



GROWING FAITH AND INCREASING LOVE

We ought always to give thanks to God for you, brothers, as is right, because your faith is growing abundantly, and the love of every one of you for one another is increasing.” 2 Thessalonians 1:3

There are many deeply meaningful reasons that I am thankful to be a part of the UCSC I am blessed to be a minister of. It is such a joy to be consistently built up spiritually by witnessing the faith and zeal of our UCSC students. Their eagerness to grow in Christ and learn more about God, along with the insight they have into matters of faith is truly inspiring. One of the things that I am most thankful for is getting to see and be a part of the growth that is continually happening in their lives. Every semester it is easy to see the individual growth in their hearts and lives, along with the overall progress of the UCSC as a group. Like previous semesters, the 2023 spring semester has been no different when it comes to growth and improvement, especially spiritually.

As 2 Thessalonians 1:3 mentions I am thankful for “faith...growing abundantly,” and “love for...one another increasing.” New and old relationships in the UCSC continue to be strengthened and many romantic relationships have gone to the next level. Just during last semester and this semester we have had 11 couples get engaged to be married. It is encouraging to know that with many of these couples, the UCSC had a part in them meeting one another and/or growing their relationships to the point of wanting to be married. Growth has happened in other areas of the UCSC as well. And all of these things happened along with our regular activities like weekly Bible studies (Wednesday night, Tuesday study, guys'/girls' study), UCSC-led congregational Sunday worship, retreats, prayer groups, etc. With all the good that has been happening, we can't wait to see what God will do in the future. Please pray with us that through everything we do we will continue to help others grow in their faith in God and love for Christ and one another, while sharing that love and truth with the lost.

- Shane Meredith

UNIVERSITY CHRISTIAN STUDENT CENTER

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SENIOR TESTIMONIAL: AUSTIN ENOCH



I have explained to some people how my college application process was different from most of my friends. I was only interested in one school, I toured only one school, I applied to only one school, and I got into that one school, Mississippi State. I believe that was because God wanted me to be here. He wanted me at the UCSC.

The UCSC is a family. A family that wants to help each other get to heaven...and get through that next test week along the way. This place, and the people in it, have become a home to me. I have made friends that I will cherish and love for the rest of my life. Most important of all, this place helped Hannah and I grow closer to God. As we grew closer to God, God brought us closer to each other. I read a lot, so I tend to think in terms of storytelling. My life is a collection of stories written by me and the people around me. The UCSC has been a defining chapter in my life. It gave me brothers and sisters, it gave me a deeper relationship with God, and it's the place where my best friend said she would marry me. The UCSC and Starkville Church of Christ will always hold a special place in my heart, and I will always be thankful for the impact they have had on my life.



SPRING RETREAT

This year's congregational spring retreat was hosted at Kamp Kumbaya in Eupora, MS. The UCSC students were able to spend the weekend fellowshiping with each other and with members of the congregation. Over the weekend we studied "The Prayers of Jesus." This uplifting topic led to some insightful devotionals by members of the congregation and great conversation in various breakout groups.

In addition to time in devotion, discussion, and prayer together, we also enjoyed some well-cooked meals and several fun activities. The activities included canoeing, fishing, softball, basketball, sardines, s'mores roasting, singing, board games, and several others. We ended the weekend with a Sunday morning service next to the lake before cleaning up and heading home. Overall, the retreat was such a refreshing and encouraging experience and we always look forward to the next one!





Katie Crum

ALUMNI REFLECTION

As I reflect on my time at the UCSC, I find it very difficult to sum up my thoughts into a few sentences. The UCSC was more than an organization I was involved in; it was a home to me during my years at Mississippi State. I knew from a very young age that I wanted to attend Mississippi State and be a part of the UCSC. Growing up, I would often ride to Starkville with my grandfather to attend State baseball games and we would always go to church on Sunday. This was my first glimpse into the UCSC. As a child, I remember thinking how cool it was that these college students got to hang out all of the time playing ping pong and board games. To sum it up, I imagined it as Bible camp all year round. But little did I know how much of an impact the UCSC would have on my life. It wasn't just a place to have fun with friends, which we definitely did that, but it was a place that shaped me into the person I am today.

The UCSC is a family, and the people are what make it so special. People who were always down for ice cream runs; people who slid down snow hills in kayaks with me; people who shared parts of their lives with me in prayer groups; people who were there when I needed a ride, and people who I simply can not imagine college without. I also loved how the church in Starkville pours into the college students. Many church members are quick to open their homes, and some of my favorite memories are in living rooms of church members or gathered around firepits. The UCSC helped me grow tremendously in my faith and knowledge of the Bible. These people showed me the love of Christ daily and were always there for me through the difficulties of college. The UCSC prepared me for life after college, and although I miss it all of the time, I will forever hold onto the memories and friendships formed there. The UCSC is truly the best group I have ever been a part of, and I will always be grateful for my time there.

A note to the current UCSC student: Cherish your time with these people. College is hard and so is the adult world. Lean into these people and allow them to fill you with an overwhelming amount of love and support. Go to the prayer groups, connect with the church members, go to the game nights, and fill your life with this place and these people. One day, I promise you will miss it so much. I pray that the UCSC will be as special to you as it is to me.





The UCSC guys retreat was March 24th-26th in Sumter County, Alabama at Starkville Church of Christ member Dean Stewart's land. The theme for the weekend was "In Case You Forgot." The devotionals for the weekend were led by students at the UCSC and discussed fundamental aspects of Christianity that may have been forgotten as we grow. In addition to the devotionals we also had a great time of singing together, as well as just a time to relax and take a break from school.

Some of the activities of the weekend included swimming, fishing, canoeing, baseball, board games, March Madness watching, and just sitting in the shade enjoying God's creation. Perhaps the most popular event of the weekend was UCSC student Thomas Rovey, with the assistance of a few others, roasting a whole hog for the group to enjoy. It was delicious!



The entire weekend was a very-needed break from school and just a fun time growing closer together as brothers in Christ.

Guys Retreat

Girls Retreat

The 2023 Girls Retreat was spent in Grant, Alabama on beautiful Lake Guntersville. The theme was "Waiting on the Lord" based on the verses in Psalm 27. Shortly after arriving on Friday night, the first lesson was presented by Gracie Holden with the theme "Waiting in Confidence".

On Saturday morning, we kicked off the day with breakfast and a fun photo scavenger hunt around the property! After the morning activities, we heard Emma Wages speak on the topic of "Where to Wait". This was followed by individual quiet time with God. We then set out for a delicious lunch at Wintzell's Oyster House.

Saturday night Connor Case shared a lesson on "When Waiting Gets Hard". After, we talked until late that night and just enjoyed each other's company. We loved spending time in the sun, sharing lots of laughs, and growing spiritually over this weekend! It was definitely a retreat to remember!



FAMILY WEEKEND 2023



Family Weekend this semester was definitely one for the books! We started off the day with a nice meal together followed by a few ice breaker activities to help everyone get to know each other. After the ice breakers, each family played against each other in Kahoot trivia featuring questions about different decades, starting with the 1960s. It was a blast! After the Kahoot game, Shane gave a short devotional thought and a few of the guys led us in singing. We concluded Family Weekend with a game of volleyball in the fellowship hall. We enjoyed getting to meet and spend time with everyone's families and we are so grateful for the opportunity we had to be all together for the weekend. Thank you so much to the families that attended and to those who could not make it, we hope to see you next year!

UCSC IMPRESSIONS:

"THE UCSC HAS DEFINITELY BEEN THE HIGHLIGHT OF MY COLLEGE EXPERIENCE. HAVING A FAMILY OF BROTHERS AND SISTERS TO LIFT ME UP AND ENCOURAGE ME THROUGHOUT THESE PAST FOUR YEARS HAS BEEN ONE OF THE GREATEST BLESSINGS"

- GRACIE HOLDEN

"I AM SO IN LOVE WITH THE UNIVERSITY CHRISTIAN STUDENT CENTER. IT'S THE BEST PLACE ON THE PLANET!" - JOSHUA EASLEY

**"WHEN I FIRST CAME TO MISSISSIPPI STATE FROM JUNIOR COLLEGE, I DID NOT KNOW MANY PEOPLE. THE UCSC HELPED ME DEVELOP SO MANY FRIENDSHIPS AND HAS MADE STARKVILLE FEEL LIKE HOME."
- RILEY ROBINSON**

SOPHOMORE SPOTLIGHT

Andrew Carlock

Major: Secondary Education in Biology

How has the UCSC impacted your spiritual life?

The UCSC has helped me to grow more as a person and as a Christian. The people here in the UCSC have shown me nothing but genuine love and support. Along with that, I've been challenged so many times to study and pray more, and ultimately it has helped me to strengthen my spiritual life.

Favorite memory from the UCSC:

My favorite memories were probably way back in Fall 2022 during the Blitz weeks. Not only were they super cool and awesome events, but it helped me to establish so many friendships here as well!

Favorite scheduled event:

The annual Guy's Retreat has been my favorite event with the UCSC. Along with having fun and getting away from the world, I was also able to grow with my fellow brothers in Christ.



RETIREMENT CELEBRATION FOR PERRY JINKERSON

On June 17th, a retirement celebration was held for Perry Jinkerson, former campus minister of the University Christian Student Center and retired minister of the Starkville Church of Christ. Around 150 people were in attendance to honor Perry's 38 years of ministry in Starkville (and 48 years in full-time ministry). Many old connections were renewed, new connections were formed, and many, many memories were shared. Steve Phillips did a great job with the welcome and introduction of speakers, and Todd Palmer, Daniel Russell, and Dustin Abbott all shared touching memories of their relationships with Perry.



The weekend was wrapped up by a presentation from Johnie Jenkins at the end of the worship assembly on Sunday, and a generous financial gift freely donated from the many friends and family of the Jinkersons was given to Perry and Sylvia to use toward a future trip that they plan to take, and in any other way that they see fit to use it in their retirement. Truly, this weekend was a blessing to Perry and Sylvia, and for all in attendance.

THANK YOU FROM PERRY AND SYLVIA JINKERSON

How can words even begin to communicate our thanks for all the love and the relationships throughout the years? And how can we possibly convey our intense appreciation for the outpouring of love which was showered upon us this past weekend, as Perry steps away from 39 years of full-time ministry in Starkville and the UCSC (48 years, including his ministry in Texas and Ireland)? We simply do not have the words, and yet . . . we're going to try, all the while knowing that our words are destined to inadequacy.

As the Holy Spirit says, "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father" (James 1:17). And so we first and foremost thank God for your love and we thank him for your faith, and we thank him for the fellowship which we share through Jesus.

And yet . . . your expressions of love and appreciation reached a new level. And we want you to know that we are truly grateful for every kindness which was shown, including the many acts of service to us which remain shrouded in anonymity. That is, you joined together to plan, to decorate, to prepare food, to serve, to clean up, to gather videos and pictures and messages, and to pray – all for us. Thank you.

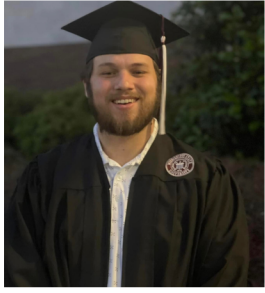
And as for the beautiful wood wall hanging, the placard with so many signatures, the cards, the Happy Trails gift set for Sylvia, and the hugely generous financial gift – we again find ourselves at a loss for sufficient words. That is, you absolutely overdid yourselves and so please know that we are immensely thankful. Stemming from your generosity, we look forward to upgrading our September trip to Europe in ways which we would not otherwise have enjoyed. Truly, your overwhelming love for us has filled our cup with overflowing joy (Ps. 23:5). Thank you.

In all this, we're reminded of the occasion when Mary anointed Jesus' head with some very expensive ointment and in appreciation, he said that she had done "a beautiful thing" for him (Matt. 26:10; Mark 14:6). In like fashion, the Starkville church in conjunction with the UCSC and its many alumni and friends have done a beautiful thing for us. And we are so extremely thankful, more so than words can say.

We look forward to continuing to serve with you and to one day going home with you. And we love you so very much,

- Perry and Sylvia Jinkerson

UCSC GRADUATES



BLAKE HULETT

Major: Petroleum Engineering
Future Plans: Get married this August and start working in Georgia or West Texas.
Favorite Verse: Proverbs 27:17



JOSIAH HAMMOND

Major: Aerospace Engineering
Future Plans: Move to Clearfield, Utah and begin my career with Northrop Grumman.
Favorite Verse: Ephesians 2:4-5



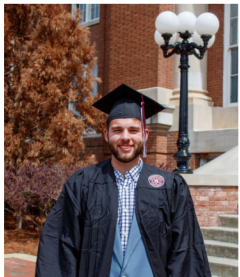
CIERA PRESLEY

Major: Building Construction Science
Future Plans: Peace Corp serving in Senegal.
Favorite Verse: Ecclesiastes 11:9-11



CONNOR CASE

Major: Secondary English Education
Future Plans: Teach 11th grade english at South Panola High School.
Favorite Verse: Psalm 91:1



MASON GIVENS

Major: Accounting
Future Plans: Attend Ole Miss School of Law.
Favorite Verse: Nahum 1:7



WILL MAY

Major: Elementary Education
Future Plans: 7th grade math teacher in Kosciusko.
Favorite Verse: 2 Corinthians 12:10



HANNAH MILLER

Major: Biochemistry
Future Plans: Working for a year and working towards applying to Medical School for the fall of 2024
Favorite Verse: Psalm 27:1



THOMAS ROVERLY

Major: Wildlife, Fisheries, and Aquaculture
Future Plans: Graduate School at UT Knoxville.
Favorite Verse: Numbers 6:24-26



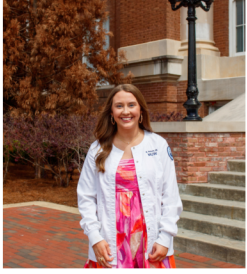
EMMA WAGES

Major: Elementary Education
Future Plans: Teach 6th grade math at Purvis Middle School
Favorite Verse: Matthew 17:20

“The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.” 2 Cor. 13:14

"I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus." Php 3:14.

UCSC GRADUATES



MARY ASHLEY NABORS

Major: Science in Nursing
Future Plans: Move to Dallas, TX and work at UT Southwestern Medical Center
Favorite Verse: Psalm 73:26



GRACIE HOLDEN

Major: Agricultural Science
Future Plans: Work as a soil conservationist for the USDA
Favorite Verse: Psalm 16:8



ZEB GREEN

Major: Agricultural Engineering, Technology, and Business
Future Plans: Work in the agricultural field.
Favorite Verse: Romans 8:31



NICOLE BREWER

Major: Wildlife, Fisheries, and Aquaculture
Future Plans: Continue my education at the MSU College of Veterinary Medicine.
Favorite Verse: 2 Corinthians 12:10



MORGAN COLE

Major: Agricultural Education
Future Plans: Agricultural Teacher at Huntingdon High School
Favorite Verse: Psalm 143:8-10



MITCHELL ETHEREDGE

Major: Landscape Architecture
Future Plans: Work as a landscape architect.
Favorite Verse: 2 Timothy 1:7



JOHN DIFFEY

Major: Electrical Engineering
Future Plans: Moving back home to Huntsville, AL to work for the Missile Defense Agency.
Favorite Verse: Romans 8:38-39



LESLIE AZWELL

Major: Wildlife, Fisheries, and Aquaculture
Future Plans: Attend grad school in the coming years
Favorite Verse: Joshua 1:9



NOLAN BINION

Major: Microbiology
Future Plans: Go to Nursing School and start travel nursing soon after.
Favorite Verse: Proverbs 4:23



CALYSIA MOORE

Major: Business Administration
Future Plans: Internship as a salary manager at Walmart.
Favorite Verse: Philippians 4:12-13

"THE LORD BLESS YOU AND KEEP YOU; THE LORD MAKE HIS FACE TO SHINE UPON YOU AND BE GRACIOUS TO YOU; THE LORD LIFT UP HIS COUNTENANCE UPON YOU AND GIVE YOU PEACE." - NUMBERS 6: 24-26

UCSC ENGAGEMENTS

One of the most incredible creations that God ever designed is the covenant of marriage. One of the most important decisions anyone can make is who they will spend their life married to. **Congratulations to all of those who are a part of the UCSC who got engaged this past year!**



**HANNAH MILLER &
AUSTIN ENOCH**



**ADAM LIBBY &
HANNAH HOLLEY**



**BLAKE HULETT &
REBEKAH FIELDS**



**LEVI GIST &
LEXI HENSON**



**MORGAN COLE &
THOMAS ROVERY**



**MASON GIVENS &
CONNOR CASE**



**CALEB BEARD &
KENZIE PRESSNELL**



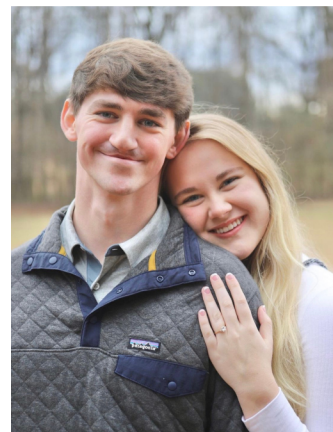
**DALTON & LILLY
MITCHELL**



**TANNER HITT &
KAITLYN
(PLUNKETT) HITT**



**WILL MAY &
MAGGIE FISCHER**



**RILEY ROBINSON &
AUTUMN GRIFFIN**



SEED GROUPS

Service

Our SEED (Service, Evangelism, Edification, Discipleship) leadership groups have grown in enthusiasm and activity. The service group did our clothing giveaway to the community, made cookies for midterms, and made cards of encouragement and notes of encouragement for the elders and ministers. The Evangelism leaders led regular tabling on campus asking to pray for students and led efforts to bring visitors in through designing and producing "I saved you a seat" cards for members to give out. The Edification group leaders did a "parents' night out" event, teen/college triathlon fellowship event, canned food collection, and sent letters for shut-ins. The discipleship group organized making sure discipleship relationships/groups formed and continued throughout the semester with fellowship and Bible study along with planning a discipleship workshop and an end of semester party.

Evangelism

Edification

Discipleship

FROM THE INTERNS:

Working with the UCSC and the members of the congregation this past year has been edifying, fun-filled, and a true honor. Within the UCSC, the congregation, and in other towns with other brothers and sisters in Christ we have all served as His hands and feet. We have seen spiritual growth in those around us and in one another. We have made memories to last a lifetime



and laughed until we couldn't anymore. All the late-night Strangebrew runs, Blitz week activities, and road trips to retreats are moments that we will all cherish forever. Most importantly, seeing our friends lead Bible studies, prayers in Prayer Groups, and become a shoulder to lean on for those around them have been our favorite parts. Our relationships formed in the UCSC have made this town feel like home and we are immensely grateful to God for the family we have found here in Starkville. Being Interns has allowed us to be involved with the UCSC and church as a whole in new ways that push us to grow as Christians - and for this we are beyond thankful. To build our faith with the ministers, elders, deacons, members of the congregation, friends in the UCSC, and with each other is such a privilege and we cannot wait to do it all again next semester! - Levi, Mason, Kellie, and Jessie

HOW YOU CAN SUPPORT THIS MINISTRY:

The University Christian Student Center is a fruitful work that is partially supported by the generosity of churches like yours and individuals such as yourself. Along with your prayers, we would love to have your financial support as well so that we may continue to expand this ministry's effectiveness on the campus of Mississippi State University and in the Starkville community. Your support would enable us to add additional staff, acquire better resources, and have a better presence online, while keeping our facilities in good shape and up to date.

Please consider donating to this effective work. If you would like to donate there are three easy ways to do that:

(1) Visit <http://starkvillechurch.org/give> and under the fund dropdown menu select UCSC and choose the frequency of your gift as one-time, monthly, or yearly. (2) You can give by check made out to Starkville Church of Christ earmarked UCSC to 613 E. Lee Blvd, Starkville, MS, 39759. (3) You can also give by Venmo to **@UCSCmsu**.

We would love to put you on our mailing list or email list to receive our free twice-yearly newsletter "The UCSC Update." The newsletter gives a look into some of the things we do every semester. Text (662) 251-6017 or email ministershane@gmail.com your address or email address and request to receive our newsletter via email or regular mail.

Also, if you are in a profession that has available internships, co-ops, or shadowing for current students, please email Shane Meredith, as we are compiling a list for students to get involved with UCSC alumni and supporters in this way.



TO DONATE,
SCAN THIS QR CODE!

CONTACT US

Phone

(662) 323-1499

Website

starkvillechurch.org/ucsc

Address

613 E. Lee Blvd
Starkville, MS 39759

Social Media

Instagram

@ucsc_msu

Facebook

@ucscmsu

MINISTER TEAM:

CAMPUS MINISTER

Shane Meredith
(662) 251-6017
ministershane@gmail.com

CONGREGATIONAL MINISTER

Wesley Thompson
(662) 312-0972
wesnat1@yahoo.com

INTERIM YOUTH MINISTER

Justin Easley
(662) 418-5698
jeasley15@yahoo.com

UCSC INTERN TEAM

Mason Givens
(662) 719-3616
mtg221@msstate.edu

Levi Dial
(256) 366-0186
ird177@msstate.edu

Kellie Williams
(256) 566-7320
kaw773@msstate.edu

Jessie Green
(256) 614-9692
jeg526@msstate.edu

