

Shepherd of the Valley Presbyterian Church



Magnify God, Make Disciples, Meet Human Need

www.svpc.church
5081 Eastern Valley Road
Mc Calla, AL 35111
(205) 565-7025

Snapshot of SVPC

We have an average Sunday Morning attendance of 75. Easter brought in 117 but we didn't include it in the numbers because we didn't to skew the average. A breakdown of our active members are:

70+ - 36%
60-69 - 17%
50-59 - 18%
40-49 - 0%
20-39 - 15%
10-19 - 3%
<10 - 11%

As far as a typical week: Mondays are usually PW Circle meeting days, although we do have a Sunday Circle that meets after Worship on the first Sunday. Our Session meets on the 4th Mon of the month. Tuesdays we have a Pastor led Bible Study that meets at 6 PM with an average attendance of 14. Wednesdays is choir practice and youth meetings; the Bessemer Music Club meets on the 2nd Wed of the month, except during the summer. Thursdays is young adults Bible Study; the Spiritual Life Team meets monthly on Thu. Currently there's nothing scheduled for Friday or Saturday, unless there's a special event. Sundays are very active with Sunday School and our traditional Worship service. We serve Communion on the 1st Sun of the month. Men's Breakfast and Bible Study meets the 2nd Sun of the month. Our Worship and Music team meets on the 3rd Sun.

Other Ministry Teams meet at different days and times. As for PW, we have Sunday Circle, Circle 1 and Night Circle with an average attendance of 25 total.

While we are always looking for mission and outreach opportunities, there are a few that we have participated in yearly for some time now:

We have been involved with Operation Christmas Child (Samaritan's Purse) the past 20 years. We collect items throughout the year and then have a big shoe box packing party closer to Christmas for the whole church.

We have a community outreach at the local high school called Feed My Starving Children (Kingdom Builders) that our church has been involved with since it came to the McCalla area a few years ago.

We support Rev. Cody Watson and the Frontier Fellowship and make monthly donations. It's always a joy having Cody come in and give updates on where his mission leads him.

Our PW has always had a heart for the Presbyterian Home for Children in Talladega, AL and our Christmas Eve service offering has historically been given to it. At various times, our PW and our youth have made trips there to volunteer. PW supports other missions throughout the year as well.

Monthly, we have members involved in Meals on Wheels.

We have been reading in the Bible Reading Marathon in Birmingham for 7 years now which began in Birmingham in 2000. For a period of 90 continuous hours, the Bible is read in public, out-loud, rain or shine, around the clock with folks reading in 15 minute intervals. Bibles are provided but you are encouraged to bring your own Bible so readings have been done in many different languages by folks all over the Birmingham area.

We are partners with Pleasant Hill Methodist in helping stock their Community Food Pantry. We take up food on the 1st Sunday of each month.

This year our Easter Giving supported The Outreach Foundation's Mission to The Good Shepherd Primary School and the Presbyterian Church in Baghdad, Iraq. Last year we supported the Presbyterian Church in Syria through the Outreach Foundation. The Outreach Foundation has taken the place of the One Great Hour of Sharing we always supported through PCUSA.

We periodically get calls and requests from people in the community and we assist when we can.

Our Christian Ed folks are in VBS mode right now and it's scheduled for July. Also we have 3 adult Sunday School classes, a youth class, and a children's class.

Also being coordinated is a celebration of our First Responders. We have not yet scheduled a date for that event.

SVPC has been through a multitude of big changes over the last 15 years, including personnel and denomination, physical and a name change, and growth spiritually. This church and its people have been resilient and faithful and we have persevered.

We loved Christ and ministered in His name for more than 125 years at FPCB before we felt a calling to refashion our ministry. As we transitioned to SVPC, our mission was to proclaim the Good News of the love of God through Jesus Christ in the Mc Calla community. The location has changed but the telling of the old, old story of Christ's love for all remains the same. Because the Lord is our Shepherd, every person is welcome.

OUR MISSION

Magnify God

Make Disciples

Meet Human Needs.

OUR PURPOSE

To be a community of Christ followers who:

Worship in spirit and in truth (John 4. 23)

Teach the Word of God (2 Timothy 3. 16-17)

Nurture one another for growth (Romans 12.10)

Bond to support one another in joy and need (Philippians 1.7-8)

Disciple those who don't know Christ (Matthew 28.19-20)

And serve in mission in the community (Matthew 25.31-46)

OUR VISION

To reach the greater McCalla community and expand the Kingdom of God by displaying the love of Christ and connecting with people of all walks of life through our creative services, discipleship, and outreach.

OUR HISTORY

The First Presbyterian Church of Bessemer, Alabama was established on April 10, 1888 by action of the Presbytery of North Alabama, barely a year after the incorporation of the city of Bessemer. Nineteen persons were part of that brand new church.



Since then, four different church buildings have been home to this congregation. The first was a white frame building on Sixth Avenue and Eighteenth Street.



As the city grew, so did the church. In 1909 the congregation erected a beautiful, red brick Gothic style church building and relocated to Third Avenue and Eighteenth Street.

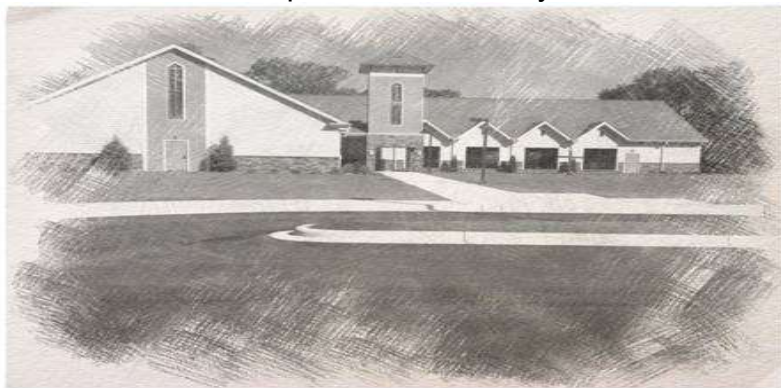


The third plant was a gradual replacement of existing facilities. After demolition of a small part of the facility, an educational building was erected and completed in 1952.



The remaining units of the plant, the Fellowship Hall and the Sanctuary, were completed over the next few years and the dedication of the completed church was celebrated in June of 1962. A pipe organ was added and dedicated in 1987 and an adjacent parking lot was purchased in 1990.

In November of 2014, the fourth and current plant took us to a new location under a new name. After acquiring property and constructing a new building, we moved to Mc Calla and became Shepherd of the Valley.



More important than the buildings have been the people. During our many years of existence, thousands of men, women and children have been part of the worship, work, and witness of this church. Twelve full-time pastors and other dedicated staff members have shared their leadership in this ministry. Many programs and opportunities for study and service have added to the vitality of this congregation. Although we have experienced many changes, our church continues to be a vibrant witness to the presence of God in our community and to the world.



WHAT WE BELIEVE

We believe in God

- * We praise God's majesty, holiness, and providence
- * God creates, sustains, rules, and redeems the world
- * God made the world and God can let the world be as God chooses
 - * God chooses to love the world and us

We believe in Jesus

- * Jesus Christ is the Son of God
- * Jesus Christ is the Head of the Church
- * God raised Jesus from the dead to save us from sin
- * Jesus blesses the children, heals the sick, rescues the captives, and cares for the outcasts

We believe in the Holy Spirit

- * The Holy Spirit is Christ's gift to the church
 - * The Spirit makes us One
 - * The Spirit keeps the church alive
- * The Spirit gives us power to do the work of Jesus, to be his hands, feet, and body in the world

We believe in Scripture

- * The words of the Bible are inspired by God
- * The Old Testament and the The New Testament are part of one Book
- * The Bible is God's unique and authoritative witness to Jesus Christ in the Church universal
 - * The Bible is and God's Word to us

We believe in God's salvation

- * Sin is a condition of the heart, a spiritual sickness that separates us from God
- * God reached out through the greatest love and compassion and saved us through Jesus Christ
 - * God triumphed over sin through Jesus' death and resurrection



We firmly believe in and uphold the Essential Tenents and Confessional Standards as written by ECO: A Covenant Order of Evangelical Presbyterians.

ESSENTIAL TENENTS

- * God's Word
- * Trinity and Incarnation
- * Essentials of the Reformed Tradition

CONFESSIONAL STANDARDS

The appropriate confessional standards for ECO are the creeds, confessions, and catechisms in the Book of Confessions.

The Book of Confessions includes:

- The Nicene Creed,
- The Apostle's Creed,
- The Scots Confession,
- The Heidelberg Catechism,
- The Second Helvetic Confession,
- The Westminster Confession of Faith,
- The Westminster Larger Catechism,
- The Westminster Shorter Catechism,
- The Theological Declaration of Barmen,
- The Confession of 1967,
- and A Brief Statement of Faith.

This collection is theologically faithful, ecclesiastically appropriate, and organizationally suitable. The Book of Confessions contains the confessions that we have taken vows to receive. It also embodies the Reformed understanding of the way confessions function in the life of the church.



QUICK FACTS

Member of ECO: A member of the Covenant Order of Evangelicals since 2016 and a member of Presbytery of the South

Annual Operating Budget: Approximately \$168,000

Worship: Sunday School at 9:45, Traditional Worship Sundays at 11am (weekly), and Relaxed Worship Sundays at 6pm (monthly). Communion celebrated monthly.

Music: Chancel Choir and Handbell Choir

Ethnic Composition: 99% Caucasian, <1% non-caucasian

Membership: Combined attendance for all services is approximately 75 with a membership roll of 110

Church Staff: Director of Programs, Director of Music, Organist/Accompanist, Office Administrator, Nursery Attendants

Elected Leadership: 9 Ruling Elders, 3 Trustees

Volunteers: Multiple ministry teams, sub-teams, and committees.

Missions: SVPC supports local and global missionaries and mission organizations.

Location: Mc Calla, Alabama is an unincorporated community in Jefferson and Tuscaloosa counties, southwest of Bessemer, and the geographic terminus of the Appalachian Mountains.

Population: The 2016 Mc Calla population is 16,593. There are 259 people per square mile. The median age is 36.8. Approximately 67% of people in Mc Calla are married while 9.18% are divorced. The average household size is 2.77 people. Around 35% of people are married, with children, and 9.66% have children, but are single. Ethnic composition says 83.23% of people are white, 13.50% black, 0.32% Hispanic, 0.37% Asian, 0.51% Native American, and 0.36% claim 'Other'.

Economy: The unemployment rate in Mc Calla is 6.30%, with job growth of -0.41%. Future job growth over the next ten years is predicted to be 32.88%. The sales tax rate is 10.00% and income tax is 5.00%. The income per capita is \$30,512, which includes all adults and children. The median household income is \$79,740. The median home cost in Mc Calla is \$178,900.

One congregation, many people
Shepherd of the Valley Presbyterian Church of Mc Calla,
formerly First Presbyterian Church of Bessemer
Come, join us on our journey as Christ followers.

Missions, Service, and Outreach

SVPC's family spans all age groups with many of our covenant partners being mature in age and faith. We actively participate in these programs:

- Operation Christmas Child: Samaritan's Purse Shoebox Project
- Kingdom Builders
- Meals on Wheels
- Easter Sunday Sunrise
- Family Easter event including egg hunt
- Family Summer Celebration
- Silver Shepherds (senior adults)
- Shepherds Way (young adults)
- Angel Tree
- Supper Clubs
- Vacation Bible School for the community

We welcome local groups to use our facilities, including:

Bessemer Music Club, Boy Scouts, and others



MORE ABOUT US

Our Strengths:

A love for God and His Word
Welcoming, warm, and sincere
Loving, caring, and supportive
Dynamic music ministry
Close fellowship
Reformed theology
Heritage and tradition
Maturity and leadership
Unified and accepting of change

CURRENT CHALLENGES

While mainstream churches face a myriad of challenges, SVPC has some unique requirements:

Leading us as we continue to become an ECO congregation
Directing us as we re-focus on mission and ministry
Becoming a Flourishing Church
Growing our congregation as we bring others to Christ
Reducing overall debt that was accumulated in building a new facility
Ministering effectively to members of all ages in today's society
Keeping members motivated and engaged in current ministries

OUR VISION FOR MINISTRY

Sessions' Expectations for a Qualified Candidate (Transitional Pastor):

- Enable members to define, defend, and share their faith through preaching and teaching the Word
- Model prayer as a priority in personal life, motivating the congregation to pray
- A Christ-centered spiritual shepherd/counselor to care for the flock
- Help people discover and use God-given gifts/talents in witness and service
- Develop, equip, and empower leaders to serve effectively
- Lead the congregation in growing the church
- Lead the church during the time of transition between a retiring pastor and a new senior pastor
- Address strengths and any weaknesses of the church in order to become more effective in ministry
- Learn from past mistakes and obstacles and bring healing
- Replace uncertainty with purpose and vision
- Prepare the church to be more effective at supporting and appreciating pastoral leaders

Congregation's Expectations for a Qualified Candidate (Transitional Pastor):

- Unity as a single church family in Christ
- A shepherd who provides a level of pastoral care
- Growth in our services, especially young adults and families with children and youth
- Demonstrate our identity through community projects in the name of Jesus
- Become more effective in assimilating and retaining visitors and members
- Develop and enable members to use their spiritual gifts in ministry and service
- Prepare future evangelists, pastors, teachers, and missionaries to spread the gospel
- To be a light for those who do not know Christ by showing His love in practical ways



THE POSITION

Qualifications:

- Master of Divinity or greater
- Ordination in the ECO denomination or willing to be ordained or become an affiliate pastor
- Minimum of 5 years of experience managing a medium church with staff
- Prior experience as an Interim or Transitional Pastor, with emphasis on preaching and teaching
- Willing to serve in a congregation for a minimum of six months
- Affirmation of the Essential Tenants

Characteristics:

SVPC is looking for a Transitional Pastor who is a disciple of Jesus Christ and who has the gifts, skills, and experience to lead a church of our size and values on during our search for a senior pastor. We seek a candidate with a solid biblical background, sound in reformed doctrine. We desire someone with the ability to lead the staff and session. The church will look to this person to exercise leadership, to exhibit organizational and interpersonal skills, and to administer the day to day aspects in the life of the church. We believe someone who is theologically conservative and innovative would best fit into our congregation. To be effective, he or she must have a self-confident personality that sparks enthusiasm in people of all ages. This individual must have a clear desire to see people come to a knowledge of Jesus and a desire for discipleship within the church.

Compensation:

The salary of the Transitional Pastor will be commensurate with the level of education, experience, and hours worked.



RESPONSIBILITIES

LEADERSHIP: Have the ability to inspire and motivate through preaching, teaching, and living God's Word. Have a love for Jesus which is not only evident in the pulpit on Sunday mornings but also every day in his or her personal life. Have effective communication and educational skills to equip others for ministry. Be a friendly servant leader with an abounding sense of humor who lives out the scripture daily. Be an energetic and passionate person who engages with people of all generations.

PREACHING: Must have a deep Bible knowledge and dynamic preaching abilities. Prepare and preach regularly at weekly service and lead special events. Lead worship skillfully by working with the Session and Worship and Music Committee, Organist, and the Choir Director to develop a rich worship life and to educate the congregation for meaningful participation. Administer the sacraments, as needed.

TEACHING: Teach at Tuesday night Bible Study. Demonstrate strong leadership development skills.

EVANGALISM: Have vision for relational evangelism and ability to equip others in reaching persons who don't yet know Jesus. Willingness to collaborate with affinity groups and other churches and ministries within the area, when needed.

PASTORAL CARE: Know how to shepherd the flock and have an understanding of family dynamics to give guidance to young and old. With the assistance of other team members, provide regular hospital, nursing home, and shut-in visits. Perform weddings, funerals, and counseling. Reach out to inactive members, as needed.

ADMINISTRATION: Moderate Session meetings, manage the staff effectively, and lead regular staff meetings. Consult with personnel committee, as needed. Participate in annual staff reviews.

MISSION: Participate and promote mission events going on throughout our church and the community. Provide strategic direction for our mission programs.

FELLOWSHIP: Attend church events and programs. Provide guidance to fellowship leaders.

OTHER: Attend Presbytery meetings and other gatherings, as needed. Stay current with the Presbytery and ECO polity.



TO APPLY

Interested candidates should forward a completed application packet to the “PNC” at resumes@svpc.church or to 5081 Eastern Valley Road, Mc Calla, AL 35111. Applicant packets should include the following:

- A current resume, statement of faith, biography
- 3 references (professional, including a supervisor)
- Audio or video clip of a recent sermon
- A cover letter with an expression of interest and a brief description of how you can fulfill God’s purposes through this position
- The date of when you are available to serve a congregation
- Note that you are applying for the position of Transitional Pastor

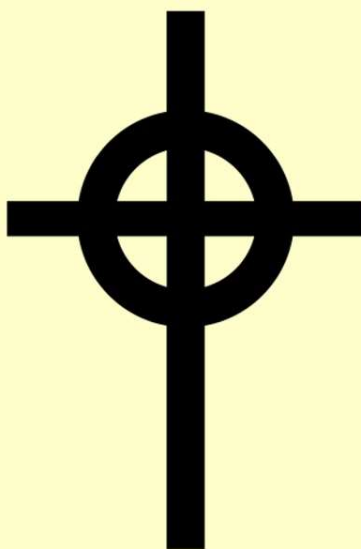
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