara Brady

Randy & Debbie Ford

Jeremy & Heatherly Stiles

Evangelism & Outreach

Purpose:

Our purpose is to glorify God by proclaiming the gospel to all people. Jesus commissioned His disciples to make disciples of all nations by baptizing them and teaching them to follow Jesus Christ (Matt 28:19–20). We believe that evangelism is the role of every Christian because of our love for God (1 John 4:19), our concern for the lost, our desire to obey Him (1 Thess. 2:4), and as a reflection of our gratitude for the salvation we have in Jesus Christ. Evangelism is ultimately for the glory of God and the growth of His church. Yet, we are all servants who must plant and water for the increase that comes from God (1 Cor. 3:5–7). Our Evangelism, Outreach, and related ministries seek to fulfill this commission in the modern-day world.



2025 Karns Community Fair

Reaching Our Goals

- Involve all members in evangelism either individually or through organized efforts.
- Equip church members with training, skills, and resources to confidently engage in evangelism.
- Work with other ministry leaders to integrate evangelism into various activities and programs.
- Coordinate campaigns and follow up efforts for evangelistic contacts.

Opportunities to Serve

Personal Evangelism

- Invite friends, family, and neighbors to attend services or one of our events.
- Engage people in Bible studies
- Write Compassion Cards to visitors or contacts in the Karns community.
- Develop relationships with new converts to help mentor them in their new life of faith.
- Take a “new mover” basket to people who move into your neighborhood.
- Assist with service projects for evangelistic contacts.
- Visitor Team:
 - Greet visitors in their pews and make them feel welcome.
 - Identify visitors for evangelistic opportunities and follow-up.
 - Take visitors out to eat or to a fellowship meal.

Bible Correspondence Courses

- Members can help by grading lessons and promoting course availability in the community

Special Events

- Door-knocking campaigns
- VBS, Forever His, Fall Festival, Karns Fair, gospel meetings and more

Evangelism & Outreach (*Continued*)

Southeast Institute of Biblical Studies

- Audit evangelism courses taught at the school (See Southeast Institute of Biblical Studies page)

Online Outreach

- Share and promote church events through social media.
- Online publication of sermon outlines, teaching resources, and Biblical articles. Live streaming of services on karnschurch.org or the Boxcast app and our sermon archive on the church website.

Highlights From 2025:

- 767 new contacts
- 479 visitors
- 503 cards sent
- 36 baptisms
- 201 members Involved

Leadership

Jonathan Woodall (Outreach Deacon)

Ben Woodall (New Converts Deacon)

Spencer Clark (Evangelism Minister)

Coordinators

Roy Brown—Bible Correspondence Courses

See Evangelism Model (page 30)

EVANGELISM MODEL

Coordinators and Areas

Step	Area	Role	Description
Introduction	Overall Coordinator	Administrative	Work with other coordinators to ensure all activities are being carried out by using the School of Evangelism checklist as a general guideline. Inspire an evangelistic church culture and oversee ongoing evangelistic training.
	Contact Database	Administrative	Gather and keep current the overall list of contacts and prospects for coordinators to access.
	Accountability Board	Measure	Update the weekly evangelism numbers each month. Maintain accountability.
Contacts	Missing Members	Bringer	Assign each prodigal a contact card, add them to the prospect list, send compassion cards, and have the faithful make a visit (Galatians 6:1-2).
	Visitors	Bringer	Ensure that several families are trained to greet visitors, sit with them, and provide a visitor bag to obtain contact information. Always extend a meal invitation.
	HTH	Bringer	Manage all the requests from HTH/HTH. Facilitate inclusion of advertising, events, articles, and distribution.
	New Movers	Bringer	Enroll in HTH New Movers Program. Ensure new mover baskets are made. Assign members to visit new movers and decide if they should be placed on contact list.
	Door Knocking	Bringer	Coordinate a few door knocking opportunities annually. Register for and promote the annual door knocking day each October.
	Digital Media	Bringer	Maintain awareness of our presence and activities on all social media platforms. Use HTHSOE suggestions to expand our influence.
	Community Outreach	Bringer	Participate in community events representing the church seeking to obtain contacts. Have certain church sponsored events designed to reach out to our community (school backpack drive, etc.).
Prospects	Compassion Cards	Bringer	Form teams, assign team leaders, and ensure all members are assigned to a team. Locate and set up a room. Ensure cards are well stocked. Make sure cards are evenly mailed and all recipients are recorded so visits can be made in Week 4.
	Meals	Bringer	Treat visitors to meals in homes, at restaurants, and coordinate fellowship meals at the church. Encourage members to have meals with non-member friends, family, neighbors, and coworkers.
	Benevolence	Bringer	Plan assistance with the purpose of prospecting, but be careful to avoid becoming a soup kitchen or just a source of free handouts. Members can supply names and contact info of those they know personally.
	Transition Visits	Bringer	Ensure visits are planned for all those who have been prospected after 3-4 weeks. Plan a monthly meeting for Mission Monday/Transition Thursday/ or another day. Train the group on the three transition questions.
Bible Studies	Evangelism Table	Teacher	Set up a table in the highest traffic area to display all evangelism materials. If needed, use two tables. Reorder materials as needed.
	Jail Ministry	Teacher	Coordinate visits to local area jails to conduct studies with inmates in conjunction with the West End church of Christ.
	Correspondence Courses	Teacher	Provide Bible Correspondence Courses with those who request them and manage a team of graders.
	Teachers & Studies	Teacher	Ensure that all studies requested are being handled and track the status of ongoing studies primarily following the BTTB and BTB series. As needed, offer training classes for teachers using the training materials.
Baptisms	Conversions	Teacher	Ensure the baptismal room is ready at all times with certificates and Bibles to present to new members. Always present congregational recognition of every baptism.
New Converts	New Converts Class	Keeper	Ensure all new converts are in congregational classes using <i>Growing in Christ/Acts Workbook</i> . Publically announce graduates periodically throughout the year.
	Mentoring	Keeper	Seek to make sure newer members are involved with the church, are receiving New Convert Studies, and encourage participation and growth for all members.
Growing Church	Involvement	Keeper	Ensure newer members are involved with the church while encouraging participation and growth for all members. Help new Christians receive evangelism training.

Jail Ministry

Purpose:

Since 2009 Karns and the West End congregations have taken the mission to share the Good News of Christ with inmates in Knox County, both male and female. Through studies based in scripture, our focus is to stimulate each inmate to love God and be obedient to the gospel. Classes emphasize how to overcome the past, receive forgiveness, and how to begin and live a new, changed, life through Christ (II Cor. 5:17).

Reaching Our Goals:

- Each week classes are held for both men and women at the Knox County Jail (men) and the Sheriff's Detention Facility (women).
- Weekly classes cover topics such as basic the authority of scripture, sin, repentance, forgiveness, how to become a Christian, living a changed life, etc.. We use materials from various brotherhood sources, including New Life Ministries (Biblical basis for parenting, anger management, and "Christians Against Substance Abuse", a Biblical twelve step program).
- Many of the men and women who attend have no Bible background at all, and over 80% are incarcerated because of substance abuse.
- They are thirsty for the hope that the Bible gives, but we need volunteers to conduct classes and help them see the path..



Opportunities to Serve:

- We NEED more volunteers. Consider becoming approved to teach or assist with our ministry.
- Each volunteer must complete an application form from the Knox County Sheriff and undergo a background check. Once approved, each person must be issued a jail volunteer ID and attend an orientation meeting before entering the jail.
- See Conrad Slate or Curt Davidson for further information.

Coordinator:

Conrad Slate

Missions

Purpose:

Our purpose is to obey the Lord's command to his disciples before His ascension into heaven. He commissioned His disciples to *Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations,---teaching them to observe all things I have commanded you* (Matt. 28: 19a, 20a). Foreign mission efforts have been a work of the Karns congregation from its beginning and we continue to carry out this commandment in the locations described below.



Campus ministry in the Philippines

Missions and Missionaries We

Support:

- Australia mission (Brett Rutherford)
- Honduras mission (Carlos Hernandez)
- India mission (Don Iverson)
- Philippines mission (Ernesto Rigor)
- St. Croix, Virgin Island mission (Clancy Etienne & Arnold Dickson)
- International Academy of Biblical Studies (Roger Leonard)
- Asian Christian University (Demar Elam)

Reaching Our Goals:

- To support the missionaries who preach the good news of Jesus Christ outside of the borders of the United States and to establish self-supporting congregations in these locations.
- Encourage those ministers and the brethren they serve.
- Pray for these missions, ministers and members.

Opportunities to Serve:

- Write letters and e-mail to the missionaries supported by the Karns congregation. Proverbs 25:25 says, *As cold water to a weary soul, so is good news from a far country.*
- Go on mission trips and help support the local congregations by conducting Bible studies, handing out tracts, and performing other tasks needed by the brethren. If you are not able to go yourself, support those who can.
- Provide for special needs (food, clothing, medicine) for the ministers and the members.

Highlights from 2025:

- Support for our missionaries continued and we were blessed to help with extra needs as they occurred.

Deacon:

Chris Pegg

Education

Purpose:

Our purpose in this ministry is to teach all students at Karns, while supplying young and new Christians with a firm foundation that they may gain Biblical knowledge. The goal is to build upon this foundation so they may develop into mature Christians, becoming more Christ-like at each step.

The Bible School Program at Karns is developed for the very young and continues with classes for adults of all ages. The education program is divided into four areas: preschool, kindergarten through fifth grade, middle school and high school, and adult.



Courtesy of Jeff Snyder

The classes begin with cradle roll, where young infants are exposed to classroom settings. The program is designed so that fundamental teaching occurs in the early years with teaching materials specific and appropriate for each age group. School-age students are exposed to a more in-depth study of the Word. Our current curriculum, “Shaping Hearts,” is structured so that all kindergarten through fifth grade students study the same topic at the same time and at a depth appropriate for their age. Our classes rotate through each quarter, so that every 3 years a student will have covered the whole Bible.

Like newborn infants long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up into salvation (1 Peter 2:2).

Karns is blessed with many capable, knowledgeable teachers. These teachers not only know the Bible, but live it out in their lives. Daniel Salmon serves as the deacon over the children's Bible school program with preschool/cradle roll coordinator Sherry Woodall and K-5 coordinators Teresa Clark and Whitney Sawyers. Steve Higginbotham coordinates the adult education and Christian Fran coordinates the youth education.

Reaching Our Goals:

- Develop students into mature, well-grounded Christians. *Him we preach, warning every man and teaching every man in all wisdom, that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus (Col. 1:28).*
- Increase Bible class attendance on both Sunday morning and Wednesday nights.

Opportunities to Serve:

There are many teaching opportunities for members at Karns. The elders require a Christian to have placed membership at Karns at least six months prior to being a teacher. It is also required that all classes in the Bible School program, other than adult classes, have at least two teachers in the classroom. More information regarding teachers can be found in the ***Guidelines for Teachers at Karns*** publication.

Education (*Continued*)

Children's Bible School Program

Program Coordinators:

The program coordinator is responsible for:

- Assigning teachers for their classes
- Ensuring each class period has teachers present
- Obtaining substitutes
- Distributing teaching materials to teachers

Preschool Program:

- Sherrye Woodall, coordinator (cradle roll to four years)
- 24+ teachers and substitutes

Kindergarten Through Fifth Grade Program:

- Whitney Sawyer—coordinator
- 24+ teachers and substitutes

Middle School/High School Program:

- Christian Frans, coordinator
- 40+ teachers/substitutes

Adult Classes Program

- Steve Higginbotham, coordinator
- 24+ teachers and substitutes

Vacation Bible School (See page 35)

- Spencer Clark, coordinator
- Christian Frans, coordinator

Highlights from 2025:

- Besides our Sunday and Wednesday classes, children learned by participating in the Kids4Christ Bible Bowl, the Lads2Leaders convention in Nashville, and VBS.
- Our preschool/cradle roll enrollment is approximately 36 students and K-5 is approximately 32 students along with frequent visitors.
- A special thank you to Sue Benner and Teresa Clark for their work supporting our children's program. Thanks also goes to all of our amazing teachers and assistants who make our education program a fantastic avenue to teach our children about God and His will for their lives.

Deacon:

Daniel Salmon

Special Programs

Vacation Bible School

Purpose

Our Vacation Bible School program exists to help kids fall in love with the Lord and become excited about His word inspiring them to have a strong desire to want to live their lives in service to Him.

Reaching Our Goals

- Use various means available to get word out about VBS.
- Provide a safe, secure environment where parents and children feel welcomed.
- Provide interactive learning opportunities that teach kids more about the Lord and what He desires for their lives.
- Involve many volunteers in our church family by using their God-given talents to demonstrate the love of Jesus.
- Leave a lasting impression on the children and their families that will cause them to want to learn more about Jesus and living lives of service to Him.



Courtesy of Jeff Snyder

Opportunities to Serve

- Teach a preschool, teen, or adult class
- Be on the set design team
- Act in our skits
- Be a keeper/class guide for the children's classes
- Help with registration
- Bring cookies for snack time and/or help prepare and serve the snacks
- Work with the games and crafts centers
- Make/sew costumes for skits, organize costumes for skits
- Help with promotion and advertising
- Decorate classrooms and hallways
- Help with setup & cleanup
- Count and keep track of attendance
- Take pictures & video
- Be a door greeter
- Pray for VBS

Highlights from 2025:

- The theme was "Stand Out." Our average attendance each night was 314.

Coordinators:

Christian Frans
Spencer Clark

Special Programs *(Continued)*

Forever His Disability Ministry

Purpose:

Forever His was created with three goals in mind. First, we want to show the love and compassion of Christ to children in our community who have disabilities by providing activities that consider all of their special needs. Second, we want to introduce the family members of the child with disabilities to the Karns congregation. Third, we want to give church members an opportunity to learn and develop greater compassion, gratitude, joy, and many other lessons that our friends with special needs can teach us.



Photo courtesy of Tess McHone

Reaching Our Goals:

- Conduct day camps twice a year.
- Provide extra assistance during Bible classes and worship times for children with disabilities and their families.
- Provide "Buddy Bags" for children during worship times.
- Provide a Bible class (Forever His Friends) for teens and adults with disabilities.
- Advertise to the community through disability resource fairs in Knox County and Oak Ridge

Opportunities to Serve:

- Participation in Fall and Spring day camps. Volunteers are needed to be buddies, activity coordinators, provide food, camp set-up, and building decorating.
- Donate supplies for camps, buddy bags, and Bible classes.
- Advertise to friends and in the community to reach families who have a child with a disability who may wish to participate.
- Be a teaching assistant in the Forever His Friends Bible class.
- Assist with booth at community disability fairs

Highlights From 2025:

- Two day camps were conducted In the Spring and Fall with over 85 children and adults in attendance. Approximately 170 volunteers helped with the two camps.
- Conducted a Forever His VBS class
- One Forever His student participated in Lads to Leaders Bartimaeus group

Coordinator:

Kim Higginbotham

Special Programs

Lads2Leaders

Purpose:

Our Lads to Leaders (L2L) ministry exists to help our congregation instill the Word of God into our youth and adults so they will stand firm in the faith. Teaching students to do “Bible things in Bible ways” is the essence of L2L. L2L is for all ages from age 3 up to 103.

L2L is the oldest and largest leadership training program used by the churches of Christ today. It is a tool churches of Christ can use to help prepare youth and adults for service in the Kingdom of God and help develop their overall leadership potential. L2L is much more than just attending a youth rally or participating in a Bible Bowl.

Reaching Our Goals:

- L2L will provide our members with effective, year-round leadership training tools that can be adapted to each individual participating
- L2L will help develop and grow our youth into becoming future Christian leaders

Opportunities to Serve:

- Participation in the great variety of year-round events
- Be a participant and encourage your family and others
- Be a helper to assist with the events or take charge of one
- Offer notes and cards of encouragement to the children while they are preparing
- Participation in the annual convention
- Chaperone the trip
- Donate snacks, drinks, or money for those going to participate

Highlights From 2025

- For the 2024-2025 L2L year, we had 47 students participate in 171 events either in a year-round or convention capacity. 101 people attended the L2L National Convention in April 2025.
- For the 2025-2026 L2L year, we have 51 students currently working on completing an estimated 203 events either in a year-round or convention capacity. We will attend the L2L National Convention in April 2026.



*Photo taken at the 2025 L2L Convention.
(Courtesy of Lynlee Robinson)*

Deacon:

Lee Toothman

Special Programs

New Christians

Purpose:

The New Christians ministry strives to provide new Christians with the foundational principles of God and His Church. This ministry will give every new Christian the foundation upon which they can build their Christian life. “That the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work” (2 Timothy 3:17).



Methods used to meet these goals will include one-on-one training, classes with other new Christians, and mentoring by mature Christians.

Reaching our Goals:

We plan to reach our goals by using the many talents of our mature members to inspire the new Christian to put Christ first in their lives. This will be done through classes, individual study, mentoring and modeling Christian living.

Opportunities to Serve

- Work with a new Christian to evaluate their needs to equip them for a fruitful Christian life
- Serve as a teacher in a class of new Christians
- Mentor a new Christian or a new Christian family
- Host a new Christian or new Christian family in your home
- Take a new Christian along on visits to the hospital or to shut-in members
- Encourage new Christians as you see opportunities
- Invite new Christians to retreats and other group activities
- Provide transportation for new Christians as necessary

Deacon:

Ben Woodall

Encouragement & Visitation

Purpose:

Our purpose in this ministry is to take an active approach to meet the needs within our congregation and community through encouraging and visiting. This ministry is designed to encourage strong Christian relationships within our church family and to demonstrate love and support for others.

There are two main focuses within this ministry. One is to encourage and visit those outside our church family. The second is to strengthen the congregation through the fellowship each member enjoys by working alongside other members. *I was sick and you visited me* (Matthew 25:36) suggests more than just a social call. Everything under consideration in this passage relates to ministering to needs... *hungered...gave me meat, thirsty... gave me drink, stranger...took me in, naked...clothed me, sick...visited me*. Since the needs of people vary greatly, the approaches to visiting must vary as well.

Reaching Our Goals:

- Involvement goal – more members active each month (cards, calls, visits)
- Sick and shut-ins – visit at least 1 time each week
- Encourage members – visit someone new each month, encourage others weekly
- Visitor follow-up – Send cards and contact those who have visited our congregation
- Accountability – measure our successes as a whole family
- Develop better organization for conducting and tracking our visitation efforts

Opportunities to Serve:

Encourage our Visitors

- Serve as a greeter (Welcome Center greeters, door greeters)
- Help identify and greet visitors to our services, Bible Classes, and other events
- Help visitors find classes, restrooms, nursery, etc.
- Help visitors make personal connections
- Invite visitors into your home for a meal and/or Bible Study
- Send follow-up cards or emails to visitors
- Coordinate a team who identifies and greets visitors
- Coordinate weekly follow-up visits

Encourage our Members

- Visit members who are hospitalized. Visit, call, and write those who have been away for a while
- Sending cards for special occasions (birthday, anniversary, graduation)
- Send encouraging email or social media messages
- Invite another family over for a meal, Bible study, or game night
- Get to know new members, and invite them into your home

Transportation

- Provide transportation to those needing rides to services, doctor visits, etc., or offer to run errands for those who cannot get out

Coordinator:

TBD



Widows, Widowers & Shut-ins Ministry

Purpose:

The purpose of this ministry is to support, encourage, and serve (Jas. 1:27) those who are widowed. We want to help meet their spiritual, physical, and social needs and to fully integrate those who are widowed into service and fellowship in the Karns congregation. Helping those who are widowed to find their place of service in the congregation is a priority. In widowhood, the need for friends and being included is greater than ever! We want to connect all members with our widowed members by including them and spending time with them. Our widowed members have a wealth of experience and knowledge that they would like to share and use. They want to be connected with the entire congregation and not be underutilized or left out!



Unique Needs:

Widowhood may come with little or no warning. Mourning the loss of a spouse, living alone after marriage, having all responsibility for a home, finances, decision-making without a spouse, and matters that were often only handled by one spouse make widowhood unlike anything else. For the newly widowed, there are needs and responsibilities that didn't exist just a few days or weeks ago. Some of our widowed members are no longer able to do some tasks that were once simple. Some can no longer attend worship services and activities of the congregation. Your visit, card, call or help could bring sunshine and encouragement to them. All of this is in the spirit of James 1:27.

Reaching Our Goals:

It is important that each of us embrace those who are widowed. Too often we avoid widowed members because we don't know what to say or how to interact. We fear saying the wrong thing. We've surveyed the widowed and they say not to treat them differently because they've lost their spouse. Treat them as you would want to be treated. Ask them to help in areas where you are involved. Volunteer to help those widowed with things they can no longer handle alone. They may need help with tasks around their homes they simply cannot do. They may need advice about taxes, finances, vehicle maintenance, etc. Find where you can help.

Opportunities To Serve:

- Visit and share a Bible thought and prayer with them. Share your joy!
- Take communion to those who cannot attend
- Volunteer your services/talents to help those who have needs they can't handle (yard work, cleaning, light household maintenance, transportation, etc.)
- Send cards for birthdays and special occasions
- Make a special effort to include them in meals, events, and service projects.
- Assist with TLC meals, either by donating food, preparing the dishes, or taking meals.

Coordinators:

Conrad & Brenda Slate

Ladies' Programs

Purpose:

"...A woman who fears the Lord, she shall be praised" (Proverbs 31:30). The ladies' programs provide opportunities for women of all ages to serve the body of Christ and both give and receive encouragement to grow spiritually and develop skills needed for service to God. Mentoring is available as women take on new tasks and responsibilities in teaching ladies, providing hospitality during ladies' events, weekly preparation of TLC meals, individual/group requests for prayers, advice or support through the "Sister's Circle" group provided through Facebook, and personally during times of fellowship within the Karns body of Christ. Younger ladies are encouraged to attend events and are frequently given the opportunity to not only participate in leading songs and reading scripture at these events, but learn while assisting in preparation and planning.



Reaching Our Goals:

- Develop an *inward* desire for Christ-centered priorities
- Develop an *upward* desire to get to know God better through a greater knowledge of his word
- Develop an *outward* desire to demonstrate compassion and serve those who are in need
- Develop a *forward* desire to work toward greater friendship and fellowship with other Christian women

Opportunities To Serve:

- A weekly Tuesday morning ladies' class and monthly Tuesday evening ladies' class
- An annual Ladies' Retreat and annual Ladies' Day
- "TLC Program" - A weekly preparation and delivery of food to shut-ins
- Food Groups take meals to members with special needs (surgery, death in family, etc.)
- Ladies' Bible classes offered through the adult curriculum in the church
- Ladies' Enrichment classes through Southeast Institute of Biblical Studies
- "Sister's Circle" - A Facebook group designed to help women connect with other women at Karns

Highlights From 2025:

- Annual Ladies' Retreat was held in February in Pigeon Forge and a Ladies' Day in the Fall.
- The "TLC" ministry prepared food weekly for our sick and shut-ins. Meal trains were also planned for various needs.
- Ladies continued to provide support and encouragement for one another through the Sisters' Circle Facebook group and ladies' Lightpost group.

Deacon:

Jonathan Woodall

Men's Programs

Purpose:

...Now therefore fear the Lord, and serve him in sincerity and in truth..., choose you this day whom ye will serve..., but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord (Joshua 24: 14,15). As iron sharpens iron, So a man sharpens the countenance of his friend (Proverbs 27:17).

The purpose of the program will be to provide opportunities for men to grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ by fellowshiping with one another spiritually and physically. The goal is to lead His church, our families, and community in a manner that brings glory to God.



Photo courtesy of Jeff Snyder

Reaching our Goals:

- Spend time together outside the regular designated worship and Bible study periods
- Study, learn, and grow together in knowledge of the Word in order to be leaders in the church, our homes, and communities
- Grow closer and stronger in order to assist and support each other in times of spiritual, emotional, and physical need
- Hold each other accountable to be the Christian men, husbands, and fathers that God desires

Opportunities for Fellowship:

- Annual men's retreat
- Periodic men's prayer breakfasts
- Working to serve members at Karns and our neighbors in the community in areas where they may need physical assistance as various needs arise
- Hiking and/or camping trips
- Active and spectator participation in organized sporting and cultural activities

Highlights from 2025:

- Successful men's retreat in January
- Assisted members/neighbors in the community with work items as appropriate and necessary

Deacon:

Walt Hillis

Family Involvement Ministry

Purpose:

Our family involvement ministry exists to strengthen and involve members of all ages through the worship of God, spiritual encouragement, and social activities. Our desire is to create a warm, inviting atmosphere so that all families can feel accepted, loved and a sense of belonging.

Reaching Our Goals:

We intend to reach our goals by planning, developing and implementing programs and providing resources to meet the spiritual, emotional and physical needs of our families.

Educational:

- We provide a variety of classes for all ages, teaching both textual and topical lessons relevant to all stages of life

Social:

We have a number of activities for our families to be involved in:

- Family Fun Nights & devotionals
- Family picnic, VBS and Fall festival
- Congregational potlucks

Spiritual:

We believe the spiritual development of a family is the most important thing we offer to our families. We do this through Sunday and Wednesday Bible classes, the Southeast Lectureship each March, delivering fruit baskets to shut-ins and a family retreat.

Opportunities To Serve:

- Help organize a family event in conjunction with the family minister
- Host or co-host a family event
- Plan and oversee a family service project in conjunction with the family minister
- Drive a bus for family activities
- Send cards of encouragement to families who need encouragement

Highlights from 2025:

- 54 new members were added to our growing family in the last year
- We continue to conduct meal teams, which provide fellowship with each other and an opportunity to get to know our visitors. There are 2 teams which meet once/month.
- We participated in various events which provided opportunities for our members to become more involved

Coordinator:

See Evangelism Model (page 30)

5th Grade & Under Ministry

Purpose:

Our children's ministry exists to provide involvement activities for families with young children and support them as they bring their children up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord (Ephesians 6:4). We want to encourage and prepare them for a deeper relationship with the Lord.



(Photo courtesy of Daniel Tanner)

Reaching Our Goals:

With that goal in mind, we try to structure our program, whether through education, service, devotionals, or fun activities for the purpose of providing opportunities to teach our young children about Jesus. We understand that the main teaching responsibility belongs to the home and that is what we encourage our parents to keep in mind, but we understand we are a family, and families help one another reach their spiritual goals.

Educational:

The children's education program at Karns centers on teaching our children the fundamentals about God and His word. These classes are designed to help our children understand God's love for them and grow to love the study of His word.

Social:

We have a number of activities for our children providing time to be together. These events include:

- Knox County Bible Bowl
- Lads2Leaders
- Fall Festival
- Devotionals
- Picnics
- Egg Hunt
- Outdoor activities, such as bike-riding or playing at the park together
- Family cookouts
- ...and many more

The family model the Bible presents for the church provides a key foundation for our children's program. While it is important for the children to socialize with one another, we believe it is also important for them to interact with adults and parents. We, therefore, encourage all parents to be involved in the planning and implementing of all children's activities. We want the parents involved in the spiritual lives of their children.

5th Grade & Under Ministry (*Continued*)

Spiritual:

We believe spiritual development starts at a very young age. The earlier we begin teaching and training our children, the better. We do this through more than just our Sunday and Wednesday Bible program. We also have:

- Service projects for our children
- Bible Bowls
- Vacation Bible School (Summer)
- Lads2Leaders program

Opportunities to Serve:

- Host or co-host devotionals at your home or the building
- Speak at a devotional
- Lead singing at a devotional
- Drive van for activities
- Attend event as helper or chaperone
- Recommend and help organize a service project in conjunction with the youth minister
- Recommend and help organize some type of fun activity in conjunction with the youth minister
- Send cards of encouragement to kids

Highlights for 2025:

- We had several events specifically for this age group throughout the year
- In addition, children and their families participated in VBS, Teenage Christian Camp, Lads2Leaders, and many other events
- We continue to enjoy a children's singing time each Sunday evening
- Bible Bowl practices, Drills & Skills practice

Deacon:

Daniel Tanner

Student Ministry (Grades 6 – 12)

Purpose:

Our Student Ministry exists to challenge every student to have faith in Jesus Christ, commit their lives to Him by becoming a Christian, live faithfully in service of His kingdom (the church), and bear fruit in the world by showing the love of Christ and spreading His Word to the lost. While we believe that parents are ultimately responsible for instructing their children in the way of the Lord (Deut. 6:1–8), the Student Ministry partners with parents to supplement their efforts at home with activities and learning opportunities to grow together with their peers.

Reaching Our Goals:

We structure all events and activities around that purpose — whether in Bible classes, service, devotionals, or social activities — to teach, reinforce, model Christlikeness, and provide opportunities to develop an attitude like Christ (Phil. 2:5-8).

Educational:

The youth education program at Karns is designed to teach and train our young people to know the Word of God, His will for our lives, to live faithfully according to the Scriptures, live like Jesus, and be equipped for every good work. Classes include textual studies of the Bible, studies of both biblical and relevant topics, and interactive elements. Our teachers are experienced and include many of our ministers, parents, church leaders, and school staff.

Social:

We have a number of social activities that promote the development of relationships among the youth and also provide an avenue to invite friends. Social events also create space for young people to develop relationships with mature Christian adults. Many of our parents and adult volunteers are involved in planning, leading, and chaperoning these events:

- Retreats (Fall / Spring ADVANCE)
- RUSH and Horizons at Freed-Hardeman University
- Evangelism University in Savannah, TN
- Challenge Youth Conference in Pigeon Forge, TN
- Area wide youth devotionals
- Jr./Sr. Banquet (Prom Alternative)
- Holiday dinners

Spiritual:

Spiritual development is more than just an emotional state. True spiritual growth occurs when our minds are set on things above (Col. 3:2), presenting ourselves to God as living sacrifices, and being transformed and not conformed to this world (Rom. 12:1–2). Spiritual activities provide opportunities for our young people to develop their faith through practical experiences and additional education outside of regular class and worship times. Some activities include:

- Service projects
- Camps & Retreats
- Area-wide devotionals
- Lads2Leaders program
- Southeast Leadership Camp

Student Ministry (Grades 6 – 12)

Opportunities to Serve:

- Host or co-host devotionals
- Chaperone group events
- House some of the young people who come for the Leadership Camp
- Help prepare and serve meals to the young people during camp
- Service projects – recommend and help coordinate
- Speak at devotional/lead Bible Study
- Drive bus for activities
- Counsel/chaperone or cook at retreats
- Send cards of encouragement to kids
- Photograph/videotape the youth events and retreats for scrapbook purpose

Highlights for 2025

- 10 - Students put on Christ in baptism
- 3 – Students responded to the invitation, requesting prayers.
- 10 students graduated from high school
- Will Kirby and Bohdan Riaboshapka worked with us as summer interns this year.

Deacon:

Dustin Roberts

Coordinator:

Christian Frans (Youth Minister)



College-Age & Young Professional Ministry

Purpose:

The purpose of this ministry is to provide an environment where emerging adults can be encouraged, challenged, and strengthened in their faith as they are being transformed into the image of Jesus. This ministry consists of members who are typically between the ages of 18 to 25, regardless of whether they are in college, technical school, professional training program, attending Southeast, or have chosen to enter the workforce rather than pursue post-secondary education.



(Photo courtesy of the Trice family)

Reaching Our Goals:

- Offering a variety of Bible classes throughout the week. This includes offering group specific classes, as well as encouraging members to participate in other adult classes offered at Karns, including ladies' classes and evening classes offered by the Southeast Institute of Biblical Studies.
- Offering regular devotionals
- Provide opportunities to serve others - including participation in Forever His, VBS, visiting our shut-ins, and hosting events for other groups.
- Providing fellowship activities, such as cookouts and game nights.
- Encouraging participation in church-wide activities
- Equip and encourage one-on-one and small group Bible studies with friends

Opportunities to Serve:

- Host devotionals at your home or the building
- Assist with special events and retreats
- Encourage and assist the college-age group as they serve other groups, such as the seniors' ministry or children's ministry
- Participate in adopt-a-college student
- Provide care packages for and regularly correspond with our "away" students

Highlights From 2025:

- Bible classes weekly
- Christmas party
- Devotionals
- Participation in service opportunities
- Participated with Young Adult group in several activities. See "Young Adult Ministry."

Deacon:

Nathan Watkins

Young Adult Ministry

Purpose:

The Young Adults ministry was created to have an atmosphere where singles and married couples who do not have children connect with Jesus Christ. This ministry was designed to help those transition from college to life as a young adult Christian.

Our purpose is to assist the young adults grow, get involved in the church, and to support them as they become future leaders of the church (II Pet. 3:18).

Reaching Our Goals:

- To connect young adults through church activities and evangelizing outreach
- Offer Bible classes that address challenges young adults face today
- Provide opportunities for spiritual growth through worship assignments, teach Bible class, and service projects.



(Photo courtesy of the Trice family)

Opportunities to Serve:

- Host a Young Adult fellowship/devotional at home or at the church building
- Assist other members in the Young Adults ministry to conduct a one-on-one Bible study
- Invite members within the ministry to get more involved at church such as VBS, Spring/Fall Advance, Forever His, and prepare meals for sick families.
- Support other young adults' transition through the challenges from college-age to young adult.

Highlights from 2025:

- Monthly young adult & college-age devotionals
- Smokies game outing
- Hike to Clingman's Dome
- Ice Bears game outing
- Young adults participated in Forever His, VBS, and Spring/Fall Advance
- Young adult & college-Age Friendsgiving
- Bi-Quarterly Bible Classes

Deacon:

Chris Trice

Growing Families Ministry

Purpose:

The Growing Families group was designed to meet the spiritual needs of our families who still have elementary age or younger children in the home.

Our purpose is to strengthen these families as they grow and work within the congregation and support them as they face their own special challenges and problems.



Photo courtesy of the Sawyer family

Reaching Our Goals:

- Offer adult Bible classes through the adult education program and encourage them to take/audit classes from Southeast.
- Offer classes geared toward the unique problems this group faces (parenting, the Christian home, the marriage relationship, etc.)
- Plan activities which foster involvement and the enjoyment of Christian fellowship with others of the same age as well as the other age groups within the congregation
- Plan service projects and evangelistic outreach

Opportunities to Serve:

- Host a Growing Families get-together and/or devotional in your home or at the building
- Organize a Growing Families outing or special project
- Be attuned to the physical/emotional needs of young families and couples and assist as needed:
 - Volunteer to babysit during times of need or if parents need some respite
 - Provide meals for sick families
 - Assist with home or auto repairs
 - Donate used furniture, appliances and clothing to young families on tight budgets

Coordinators:

Dustin & Aubree Bates

Middle Members

Purpose:

This group was created to meet the spiritual needs of families who may or may not still have children living in their home. Most members of this group are generally in their 40's and 50's.

Our purpose is to strengthen these families as they grow and work within the congregation and support them as they face their own special challenges and problems.



Photo courtesy of Natalie Green

Reaching Our Goals:

- Offering members a variety of adult Bible classes, ladies' classes and evening classes as a part of the Southeast Institute of Biblical Studies to facilitate spiritual growth
- Offer classes geared toward the unique problems that members in this group will face (parenting, the Christian home, the marriage relationship, etc.)
- Plan activities which foster involvement and the enjoyment of Christian fellowship with others of the same age as well as the congregation as a whole
- Plan and encourage members of this group to be involved in service projects, evangelistic outreach and worship opportunities
- Provide activities for members of this group to enjoy (family retreats, fellowship meals, devotionals, social outings, etc.)

Opportunities to Serve:

- Host a gathering and/or devotional in your home or at the building
- Provide meals for families who have sick members
- Help with home or auto repairs as needs arise
- Donate used furniture, appliances and clothing to families on tight budgets
- Invite members of the group to participate in ministries such as evangelistic efforts and missions, shut-ins and sick, benevolence, education, VBS, etc.

Highlights From 2025:

- Enjoyed a game night at the building
- Attended a Smokies baseball game
- Celebrated the holidays with a "Friendsgiving"

Coordinators:

Chris & Kelly Gibson

Mike & Natalie Green

Young at Heart Ministry

Purpose:

Our Young at Heart group offers a substantial resource of knowledge, wisdom, energy, and creativity. Most are retired, have raised families, and have overcome many life obstacles. Our plan for 2025 is to make efforts to promote greater cohesion, edification, and support from within the Young at Heart community.



(Photo courtesy of Mark Cawood)

Reaching Our Goals:

- Strengthen Bible knowledge through our adult classes, classes offered by Southeast, and classes geared to the particular needs of this age group
- Provide opportunities to participate in the Lord's work
- Foster strong relationships between our senior citizens and other age groups in the church family
- Develop a plan to check on and/or assist our shut-ins and those in declining health

Opportunities to Serve:

- Invite them into your home for a meal and fellowship or host an outing or activity
- Assist with the Young at Heart banquet or other regularly scheduled activities
- Encourage the youth to participate in activities with our seniors and encourage our seniors to "mentor" those who are younger or raising families
- "Adopt" a senior citizen or couple. Check on them regularly with phone calls and visits. Assist with house cleaning, meal preparation, provide transportation, sit with the bed-ridden.

Highlights From 2025:

- During the year, outdoor events were attended in parks in Farragut
- We had several get togethers as a group at homes and at the building, including our October Hobo Party at the Shed, which was very well attended.
- Our Progressive Dinner Christmas Party was the highlight of our year and was very well attended.
- Several seniors assisted with both Forever His events, VBS, and other congregational events.
- Efforts were enhanced to serve the needs of the group: Phone calls, card writing and visits were encouraged to keep folks socially connected.
- TLC food preparation/delivery continued with many senior members participating in this service.
- Several members of the Young at Heart were involved in evangelism, community outreach, teaching, grading Bible courses, visiting, assisting with transportation, home repairs, and more.

Coordinators:

Allan & Linda Shafer

Ralph & Sue Upton

Benevolence

Purpose/Mission:

The purpose of this ministry is to assist those in need and to utilize community service contacts as an opportunity to teach the gospel.

“Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith” (Galatians 6:10).

Reaching Our Goals:

Encourage the congregation to alert those in charge of any members or community contacts with needs. Members are asked to participate as individual giving or community service opportunities arise.

A church pantry is maintained so that it contains supplies to help walk-ins or others with food needs. Members are notified of pantry supply needs through the weekly bulletin.



Opportunities to Serve:

- Donate items to the food pantry.
- Participate in community service activities geared toward making contacts for evangelistic follow-up.
- Deliver food to families in need.
- Provide temporary lodging, or emergency travel assistance.
- Participate in groups who provide meals for the sick or to families at times of births or deaths.
- Deliver Christmas baskets.

Highlights from 2025:

- The congregation regularly provided food donations to supply the pantry.
- 11 families in the community were assisted with food from the pantry. Families were encouraged to attend services and were provided information on the correspondence course program.
- Contacts made through benevolence and community service were also documented for evangelism follow-up.
- Members with special needs were provided financial assistance.

Coordinator:

Jim Robinson

Facilities

Purpose/Mission:

We desire to use our facilities to assist us in bringing glory to God. Through the sacrifices made by Christians at Karns, many of whom are no longer with us, we have been blessed to have an accessible, functional, and aesthetic facility.

We want our facilities to be used in a way that will allow us to teach the Word of God, edify the saints, and positively impact our community.

The sound room ministry is instrumental in assisting with worship by providing the sound needs to amplify those whom are speaking as well as assisting those who are hearing impaired. We seek to enhance worship through the projection of songs, sermon notes, and scriptures. We are also responsible for streaming our services live on both Sunday mornings and evenings to reach our shut-ins and others in the world seeking the truth. In addition to worship, we help provide assistance with the lectureships, VBS, and classes in the auditorium throughout the year.



(Photo courtesy of Micheal Callaway)

Reaching Our Goals:

Specific goals which will enable us to fulfill our purpose are:

- Develop security and safety protocols that will ensure the safety of those who use our facilities.
- Periodically evaluate the needs of the building and grounds so that both can be kept in working order.
- We want to encourage the use of the building beyond Sunday and Wednesday. Consequently, we want the building to be used as a tool, accessible to all members, for the purpose of bringing glory to God.

Deacons:

Mike Albert (Buses)

Dan Dresser (Property Management)

Donald Sawyer (Outside Maintenance)

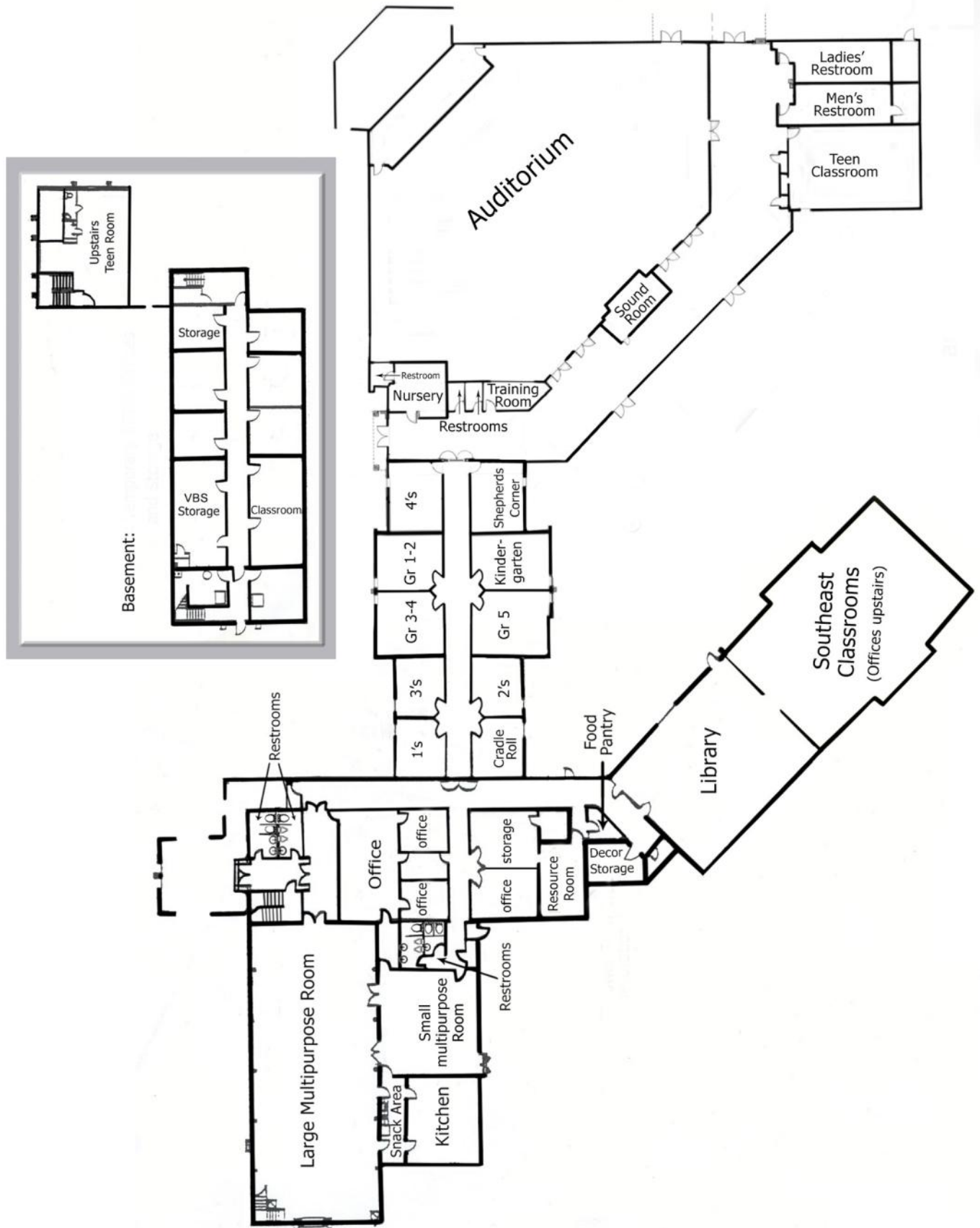
Ben Woodall (Sound Room)

Brandon Wyrick (Inside Maintenance, Lighting)

Coordinator:

Rich Johnston (Security)

Facilities (continued)



Southeast Institute of Biblical Studies

Purpose/Mission:

In the August 12, 1970 press release, the Karns elders described the vision for the East Tennessee School of Preaching and Missions (now Southeast Institute of Biblical Studies). They wrote, “The school will offer a full-time program of day studies in Bible and related subjects with a heavy emphasis on mission work. The churches in eastern Tennessee, Kentucky, Virginia, West Virginia, the Carolinas and Georgia will be served by the school.”

The school continues to fulfill that dream and beyond. Our graduates have gone to Alabama, California, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Louisiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, New Hampshire, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Vermont, Virginia, West Virginia and Wisconsin.

Others have gone to Australia, Thailand, Suriname, Guatemala, Pohnpei, New Zealand, Armenia, Malaysia, Ukraine, West Indies, the Philippines, Malawi, Tanzania, Western Samoa and Canada.

Each of our students spend approximately thirty hours per week in intensive study. They are also expected to study another thirty hours at home. At the end of two years, according to the state of Tennessee, our students have completed the equivalent of four years of work in a typical college. Additionally, they have experienced what it is like to be a busy servant in the Lord’s church working with a congregation or in a mission field.

Reaching Our Goals:

The goal of training men to preach and do mission work around the world continues to be reached by operating a school with four full-time staff members and fourteen adjunct faculty.

Members are encouraged to attend our tuition-free classes whenever they can. Pray God will bless our efforts by sending us all the students we can handle. Ask the Almighty to give the instructors wisdom to see the strengths that each man has and to help him grow as an effective member of the body of Christ.

Opportunities to Serve:

- Serve as an adoptive family
- Help by bringing food, cooking breakfast and/or serving during our lectureship
- Encourage the men and pray God will bless their studies
- Place Southeast in your will
- Be on the lookout for prospective students
- Ask churches you know to consider adding Southeast to their budget
- Give to Southeast to help support our ongoing effort to train men to proclaim the gospel to the glory of God

Southeast Institute of Biblical Studies

Highlights From 2025:

- Participated in door-knocking campaigns in Hopewell, VA and Scarboro, TN.
- The students held two student lectureships, one in the Spring and one in the Fall.
- These men graduated in 2025: Brian Gentle, Dayne Grider, Warner Haley, Rochoy McFarlane, and Trevor Tattersall.
- Conducted the annual lectureship and banquet.
- Southeast completed its 54th year training preachers in May of 2025.
- Currently have 15 preaching students in the daytime program.
- Currently have 6 women in the wives' program.



2025 Fall Class and Faculty

Southeast Staff



Will Hanstein

Director

Will Hanstein holds an M.A. in New Testament from Freed-Hardeman University. He has preached since 1995 with congregations in TN, TX, and CO. Additionally, he has done mission work in the South Pacific, Russia, and various parts of the United States. He has worked with Southeast since 2015. Will and his wife Jeni, have two children: Sam and Baylee.



Mike Green

Dean of Students

Mike Green has earned the following degrees: B.A. (Biblical Studies), Bear Valley Bible Institute of Denver; M.A. (New Testament), Amridge University. He is currently enrolled in the M.Div. program at Freed-Hardeman University. He has preached since 2004 for churches in Florida, Washington, Kentucky, and Virginia. Prior to coming to Southeast, Mike was the pulpit minister for the Cawson Street Church in Hopewell, VA.



Mark Hanstein

Dean of Academics

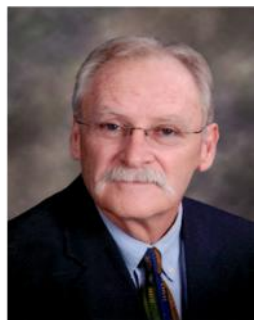
Mark Hanstein holds an M.A.T.S. degree from the Austin Graduate School of Theology. Since 1975 he has preached with congregations in CA, CO, and TX. He has done mission work in Australia, Bermuda, the Philippines, the Solomon Islands, and the Ukraine, along with evangelistic campaign work in various parts of the U.S. He has been involved with preacher training since 2004 and has worked with Southeast since 2016. He and his wife Lee have 2 children and 5 grandchildren.



Rick Harrison

Director of Development

Rick Harrison has earned the following degrees: B.A. (Bible), Freed-Hardeman University. He is currently enrolled in the M.Div. program at Heritage Christian University. He has preached since 1995 for churches in Tennessee, Georgia, and California. Before coming to Southeast, Rick was the pulpit minister for the Pleasant Hill church of Christ in Pleasant Hill, CA.



David Lipe

Development/Instructor

David Lipe holds a Ph.D. in Philosophy from the University of Tennessee. He has been preaching since 1967 in Mississippi, Tennessee, and Alabama. He taught at FHU for 20 years and was the Director at Southeast for three years. He partially retired in 2014 and has assumed roles in Development and as an instructor. He and his wife Linda have three children and five grandchildren.

Administrative & Custodial Staff



Karen Harty
Office Manager



Kim Higginbotham
Librarian



Sam Hanstein
Custodian



Shirley Lyell
*Administrative
Assistant*



Sherrye Woodall
Bookkeeping

Southeast Adopt-A-Student Program

Purpose:

The purpose of the Southeast Adopt-A-Student Program is to ensure that Southeast students and their families can call Karns their home away from home. It enables a smooth transition to being a part of Southeast and the Karns family.

Reaching Our Goals:

- Each Southeast student and family will be connected to a member/family in the Karns congregation.
- The Karns member/family will meet with their adoptive student and family monthly.
- All Karns and Southeast participants will have 4 group fellowship events per year.

Opportunities to be Involved:

- Volunteer to become an adoptive family to a Southeast student.

Student/Family Activity Suggestions:

- Go out to eat or invite the student and family to your home for a meal.
- Participate in events throughout the Knoxville area (fair, festival, movie, University of Tennessee sports events, etc.).
- Involve the student/family in Karns congregational events (potlucks, Ladies' Day, retreats, Bible classes, etc.).

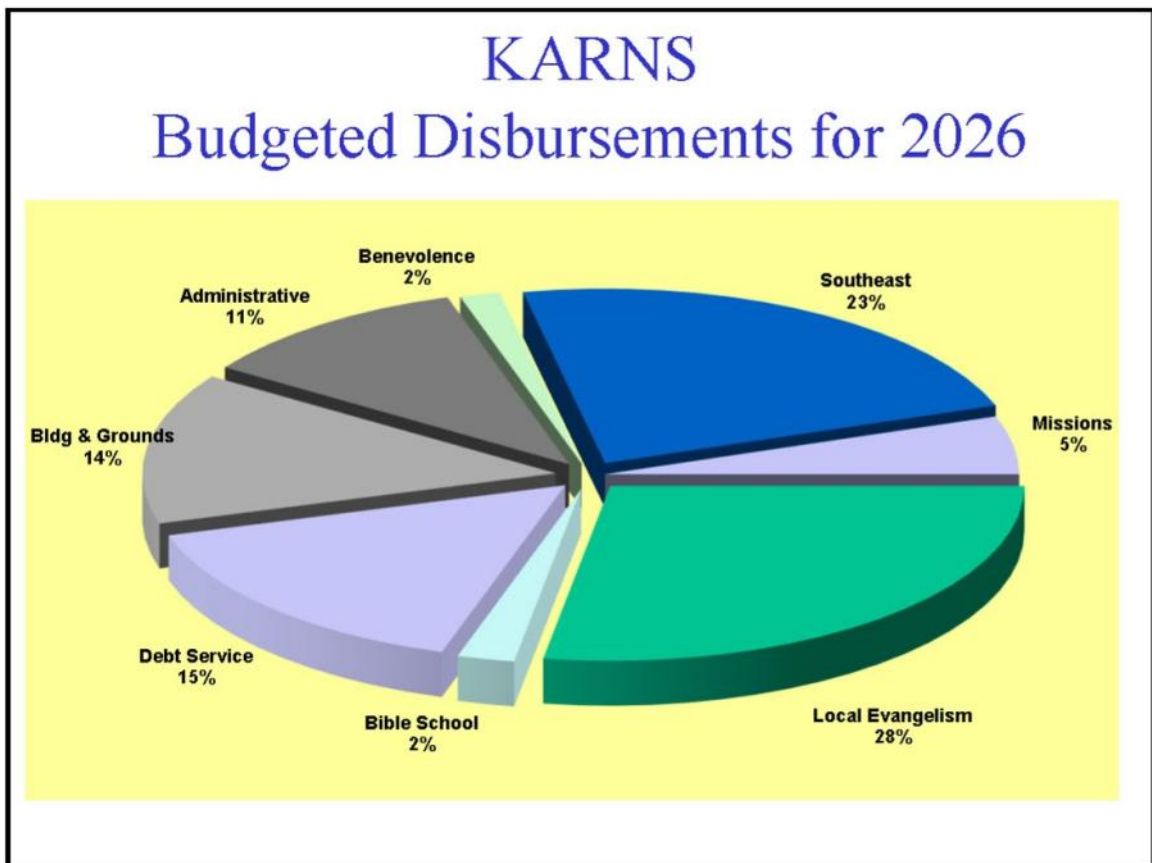
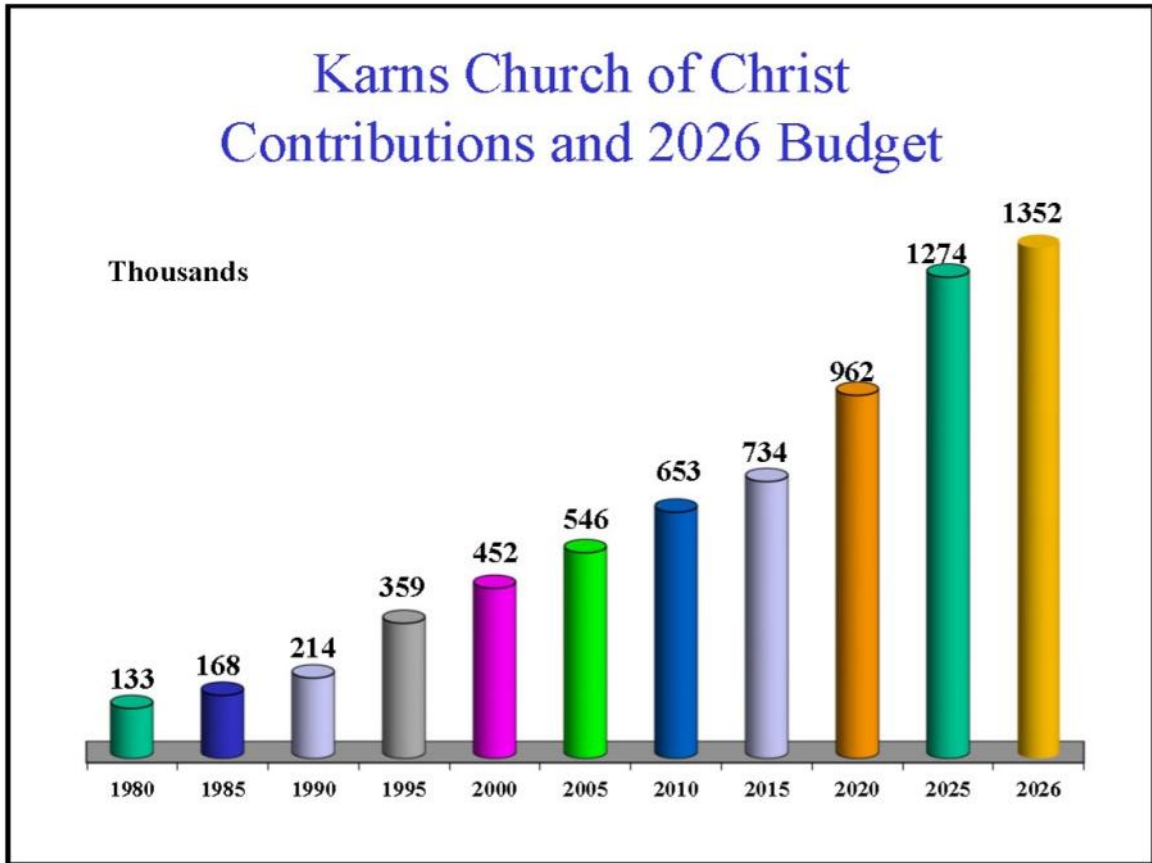
Highlights for 2025:

- Matched Southeast students with adoptive Karns families.
- Students and staff enjoyed occasional meals and other gatherings together.
- Assisted Southeast students and families to adjust to a new home and help them find their place as part of the Karns congregation.
- Encouraged the students and families as they work to become ministers of the gospel.

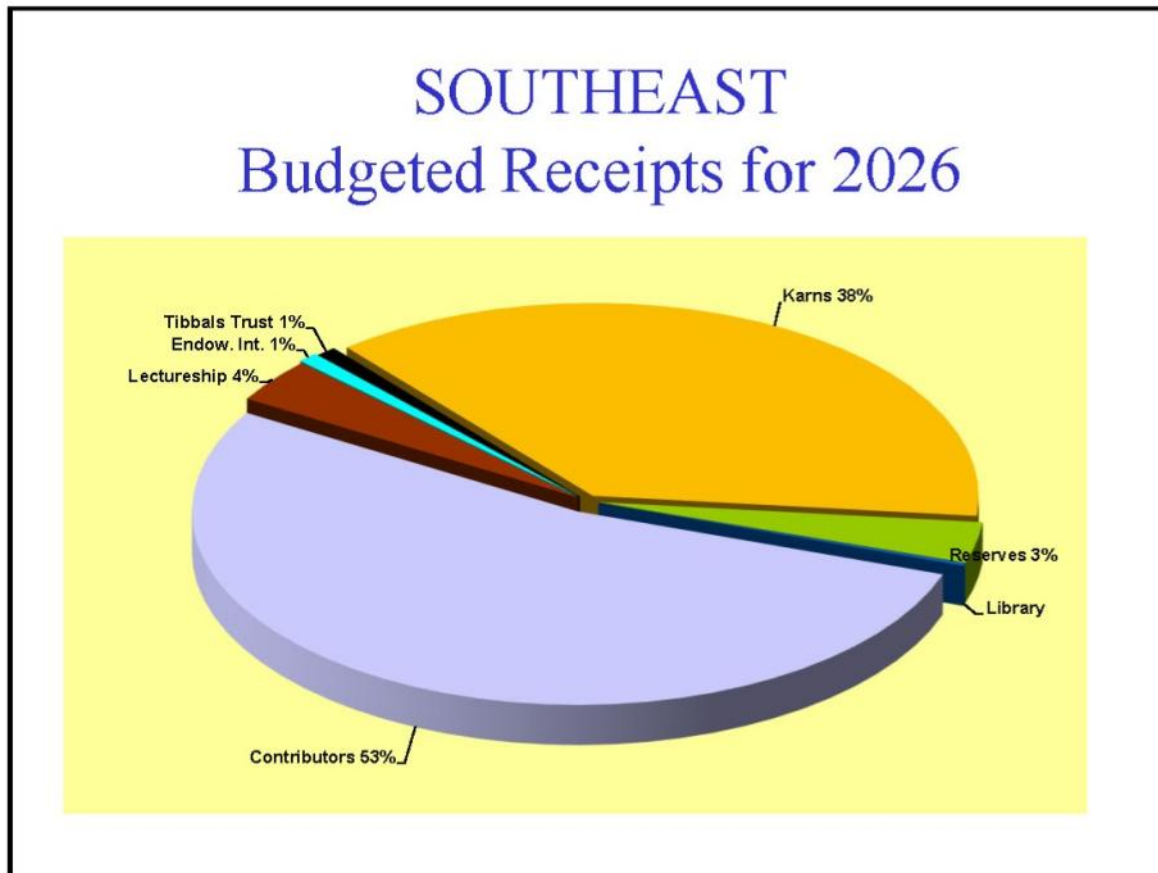
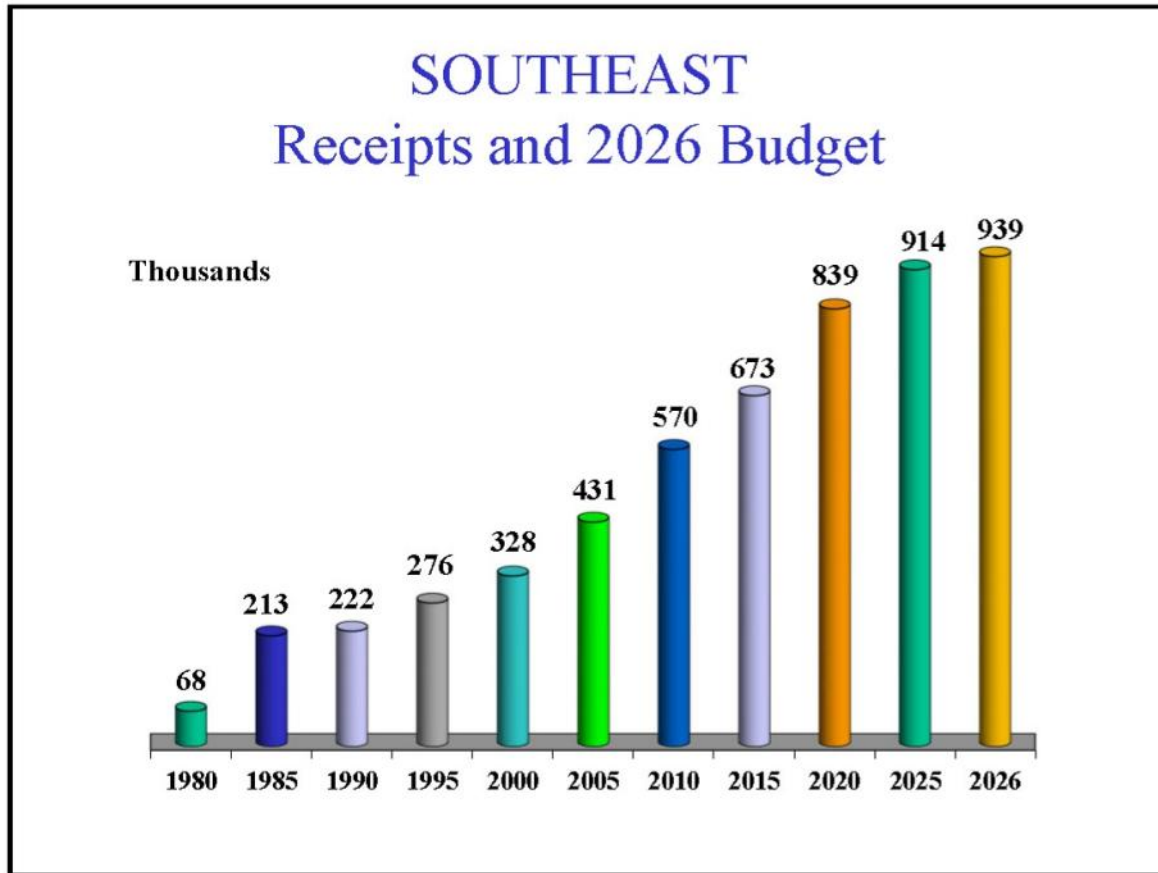
Coordinator:

TBD

Budget

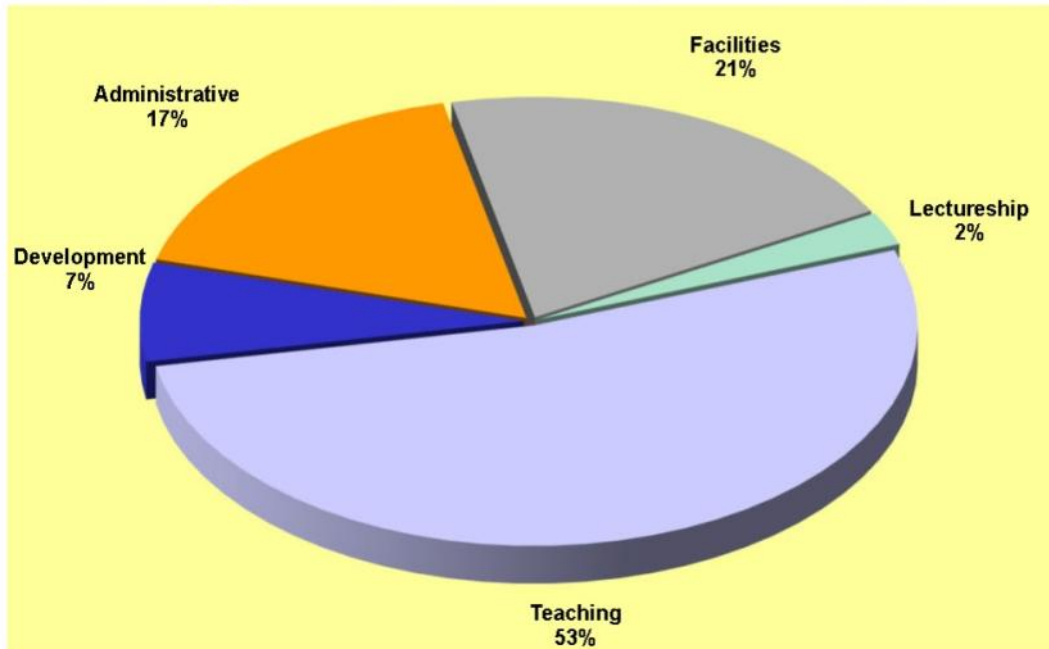


Budget (continued)



Budget (continued)

SOUTHEAST Budgeted Disbursements for 2026



Budget Details

- Details of the individual line items in the 2026 budgets for the church and school are on the pages that follow.
- Thank you to everyone for your contributions, participation and prayers.

Budget (continued)

KARNS CHURCH OF CHRIST

2026	BUDGET
<i>Weekly Budget</i>	\$ 26,000
GENERAL FUND RECEIPTS	
Weekly Collections	\$ 1,352,000
TOTAL GENERAL FUND RECEIPTS	\$ 1,352,000
-GENERAL FUND DISBURSEMENTS-	
Ministers' Compensation	\$ 310,900
Special Programs-Meetings	5,000
Summer Series	8,100
Worship Service Supplies	8,500
Fellowship Supplies Etc.	4,500
Kitchen Maintenance	6,000
Flowers- Gifts- Etc.	3,500
Pictorial Directory	1,500
Bible Correspondence Courses	1,500
Evangelistic Outreach Efforts	3,000
House to House, Heart to Heart	2,100
Youth Program	28,300
FHU Matching	4,100
Teenage Christian Camp Scholar	10,500
FHU HORIZONS	1,800
Adopt an ETSPM Student	1,400
Women's Programs	12,600
Men's Programs	5,200
College Age Activities	2,000
55+ Group	1,500
Family Picnic	3,500
Fall Festival	500
Widows and Shut-ins	1,500
TOTAL LOCAL EVANGELISM	427,500
Literature & Teaching Aids-Pre	750
Literature & Teaching Aids=Pri	750
Literature & Teaching Aids-M&H	750
Literature & Teaching Aids-Adu	750
Resource Room	2,000
Lads to Leaders	11,000
Classroom Furnishings	3,500
Vacation Bible School	4,000
Southeast Leadership Camp	5,500
Forever His VBS	3,000
Teacher's Workshop	1,000
Teacher's Appreciation/Trainin	1,500
TOTAL BIBLE SCHOOL PROGRAM	34,500
Community Needs-Benevolence	1,000
Church Family Need-Benevolence	12,000
TLC Meals	3,500
Tennessee Children's Home	7,800
TOTAL BENEVOLENCE	24,300
Hillbrook Christian Camp	2,040
Australia Mission Work	5,640
Asian Christian Uni-Demar Elam	6,300
India MIssion-Iverson	5,640
The Search Program	2,520
International Gospel Hour	3,600
Philippines Mission-Rigor	5,640
Honduras Preacher Support	9,960

Budget (continued)

KARNS CHURCH OF CHRIST

2026	BUDGET
St. Croix Preacher Support	16,200
St. Croix Mission Trip	12,000
St. Croix Land/Building Support	2,040
IABS-Roger Leonard	1,500
Anchor of the Soul	2,400
Missions Additional Support	7,620
TOTAL MISSIONS OUTREACH	83,100
Southeast Direct Support	60,000
Southeast Allocated Support	293,700
SOUTHEAST	353,700
Clerical Compensation	104,400
Preacher Enrichment	1,000
Payroll Taxes	13,000
Workmen's Compensation	3,500
Office Expenses	25,000
Returned Check Fee	-
Telephone	6,500
Postage	7,400
Computer Maint. and Internet	4,000
Vehicle Upkeep	4,000
TOTAL GENERAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE	168,800
Electricity- Gas and Water	58,700
Garbage Collection	4,500
General Insurance	50,000
Inside Building Maintenance	28,500
Custodian and Supplies	43,300
Audio/P.A. System	10,000
Nursery Furnishings	500
Security	5,000
Building Furnishings	5,000
Outside Building Maintenance	10,800
Fellowship Hall	500
TOTAL BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS	216,800
Principal-Building Notes	123,000
Interest-Building Notes	118,000
TOTAL DEBT SERVICE	241,000
Southeast Allocated Support	(293,700)
TOTAL GENERAL FUND DISBURSEMENTS	\$ 1,256,000
NET GENERAL FUND RECEIPTS (DISBURSEMENTS)	\$ 96,000
SPECIAL PROJECTS	
Parking Lot Construction	260,000
Transfer from Building Funds	(215,000)
Transfer from Reserves	(100,000)
Building Improvements-Repairs	150,000
TOTAL SPECIAL PROJECTS	\$ 95,000
NET RECEIPTS/(DISBURSEMENTS)	\$ 1,000

Budget (continued)

SOUTHEAST INSTITUTE OF BIBLICAL STUDIES

2026	BUDGET
GENERAL FUND RECEIPTS	
Tuition Free Fund	\$ 500,000
From Tibbals Trust-Operating	8,000
Interest Earned-Operating	8,000
For Library Books	2,000
Lectureship Donation/Book Sal	35,000
Transfer from Reserves/Held Fu	32,000
From Karns Church of Christ	353,700
TOTAL GENERAL FUND RECEIPTS	\$ 938,700
-GENERAL FUND DISBURSEMENTS-	
TEACHING AND INSTRUCTION	
Teaching Staff Compensation	461,300
Nonstaff Teachers' Honorarium	17,000
Nonstaff Teachers' Mileage	1,400
Library Books & Supplies	6,000
Technology/Supplies	1,000
Teaching Aids/Retreats	3,000
Classroom Furnishings	500
Graduation Banquet	3,000
TOTAL TEACHING AND INSTRUCTION	\$ 493,200
LECTURESHIP	
Book Publishing Costs	7,000
Speakers and Travel Costs	7,000
Sponsor's Dinner	3,500
Audio/Video Equip/Supplies	1,000
Advertising-Meals Etc.	3,000
Registration/Planning	1,500
TOTAL LECTURESHIP	\$ 23,000
GENERAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE	
Clerical Staff Compensation	98,100
Payroll Tax/Workers Comp	13,400
Office and Printing Supplies	24,000
Telephone	7,000
Postage	3,000
Vehicle Expenses and Fuel	5,500
Student Activities Net	500
Equipment and Furnishings	5,000
Facilities Occupancy Cost	192,000
Office Maintenance	5,000
TOTAL GENERAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE	\$ 353,500
FUND RAISING AND RECRUITMENT	
Travel- Meals- Lodge-Vehcli	16,000
Development Staff Compensation	43,000
Advvertising/Catalog	9,000
TOTAL FUND RAISING & RECRUITMENT	\$ 68,000
TOTAL GENERAL FUND DISBURSEMENTS	\$ 937,700
NET GENERAL FUND RECEIPTS (DISBURSEMENTS)	\$ 1,000

