

# SERMON NOTES

## Protect the Mission

**Acts 6:1-7; I Timothy 3:8-13**

The church advances through the Word of God and is protected by the servants of God.

Division distracts from the \_\_\_\_\_ (Acts 6:1-2).

A deacon preserves \_\_\_\_\_ (Acts 6:3-7).

A deacon's character must be \_\_\_\_\_ (I Timothy 3:8-12).

"Biblical deacons are shock absorbers in the church- they absorb the pressures and stresses so the ministry of the Word can continue unhindered."

~ A. Strauch

### Sunday Morning Bible Studies

#### Nursery

Birth through K5 - Downstairs

#### Children

1st-5th Grades - Upstairs Children's Area

#### Youth - Jane Simpson

6th-12th Grades - Upstairs Youth Area

#### The Bridge - Brian Harris

Singles & Married Couples - Upstairs Classroom

#### Connections Class - Jeff Mace

Adults - Downstairs Classroom



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PCBC Family Wi-Fi password: *BeingJesus*

Sunday Bible Study 9:30 AM

Worship Service 10:30 AM

Wednesday Bible Study & Prayer Service 6:30 PM

Wednesday Night Dinner 5:30 PM

(1st Wednesday of each month except January, June, & July)



## PROTECT THE MISSION



MARCH 1, 2026

# WELCOME

Welcome to Pebble Creek Baptist Church. We are thankful that you have chosen to worship the Lord with us today. May we glorify Him together!

If you are a first-time guest, please complete the guest card found in the pew rack and place in the offering plate.

## TODAY AT PEBBLE CREEK

*Hymn Of Heaven*

Welcome

*I Speak Jesus*

### Protect the Mission

Acts 6:1-7; I Timothy 3:8-13  
B.J. Simpson, Pastor

*Worthy Of It All*

Offertory Scripture & Prayer  
Offertory

Deacon Ordination

Deacon Introduction & Fellowship in the  
Fellowship Hall

# PEBBLE CREEK NEWS

## Women's Ministry Announcements

### Hope of Heaven Tour

**Friday · March 20 · 7:00 p.m.**

Join us at First Baptist Spartanburg for the Hope of Heaven tour, featuring Kelly Minter and Jennifer Rothschild on her final speaking tour. We have a limited number of pre-purchased tickets available for \$55 per person. The church will be providing two passenger vans for our group to travel together.

### Devoted- Spring Bible Study

**Tuesdays · March 31- May ? · 10:00 - 11:30 a.m.**

From Eve in Genesis to Eunice in 2 Timothy, Scripture highlights women whose lives reflect the faithfulness and love of God. In Devoted: 30 Days with Women of the Bible, a 6-session study from Lifeway Women, we will explore the stories of more than thirty women whose faith continues to inspire generations. Their lives remind us that we are created in God's image and each have a meaningful part in His story of redemption.

## Children's Ministry

### March OCC Collection

This month, we are collecting personal care items for Operation Christmas Child, including deodorant, washcloths, and reusable feminine hygiene products. For more information or to shop our OCC Amazon Wishlist, please visit the OCC page on our website.

### Egg-citing Easter Celebration

**Saturday · March 28**

Easter is almost here, and so is our first ever children's Easter celebration at Pebble Creek. We are still needing pre filled Easter eggs with candy or small toys. They can be placed in the OCC buckets. There is a sign-up list at the Children's Ministry check in table. We will need volunteers for the egg hunt, craft table, and more. Take a look and see where you can help!

## Missions Opportunity

### Church Yard Sale: Missions Fundraiser

**Saturday · April 25**

Due to the success of last year's yard sale, we are excited to make this an annual spring event. Proceeds from items donated to the church will support upcoming church ministry initiatives. Please begin setting aside items to donate now. Donations may be placed in the upstairs classroom. If you need assistance moving items please contact the church office. Just like last year, you may reserve a parking space to host your own yard sale and keep your proceeds, or you may donate items to the church for us to sell, with those proceeds benefiting our ministry efforts.

# THIS WEEK AT PEBBLE CREEK

March 1- March 7

## Sunday, February 22

- 9:30 AM Bible Study for All Ages
- 10:30 AM Worship Service
- 11:40 AM Membership Meeting
- 11:40 AM Deacon Introduction Fellowship

## Wednesday, February 25

- 5:30 PM Fellowship Meal:  
**Menu: Baked Potato & Salad Bar**  
**Kids Menu: Corn Dogs**
- 6:30 PM Bible Study & Prayer Time
- 6:30 PM PCBC Kidz
- 6:30 PM Youth Group

## Mark Your Calendars

**March 28:** Easter Egg Hunt

**April 25:** Church Yard Sale

**June 7-11:** Vacation Bible School

# GIVING

February-to-Date Actual	\$43,017
February-to-Date Budget	\$45,984
Year To Date Actual	\$66,009
Year To Date Budget	\$91,968



# Deacon Ordination Service



**And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who hath enabled me, for  
that he counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry...**

**1 Timothy 1:12**

March 1, 2026



## Jeff Mace

Jeff is a native of Greenville and has been blessed to be married to Cindy for 45 years. They have one daughter, Emily, a son in law named Brandon, and two grandsons, Noelan, 17, and Benjamin, 4. He came to know Christ after Cindy invited him to church at Pebble Creek, where Reverend Earl Case and the church family welcomed a lost young man exactly as he was and included him in a life he had never known. Realizing he was a believer but not yet a Christian, he accepted Christ at Pebble Creek in 1980. He desires to serve as a deacon because he needs his church family, and serving allows him to grow closer to them and share in both his times of need and theirs. He is encouraged by the openness and honesty of the church family, the younger generation of leaders who bring new ideas and energy, the Women's Ministry and the tangible way they minister, the solid spiritual teaching from the Bible each Sunday and Wednesday, the opportunity to study God's Word in Sunday School, the youth and children's programs and the chance to impact them, and by knowing that Pebble Creek is relevant to the community and makes a difference. His favorite verse is Romans 8:28, "All things work together for the good of those who love the Lord and are called to His service." This verse reminds him that even when life brings unexpected trials, when dreams do not unfold as planned, God is sovereign, still loves His people, uses their circumstances, and walks with them in all things.



## Brad Driggers

Brad was raised in a loving Christian home by his parents, Jim and Ruth, and is deeply grateful for the way they faithfully involved him in church and church activities at Leawood Baptist Church. That strong spiritual foundation shaped his faith and led him to accept the Lord as his Savior at eleven years old. He met his wife, Courtney, as a teenager in the youth group at Piedmont Park Baptist Church when he was sixteen, and they have now been married for twenty three years. They have one son, Jake, who will graduate from Erskine College this May. After visiting Pebble Creek Baptist Church for several years, Brad and Courtney became members shortly after BJ became pastor. From the beginning, the church has felt like home to them. They are grateful for the love and support shown by the members and consider it an honor and privilege to serve as a deacon at Pebble Creek. Brad loves the church and its congregation and is thankful to be part of what God is doing as the body grows together in Christ. Among his favorite verses are Psalm 101:1, "I will sing of your love and justice; to you, Lord, I will sing praise," which reflects his love for music as a meaningful way to worship God and proclaim His mercy, and Philippians 4:13, "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me," a reminder that no matter the circumstance or difficulty, strength and contentment are found in Christ.



## **Bill Norman**

Bill was blessed to be born into a Christian family and grew up as an only child surrounded by the love of two faithful and God-fearing parents. His spiritual foundation was strengthened by both of his grandfathers, who were preachers. He remembers that one never went anywhere without wearing a tie, even while fishing, because he always wanted to be ready and at his best if the Lord came calling. At nine, Bill accepted Christ as his Savior and at fourteen he was baptized by his grandfather at Central Baptist Church, a moment that became especially meaningful as he realized he was following the example of Jesus. His father served as a deacon for as long as he can remember, faithfully serving God, the pastor, and church members, and consistently witnessing through the life he lived, an example Bill deeply desires to follow as he views the call to serve as a deacon as both humbling and sacred. From the moment Bill and his wife, Debbie, first walked into Pebble Creek Baptist Church, they sensed they had found a new home, welcomed by friendly and inviting members and moved by a strong awareness of the Lord's presence and the faithful teaching of God's Word. Though it is difficult for him to choose a single favorite verse, John 3:16 holds special meaning as the foundation of salvation and a reminder of God's great love in giving His only Son so that believers may receive eternal life, and Psalm 118:24, often quoted each Sunday morning by a former Sunday School teacher, continues to encourage him to rejoice daily in the goodness of the Lord and the gift of each new day.



## **Tommy Lanford Sr.**

Tommy was raised in a Christian home where both his parents and grandparents were very active in their Local church. At eight years of age he asked Jesus Christ to come into his heart and was baptized on December 9, 1959. He and his wife, DeLynn, have one son, Tommy Jr., a daughter-in-law, Brittany, and a grandson, Nault. They joined Pebble Creek Baptist Church on Father's Day, June 21, 2019. Though there were only a handful of people present at the time, they immediately felt at home and have not looked back. He is especially grateful for a church home where he and his family can continue to grow in the knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ. Tommy takes his role as a deacon very seriously and enjoys serving his pastor and helping in any way he can. In addition to serving as a deacon, he faithfully serves as the church sexton, helping maintain and repair the church facilities. He uses this talent not only to care for the building, but also as a way to minister to church members who are in need of help. Over the years, he has learned to lean on the promises of God found in Scripture during times of trial. Verses such as Philippians 4:13 and Psalm 23:4 remind him that Christ strengthens, walks with, and comforts His people through every season of life.



## Dennis Hardwick

Dennis was blessed to be born into a Christian family. His father was a Southern Baptist pastor, and his mother faithfully supported her

husband's ministry. He grew up in church, learning about Jesus through Sunday School, Bible School, RA's, and by observing the witness and service of his parents. At a young age, he accepted Jesus Christ as his Lord and Savior and was baptized by his father in the Little Pee Dee River in Dillon County, South Carolina. He affirms that he is saved by the shed blood, death, and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ. Throughout his life, Dennis has continued growing in his faith through reading and studying God's Holy Word and through the love and guidance of his parents. Though there were seasons when he was not as close to Christ as he should have been, by the Lord's grace, mercy, and forgiveness, he always returned. About three and a half years ago, Dennis and his wife, Cynthia, began visiting different churches, and when they came to Pebble Creek, they were warmly welcomed by genuine Christian fellowship and sensed the presence of the Holy Spirit in the service. Dennis loves the fellowship of the church and is grateful that God's Word is faithfully taught and preached. After several visits, they rededicated their lives to Christ and became members in November 2022. Among his favorite verses are John 8:12, which reminds believers that Christ is the light of the world who leads them out of darkness, and 2 Timothy 2:15, which calls believers to diligently study and rightly handle the Word of truth.



## David Ratenski

David was blessed to grow up in a Christian home where faith was consistently modeled through patience, perseverance, and prayer.

The steady example of his parents helped shape his understanding of Christ from an early age and laid a strong spiritual foundation that continues to guide him today. He and his wife, Kathy, are blessed with two children, Shawn and Jessica, as well as three grandchildren and three great grandchildren. His testimony is both long and deeply meaningful. At a young age, he accepted the idea of Christ as his Savior, and years later he rededicated his life to Him. Though he cannot point to an exact time or place when the Holy Spirit moved in his heart, he came to truly know Christ and to understand his own unworthiness to be called His brother, humbled by the reality that the Father would sacrifice His Son on his behalf. David has been a member of Pebble Creek for four years and has grown to love the fellowship he has found there. He desires to serve as a deacon because of his deep love for the church family and the fellowship they share. He is especially encouraged by the care and love that are so openly expressed within the congregation. His favorite verse in this season of life is Psalm 46:10, "Be still, and know that I am God," a reminder of how difficult it can be to be still and fully trust, yet a call to rest in the sovereignty and presence of God.



## Todd Florence

Todd was born and raised in Bardstown, Kentucky, and grew up at Bardstown Baptist Church, where he accepted Christ in 1983 during a

revival service led by guest speaker Dr. Ernest Carswell. Five years later, his family moved to Greenville, South Carolina, and began attending Taylors First Baptist Church, where Dr. Carswell was serving as senior pastor. His parents were deeply involved in church life, and he especially admired his father's leadership as a deacon. He met his wife, Jana, at the age of 22 while they were in college, and they were married in 2002. They have two daughters, Sara Kate, 21, and Juliana, 19. In 2019, Todd and Jana visited several churches before coming to Pebble Creek, where they quickly felt at home and became members shortly thereafter. They love the strong sense of family within the church and the meaningful friendships they have formed, often remarking to one another as they leave each Sunday how much they love their church family. Todd is truly humbled to serve as a deacon and is excited about what God has in store for the church. His favorite verses include Proverbs 3:5 and 6, "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make straight your path," which continually reminds him to rely fully on the Lord rather than his own instincts, and Psalm 121:7 and 8, "The Lord will keep you from all harm; He will watch over your life; the Lord will watch over your coming and going both now and forevermore," a comforting promise that God faithfully watches over his loved ones.



## Johnny Cash

Johnny was raised in a strong Christian home where perseverance, patience, and much prayer were foundational. His parents' constant

unwavering faith continues to inspire him and his family. He grew up in a small Southern Baptist church near here, where he and Susan were married almost forty-nine years ago. Together they worked hard, raised two daughters, and sought to instill in them the same values they had been taught. They are deeply thankful that their daughters are now raising their grandchildren in Christian homes. Like everyone, Johnny has experienced the ups and downs of life. He has stumbled, failed, and disappointed those he loves, yet God has remained faithful to him. He recognizes that his faith, family, and friends are gifts he does not deserve and could never repay, but because Jesus gave His life for him, he does not have to. He accepted Christ in July of 1965 as an imperfect child and now serves as an imperfect man serving a perfect God, confident that it was the greatest decision of his life. Though he considers himself unworthy to serve as a deacon, he is honored to do so. He and Susan joined Pebble Creek in 2019, and what they have found is not a perfect church filled with perfect people, but a loving church filled with people they love and one on which God's hand clearly rests. His life verse, John 16:33, "I have told you these things, so that in Me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world," continually reminds him that although trouble will come, true peace is found in Christ, who has overcome the world.