



# the GATEPOST

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A MINISTRY OF GATEWAY BAPTIST CHURCH // MONTGOMERY, AL

## GREETINGS, GATEWAY FAMILY!

### Prayer, Praise, & Testimony (and coffee, too!)

Join us on Wednesday evenings in January as we begin the new year with a time of prayer, praise, and testimony. Everyone will gather together at 6 for a time of praise. When the kids and youth dismiss, the adults will have a time to share testimonies of answered prayer and God's goodness, as well as times of focused prayer, with singing praises mixed in. All the while, we'll have coffee in the sanctuary for you to enjoy! Join us on Wednesday evenings this month as we begin the year praising the Lord and seeking the Lord together.



### Life Groups Beginning Soon

I am so excited about Gateway's renewed focus on Life Groups! We are finalizing plans for them right now, with a start date of the beginning of February. Our groups will be focused around three priorities: discussion of Scripture, prayer, and fellowship. Each group will have shared leadership with someone facilitating each of those key areas. Please pray for us as these final details come together. And please consider joining one when they begin in a few weeks! At our annual business meeting, I shared the vision for these groups, the plan, and even details about childcare availability. If you missed that meeting and would like to read more about the plan for these groups, you may download the handout on our web site at:

[www.gatewaybaptist.com/wp/2018LifeGroupPlan](http://www.gatewaybaptist.com/wp/2018LifeGroupPlan)

In our conversations with many of you, the two largest obstacles to going deeper in relationships and to participating in Life Groups were childcare and time. The new plan for groups seeks to address both. In particular, beginning in February, we will replace the Wednesday evening adult Bible study with Life Groups both on and off campus, with activities for children and youth of all ages continuing on the Gateway campus. More details about that change are on the handout referenced above. Be watching for more information soon!

~Grady

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Happy New Year! As 2018 begins, let's be reminded of Proverbs 16:3, *"Commit your work to the Lord, and your plans will be established."* Let's commit our lives and our families to the Lord, and trust Him with His plans.

Gateway is changing our Wednesday evening plan for adults to better encourage community (see Grady's article on page 1). Our preschool classes and GO! (for grades 1-6) will continue as before. There will be no changes to the children's programs on Wednesdays. We will continue to teach God's Word, to worship Him in song, memorize Scripture, and learn how to apply His Word to our everyday lives. I really hope that you will get involved in a Life Group and bring your children to GO! and our preschool class on Wednesday evenings!

We love your children and are thankful for our relationship with them. As always, I am thankful for the opportunity to invest in your children's lives and I am continually praying for their salvation.

~ Molly

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## PRAISE MINISTRY

Happy New Year, Gateway! As we begin a new year of worshipping and praising our Savior, I have been reflecting on all of the new songs we have sung this past year. How wonderful is it to be able to sing new and old songs of worship to our King! I have gathered several of the new songs we have introduced throughout the year and they are listed below. I hope you enjoy singing and worshipping the Lord through these songs, and I am excited for more new music to come this next year.

**Elevation Worship:** *Grace so Glorious, Only King Forever, Resurrecting, Yours (Glory and Praise), For the Lamb, Call, Upon the Lord*

**Vertical Worship:** *More Than I Deserve, Worth It All, Worthy Worthy, Lamb of God, Spirit of the Living God,*

**Hillsong Worship:** *What a Beautiful Name, O Praise the Name*

**Mosaic MSC:** *Tremble*

As always, it is an honor and privilege to lead and serve you every Sunday morning as we worship together. I love my Gateway family!

~ Ashley

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## YOUTH MINISTRY

Gateway Youth, here are some upcoming events we don't want you to miss!

### Bowling & Dinner

January 21 ~ 4-6 p.m.

Brunswick Lanes

Cost: \$7 (bowling, shoes, & dinner)



### DNOW

February 16-18

Cost: \$35 per person

Sign up now!

The full 2018 Gateway Youth events calendar is now available. Contact me for a copy if you have not received one.

## Sunday Morning Bible Study

If someone asked you to explain the gospel, what would you say? Writing to the Galatians, Paul made it clear how easily we can be tempted to turn toward fraudulent gospels, especially those that teach we can earn God's love through our works. Though they may have the appearance of truth, they are lifeless and leave us empty in the end. On Sunday mornings we are studying the book of Galatians together as we look at what the gospel really is. We will discover that true freedom is found in surrender, not self-dependence. Join us in the youth room on Sunday mornings at 9:00 a.m. for it!

~ Drew

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## MINISTRY AT CAPITOL HEIGHTS MIDDLE SCHOOL

Half of the school year is already over. Our team ended the semester with a Christmas party at which Jerry Neighbors shared the Gospel through the Christmas story. Jerry and Karen



Neighbors have been faithful and vital members of our team. They have truly demonstrated the love of Jesus to the students, especially the 8th grade boys. The Lord is moving the Neighbors on to their next assignment in North Carolina. We will miss them dearly. Thank you for your service to the Kingdom of God, Jerry and Karen! Please continue to pray for this ministry. Pray that the seeds we are sowing would fall on good soil, take root, and produce fruit. Also pray that the Lord would send laborers to collect the harvest. Thank you for your faithful partnership with us!

~ Seth

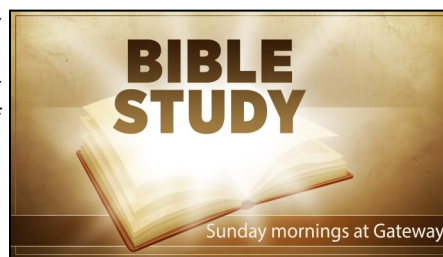
[seth.rhodebeck@gmail.com](mailto:seth.rhodebeck@gmail.com)



# SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY GROUPS



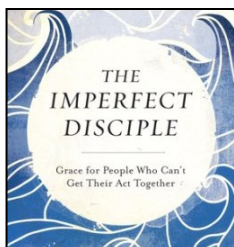
The start of the New Year is a great time to join us at Gateway on Sunday mornings for a Sunday morning Bible study group (Sunday School class). In addition to the children and youth classes at this time, we offer four Bible study groups for adults. Below are the topics for these studies. If one sounds of interest to you, please consider joining it! Also, if you already are in a group, but a see a different one that you would enjoy, you are always welcome to move around. These groups are opportunities for you to grow spiritually and connect with others. Please join us for one this **Sunday morning at 9:00** in the gym building.



## The Gospel in a Broken World

Teachers: Jeff Moody and Jason Watson  
Location: Room 1

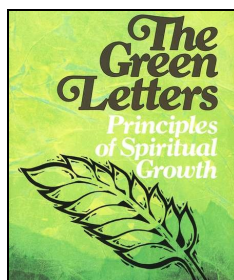
When we think of discipleship or walking with Christ, we tend to think of to-do lists and steps that we can take to achieve some level of godliness. Unfortunately, these lists become overwhelming, leading us to despair or self-righteousness. This class focuses on the messy and weird reality of following Christ in a broken world plagued with sin - most importantly our own. It is a discussion based class where we hope to share life together and spur each other on following Christ and turning away from the temptations of the world. No one expects you to have it together; we are all a mess, but we can be a mess together and walk through life with Christ and each other.



## Principles of Spiritual Growth

Teachers: Bill Hurley, William Fox, Jonathan Zartman, and Tom Kotouc  
Location: Room 4

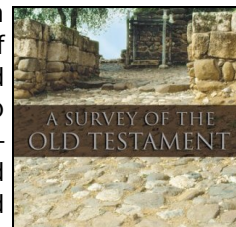
Each class begins with a time to share praises and prayer requests. The class then has a teaching time with discussion. The topic will be how we grow spiritually, and we will use the book, *The Green Letters*, to guide us. It emphasizes both the doctrinal and experiential aspects of maturing in Christian living. It is grounded in Scripture and enlivened by quotations from noted authors. "Not I, but Christ" is its theme. The author makes this arresting statement regarding the dynamics of the Christian life: "God . . . doesn't intend to help us live the Christian life. Immaturity considers the Lord Jesus a Helper. Maturity knows Him to be life itself." We will see how the Christian life is a healthy, robust kind of life. It advances also through trials, for in one who has faith even suffering is not wasted, but becomes a means for increasing spiritual vigor and strength.



## Old Testament Survey

Teachers: Greg Teal & Daniel Paulk  
Location: Room 2

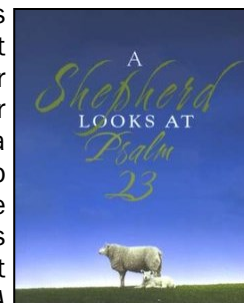
We begin each class with coffee, refreshments and a time of sharing prayer requests and what God is doing in our lives and then go into our time of study. This class is multi-generational and open to all and includes a mix of teaching and discussion. Grasping the structure, themes and big picture of the Old Testament is the aim of this study to enrich your overall understanding of God's grand narrative! It will begin with an overview of the Old Testament that includes why and how we should study the Old Testament and includes its literary and historical dimensions. We will then examine each book of the Old Testament. This walk-through of each book will include an overview of the section and the book with practical information for study. Finally, we will end the study looking at the Old Testament as theology. In essence, the Old Testament is a progressive story, but an incomplete one. We will connect the Old Testament to the Grand Story of God and His people who are ruled by a King and exist to bring glory to God in all things at all times



## Psalm 23

Teacher: CJ Falcione  
Location: Room 3

Psalm 23 is one of many people's favorite passages of scripture. It provides a beautiful picture of our intimate relationship with Jesus, our Shepherd. Each verse reveals a unique aspect of our daily relationship with Jesus, and how he desires to love us, to serve us, and to protect us as His sheep. We also will gain insight from Phillip Keller in his book, *A Shepherd Looks at Psalm 23*. Mr. Keller was an East African shepherd. He will give us an amazing look into the everyday life of a shepherd and how it relates to our journey with Christ.





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**2**  
Susan Malone

**5**  
Keva Culpepper

**6**  
Mazelle Bowden

**7**  
Cecelia Teal

**9**  
Nathan Collins

**11**  
Pat Ellis

**13**  
Kelsey Smith

**14**  
Jason Watson

**16**  
Chris Pughsley

**17**  
Mollie Jones

**21**  
Shawn Melton  
Lindsey Whatley

**22**  
Michael Resende  
John McNiell

**23**  
Allison McNiell

**24**  
Shane Barr

**25**  
Gina Dillon

**27**  
Trey Fowler

**29**  
Reagan Slagle

**31**  
Alex Smith

## AVERAGE ATTENDANCE FOR DECEMBER

Sunday Worship \_\_\_\_\_ 220

Sunday School [for all ages] \_\_\_\_\_ 129

## GIVING UPDATE

December Budget Requirement \_\_\_\_\_ \$ 42,911.67

December Budget Receipts \_\_\_\_\_ \$ 88,717.70

Other Designated Receipts \_\_\_\_\_ \$ 11,657.00

2017 YTD Budget Requirement \_\_\_\_\_ \$ 514,940.00

2017 YTD Budget Receipts \_\_\_\_\_ \$ 511,925.06

2017 YTD Deficit \_\_\_\_\_ \$ 3,014.94

## PASTORAL AND STAFF TEAM

Grady Smith \_\_\_\_\_ Pastor  
CJ Falcione \_\_\_\_\_ Associate Pastor  
Drew Burton \_\_\_\_\_ Student Ministries Pastor  
Molly Moore \_\_\_\_\_ Children's Ministry Director  
Ashley McCullough \_\_\_\_\_ Worship Leader  
Erin Gross \_\_\_\_\_ Administrative Assistant  
Ethan Widen \_\_\_\_\_ Ministry Assistant

### ELDERS

Robby Collins, William Foxx, Ira Hostetter, William Hurley,  
Jeremy Jones, John Reese, Seth Rhodebeck