



WRIGHTS GROVE BAPTIST CHURCH

Member Manual

Our church's home book.

"For God is not the author of confusion, but of peace."

1 CORINTHIANS 14:33

WE GROW PEOPLE • WE ARE WORLD CHANGERS
3056 OLD ATLANTA HWY • FORSYTH, GA 31029

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How to use this book. Read it at your own pace, there's no test. It holds what we believe, how we worship, who serves where, and how to take your next step at The Grove.

Welcome Letter

Dear Grove Member,

On behalf of our church family, we are so glad to welcome you to Wrights Grove Baptist Church. It is our greatest joy to walk with you as you embark on this new chapter of your spiritual journey.

At The Grove, we believe that everyone who receives God's grace can grow into the person He created them to be. We are committed to supporting your spiritual and personal growth through our holistic approach to ministry, which focuses on developing your faith, family, fellowship, and finances. Through our dynamic worship services, small groups, and community outreach programs, you will have many opportunities to connect and serve. Our mission is to grow together in faith, love, and grace as we transform each other and our world.

Your pastoral staff and faith family are here to support you every step of the way. If you have any questions or need assistance, please reach out to the New Members Connection team at 478-994-0707 or 478-319-1596, or email us at newgrovemember@gmail.com.

Once again, welcome to the Wrights Grove Baptist Church family. We are excited to see all that God has in store for you as you grow in your faith here. As we always say,

We love you, and there is nothing you can do about it.

In Christ's love,

Reverend Henry D. Leonard, Sr.

Senior Pastor, Wrights Grove Baptist Church

Mission & Vision

OUR MISSION

We give glory to God by gathering people to Christ and growing people into a purpose-filled life, through the principles of God's Word.



We Grow People

OUR VISION

Wrights Grove Baptist Church is a loving, diverse, family-oriented group of believers dedicated to expanding the Kingdom of God. We exist to help others come into the loving kindness of Jesus Christ, and to find their purpose in God. We are aligned with God and one another so that His promises will manifest in our lives. We are examples of God's power to change anyone, and that anyone can change the world.



We Are World Changers

10 Pillar Principles

- 01 Committed to the Word of God.** Standing firmly on the promises and principles of God. John 15:7 · Matthew 5:18 · Matthew 24:35
- 02 Committed to Love.** Showing the love of Christ to all. John 13:35 · John 3:16 · Mark 12:30–31 · Matthew 5:44
- 03 Committed to Growth.** Progressively maturing in our relationship with God to know and live out our purpose. Ephesians 4:13–15 · 1 Peter 2:2 · Hebrews 5:12–14
- 04 Committed to Spirited Worship.** We yield to God’s Spirit each time we gather to honor His name. John 4:23–24 · Philippians 3:3 · Romans 12:1
- 05 Committed to Evangelism.** We believe in the redemptive process and seek to save the lost at any cost. Matthew 9:37–38 · Matthew 28:19–20 · Acts 1:8
- 06 Committed to Holistic Ministry.** Ministering to the total person, spiritually, mentally, physically, and financially. 1 Thessalonians 5:23 · Ephesians 6:10–11 · James 2:17–18
- 07 Committed to Excellence.** Modeling the highest standards in ministry for serving Christ and others. Daniel 6:3 · Colossians 3:23 · Philippians 1:10
- 08 Committed to In-reach and Outreach.** Programs to help meet the needs of hurting people in our church, community, and city. Matthew 25:34–36 · Philippians 2:4 · Galatians 6:10
- 09 Committed to Community Impact.** A positive presence in the city through radio, TV, volunteer work, and partnerships. Matthew 9:35 · Romans 12:13–17 · Isaiah 61:1–4
- 10 Committed to the Next Generation.** Building a generation of believers who achieve good success. Deuteronomy 6:7 · Proverbs 22:6 · 2 Timothy 3:15

What We Believe

What we believe as a church is commonly known as church doctrine, the foundation by which we serve God. Our doctrinal statement is organized into categories to help you understand what we believe and teach.

The Scriptures

Every word in the original writings is inspired by God and is without error, accurate in all matters, spiritual, historical, and scientific. The Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments are the foundation of the faith and practice of WGBC. ²

Tim. 3:16 · 2 Pet. 1:21

God

God exists eternally in three persons: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. The three have distinct personalities and yet are of the same substance, one God. *Gen. 1:1 · John 10:30 · Matt. 28:19*

Man

Man is created in the image and likeness of God. In Adam, all mankind fell into sin, with the result that all are sinners, justly condemned and unable to merit salvation. *Rom. 5:12 · 3:23 · Eph. 2:1, 8–9*

Jesus Christ

The eternal Son of God became incarnate in the Lord Jesus Christ, born of the Virgin Mary, and is true God and true man. He died physically on the cross and was bodily resurrected three days later. *John 1:1,14 · Heb. 1:1–9 · 1 Cor. 15:1–5*

Salvation

Salvation is given to those chosen by God and drawn to Christ by the Holy Spirit. The only means is belief in Christ's substitutionary death and resurrection. *John 3:16 · Eph. 2:8–9 · Acts 16:31*

Sanctification

Every believer is promised positional, progressive, and ultimate sanctification. *Heb. 10:10,14 · 1 Thess. 4:3–4 · 1 John 3:2*

WHAT WE BELIEVE • CONTINUED

Assurance

All who are born of the Spirit through faith in Christ can have assurance of salvation and are eternally secure in Christ. *Rom. 5:1 • 1 John 5:13 • John 10:27–29*

The Holy Spirit

The third person of the Trinity. He regenerates, indwells, baptizes, and seals all believers in Christ, and empowers those yielded to God. *John 3:3–7 • Titus 3:5 • 1 Cor. 12:13*

The Church

The church is composed of all believers, the body and bride of Christ, formed by the baptism of the Holy Spirit, existing in two aspects: universal and local. The universal church is an elect company of believers; the local church is a group who voluntarily join together in love to worship God and to glorify Christ through discipling others by the preaching of the gospel and the exercise of spiritual gifts. *Eph. 1:22–23 • 1 Cor. 12:4–13,27*

Spiritual Gifts

God-given abilities for service, for the equipping of the saints and the building up of the body of Christ. *Eph. 4:1–16 • 1 Cor. 12:7,11 • 1 Pet. 4:10*

Christian Life

Christians are called to a holy life of service and testimony in the power of the Holy Spirit, including the propagation of the gospel to the whole world. *1 Pet. 1:15–16 • Acts 1:8*

Ordinances

The Bible sets forth two ordinances: the Lord's Supper, celebrated regularly in remembrance of Christ's death and in expectation of His return; and water baptism, an outward testimony of belief in Christ, by immersion. *Matt. 28:19–20 • Acts 8:36–38 • 1 Cor. 11:23–26*

Church Membership

Church membership at Wrights Grove is established in one of three ways:

Confession of Faith and Baptism

You make a public profession of faith in Christ as Lord and Savior. This connection is established by being baptized, attending the New Members Orientation, and signing the Membership Covenant.

Christian Experience

You have already professed Christ as Lord and Savior and desire to join the church family. This is established by attending the New Members Orientation and signing the Membership Covenant.

Watch-Care

Allows believers to connect with our ministry without full membership, participating in worship, discipleship, fellowship, and service without transferring from your home church. Typically temporary.

BY BECOMING A MEMBER, YOU QUALIFY FOR EVERY BLESSING GOD DECLARES TO A BELIEVER

- ◆ It identifies you as a genuine believer. *Eph. 2:19 · Rom. 12:5*
- ◆ It provides a spiritual family to support and encourage you. *Gal. 6:1–2 · Heb. 10:24–25*
- ◆ It gives you a place to discover and use your gifts in ministry. *1 Cor. 12:4–27*
- ◆ It places you under the spiritual protection of godly leaders. *Heb. 13:17 · Acts 20:28*
- ◆ It gives you the accountability you need to grow. *Eph. 5:21*

CHURCH MEMBERSHIP • CONTINUED

Your connection with Wrights Grove provides benefits unique to this ministry that you will not find anywhere else:

- ♦ It will instruct you on how to live a full and productive life as a genuine Christian.
- ♦ It will show you how to discover your God-given purpose.
- ♦ It will prepare you spiritually and emotionally for the week ahead.
- ♦ It will provide fellowship and the support and encouragement of other Christians.
- ♦ It will prepare you for discipleship that fortifies your faith, teaching you the truth of God's Word and how to apply biblical principles to your life.
- ♦ It will provide ministry opportunities where you find and develop your talents in serving others.
- ♦ It will provide evangelism opportunities to help you reach your friends and family for Christ.

God is getting ready to bring you into a brand-new season of growth and prosperity.

Get ready, because God has ordained that the best of your life will be the rest of your life.

New Members Orientation

As a new member of WGBC, attendance at the New Members Orientation is required. This is an important time to become familiar with the mission of the church. Pastor Leonard looks forward to this time of bonding with you, to reveal the vision of the house and share his heart concerning our connection to the Kingdom of God.

New Member Orientation is held on the third Thursday of every month at 7:00 PM via Zoom, any month we have a new member to welcome. When you complete a New Member Intake Form, you'll receive a welcome email with the Zoom link, a reminder a few days before, and a follow-up afterward with the Member Manual and Membership Covenant.

THE 5 SHIPS MINISTRY MODEL

Everything at The Grove flows from worship, a journey from first curiosity to sharing Christ with others. Wherever you start, there is a next step.



Worship sits at the center of it all.

Active & Inactive Members

Active Member

You worship regularly, serve God and other members of your community responsibly and faithfully, and give of your time, talent, and financial seed to further the church's mission in our community and throughout the world.

Inactive Member

A member who has not worshipped in person within the last 6 months, nor given of their time or talent, nor sown financially to further the church's mission.

Exception: homebound or elderly members.

Financial Seeds

To help the church keep accurate records of tithes, offerings, and donations, WGBC provides tithe envelopes. Please use them to receive proper credit for tax purposes at year-end. You may also give through **Cash App (\$WGBOne2)**, **Givelify** (search “Wrights Grove”), or by mail to WGBC, P.O. Box 1061, Forsyth, GA 31029.

Tithes

At WGBC, we give God 10% of what we receive financially. According to the Word of God, presenting this to God keeps the blessings flowing in your life. We strive to be a 100% tithing church.

Offerings

Along with your obedience to the Word, this determines the level of blessings that flow into you and your household. If you want God’s enormous blessings, make Him an offering He cannot refuse.

TYPES OF OFFERINGS

General, Anything given above the tithe.

Benevolent, To support those in need within the congregation and community.

Ministry, Given to a specific ministry to accomplish their work, generally on annual ministry days.

First Fruit, The first things belong to God: first day’s wages, first portion of a settlement, first bonus or commission.

Pastor’s Love Offering, Sown into the Pastor’s family for his leadership and the outpouring of the Word. Give as the Lord leads.

Tithe & Giving Guide

A weekly giving reference based on annual income. Our standard tithe is 10% (highlighted in gold). Use this to find the weekly amount that matches your level of giving.

	WEEKLY	15%	12%	10%	9%	8%	7%	6%	5%	4%	3%	2%	1%
\$22,000	\$423	\$63	\$51	\$42	\$38	\$34	\$30	\$25	\$21	\$17	\$13	\$8	\$4
\$25,000	\$481	\$72	\$58	\$48	\$43	\$38	\$34	\$29	\$24	\$19	\$14	\$10	\$5
\$30,000	\$577	\$87	\$69	\$58	\$52	\$46	\$40	\$35	\$29	\$23	\$17	\$12	\$6
\$40,000	\$769	\$115	\$92	\$77	\$69	\$62	\$54	\$46	\$38	\$31	\$23	\$15	\$8
\$50,000	\$962	\$144	\$115	\$96	\$87	\$77	\$67	\$58	\$48	\$38	\$29	\$19	\$10
\$60,000	\$1,154	\$173	\$138	\$115	\$104	\$92	\$81	\$69	\$58	\$46	\$35	\$23	\$12
\$70,000	\$1,346	\$202	\$162	\$135	\$121	\$108	\$94	\$81	\$67	\$54	\$40	\$27	\$13
\$80,000	\$1,538	\$231	\$185	\$154	\$138	\$123	\$108	\$92	\$77	\$62	\$46	\$31	\$15
\$90,000	\$1,731	\$260	\$208	\$173	\$156	\$138	\$121	\$104	\$87	\$69	\$52	\$35	\$17
\$100,000	\$1,923	\$288	\$231	\$192	\$173	\$154	\$135	\$115	\$96	\$77	\$58	\$38	\$19
\$110,000	\$2,115	\$317	\$254	\$212	\$190	\$169	\$148	\$127	\$106	\$85	\$63	\$42	\$21
\$120,000	\$2,308	\$346	\$277	\$231	\$208	\$185	\$162	\$138	\$115	\$92	\$69	\$46	\$23
\$140,000	\$2,692	\$404	\$323	\$269	\$242	\$215	\$188	\$162	\$135	\$108	\$81	\$54	\$27

All amounts are weekly and rounded to the nearest dollar.

Organizational Structure

The Pastor, like the President of the United States, serves as CEO and Chief Under-Shepherd. He is responsible for guiding the spiritual, physical, financial, and overall well-being of the church.

Executive Council • ORGANIZATIONAL GROWTH

Assists the Senior Pastor in implementing the vision and ensures all operational practices align with the Word of God and the laws of the United States.

Leadership Council • OPERATIONAL GROWTH

Ministry leaders assigned to specific areas who oversee, implement, and recommend strategies to strengthen the effectiveness of the church.

Ministers Council • SPIRITUAL GROWTH

Provides spiritual care, discipleship, and pastoral support to the body, coming alongside the Pastor in shepherding the congregation.

Membership

Makes up the body in which the church leadership serves. The responsibility of members is to respond to the leadership, policies, and procedures of the church so that God will always be glorified.

Pastoral Service & Care

Spiritual Guidance

Minimal counseling is available to members and families who feel the need. If the need is greater than our ministry can meet, an outside professional will be recommended. All counseling given is from a biblical basis only. To request guidance, email wrightsgrove@gmail.com and leave a message; a follow-up call will be made to schedule an appointment.

Infant Dedication (Baby Blessings)

A ceremony in which parents present themselves and the child before God. This is not christening, WGBC does not christen babies. Members with active status may have infants dedicated. Unwed parents must meet with the Pastor before dedication is approved, no exceptions. The child must be 6 months or younger.

Weddings & Marriages

Christian marriages are done according to God's Word; couples must receive pre-marital counseling prior to the ceremony. A **Wedding** is a full ceremony with printed order of service and bridal party; a **Marriage** is a simple ceremony without a bridal party or program. At least one individual must be an active member. There is no fee for the sanctuary or fellowship hall; a \$100 deposit is required for the kitchen and fellowship hall, returned if the space is restored to its original cleanliness.

PASTORAL SERVICE & CARE • CONTINUED

In the Event of Sickness

If you have a sickness or illness, you or a family member can contact administration. If you are scheduled for surgery or a procedure and wish to have a minister or prayer-team member pray with you, notify administration prior to surgery.

In the Event of Death

It is our desire to assist and comfort you and your family. Administration should be notified as soon as possible, call 478-994-0707. If administration is unavailable, leave a message and someone will contact you as soon as possible.

Funeral & Memorial Services

For members, we can suggest a funeral director if requested, assist with the date and time of the memorial service, and help with the order of service and obituary. There is no fee for the sanctuary or fellowship hall; a \$100 deposit is required for the kitchen and fellowship hall. Any musician fees are the responsibility of the family, and an honorarium for the Pastor is at the family's discretion. If a funeral is to be held at WGBC, or if you request the Pastor to officiate, do not set a date and time until you have first contacted the Administrative Assistant to the Pastor.

Ministry Opportunities

Every member has a gift. Below are the 11 active ministries that make up The Grove. After you complete the New Members Orientation, talk with the leader of any team that calls to you.

LED BY PASTOR HENRY LEONARD

Ministerial Council

Assists the Pastor in jurisdictional matters across the church, overseeing ministry areas, supporting pastoral decisions, and helping shepherd the body.

LED BY MARY SLAUGHTER

Administration

The operational heart of the church, scheduling, communications, coordination, and the everyday work that keeps the body moving.

LED BY LARRY JOHNSON

Facility Management

Cares for the church campus, sanctuary, fellowship hall, kitchen, and grounds, handling repairs, improvements, and everyday upkeep.

HOSPITALITY TEAM

Hospitality

Ushering, greeting, parking, and concierge, treating every visitor as V.I.P. Includes Culinary Arts and Members Care.

LED BY ELDER JENISE WATTS

Intercessory Prayer

Covers the church, the Pastor, the vision, and the Kingdom in prayer, leading church-wide fasting and prayer meetings.

LED BY KELVIN HUGHLEY

Media

Stewards the church's local and global presence, website, recordings, livestream, graphic design, and worship-service technology.

MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES • CONTINUED

LED BY SISTER LAREETA PHINAZEE**New Members Connection**

Helps the newest additions to our family get acclimated to how we worship and what membership looks like. Orientations are held monthly on the third Thursday at 7:00 PM via Zoom.

LED BY ELDER TYRUS RUSSELL**Worship & Arts**

Brings God glory through music and praise. Includes Instruments of Praise (Praise & Worship Ensemble), Voices of Praise (Gospel Choir), and Youthful Praise (Children & Youth Choir).

LED BY LAKEISHA CALLOWAY**Youth Ministry & Arts**

Anchors our youth in a personal relationship with Jesus Christ, giving them a biblical foundation and developing their artistic side through praise dance, music, poetry, and creative writing.

LED BY JOE HIGH**First Touch Parking Lot**

The very first impression, greeting guests in the parking lot, directing traffic, and making sure every visitor feels welcomed before they walk through the door.

LEADER TO BE ANNOUNCED**Project Impact**

Our community outreach arm, extending the love of Christ beyond the walls of the church through service, partnership, and presence in our city.

Currently Inactive Ministries

The following ministries are part of our church history but are currently inactive. The doors remain open, if the Lord stirs your heart toward reviving any of them, please reach out to Pastor Leonard.

- ♦ Deacons
- ♦ Members Care (now included under Hospitality)
- ♦ KINGS Men
- ♦ Shepherd's Care (Pastoral Support)
- ♦ Stewardship

Frequently Asked Questions

How long should I wait before joining a ministry?

First, complete the New Members Orientation. You're welcome to let a ministry leader know of your interest beforehand, and after the class you may join. Some ministries have additional requirements. To organize a new ministry, write down the purpose and plan for funding and submit it to Pastor Leonard.

What should I do if I need financial assistance?

Fill out a letter of request stating your need, with supporting documentation. Present it to the Chairperson of the Benevolent Committee, fill out the benevolence form, and you'll receive a response within one week.

What is expected of me as a member of Wrights Grove?

God and your Pastor expect you to support the church vision and to actively participate in ministry service and financial contributions. Any member with recorded attendance and some financial contribution in a 6-month period is considered an active member.

Who do I call in the event of an emergency?

Your first point of contact is administration, please do not call the Pastor first. This process allows us to evaluate your concern and handle the matter as promptly as possible. It is not that he does not care; nothing could be further from the truth.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS • CONTINUED

Who does a member report to when having a problem with another member?

It depends on the concern. If it does not involve a particular ministry (such as Music or the welcome team), the matter goes to the deacon assigned to that person.

Who do I report to if I see something that needs fixing?

Report the matter to the facility maintenance person.

Who do I contact if I need a ride to church?

Contact the transportation ministry leader who resides closest to you, at least one day in advance.

Will there be visitation to the sick, and will communion be offered?

Visitation is done at least once a month for members who are homebound or in nursing homes. Other sick or distressed members are cared for on a case-by-case basis. Communion will be administered at the request of the family.

Stay Connected



VISIT US

3056 Old Atlanta Hwy
Forsyth, GA 31029



CALL US

Main · 478-994-0707
New Members · 478-319-1596



EMAIL US

newgrovemember@gmail.com
wrightsgrove@gmail.com



GIVE

Cash App · \$WGBOne2
Givelify · “Wrights Grove”
Mail · P.O. Box 1061, Forsyth, GA 31029

Good to remember. New Members Orientation is held the third Thursday of every month at 7:00 PM via Zoom. In any emergency, your first call is to administration (478-994-0707), not the Pastor directly, this helps us respond to you as quickly as possible.



**We love you, and there is
nothing you can do about it.**

Welcome to The Grove.