



## • CHURCH PLANTING IN THE NC TRIANGLE AREA

CHRIST CENTRAL CHURCH  
MIDTOWN COMMUNITY CHURCH  
TRINITY PARK CHURCH

## • DISASTER RESPONSE IN SOUTH CAROLINA





## Christ Central Church: Durham NC



Christ Central Church Pastor Daniel Mason.

Six years ago, pastors Daniel Mason and Timothy Price felt God stirring their hearts to start a church in the Durham NC area. “I fell in love with Durham during a week of community missions in the downtown area. It’s a place with rich history and a strong African American community,” said Daniel. “Timothy and I, along with our wives Stacy and Rachel, began praying with the presbytery about a downtown church that would reflect the city’s diversity and its progress.”

“In Durham, wealth and poverty, young and old, black, white, and Latino all live in close proximity to one another. Our hope is to be a church ‘in the city and for the city,’” Timothy explains. “Our goal is to serve by ‘neighboring,’ trusting God that we will be good neighbors wherever He places us, praying that the people of the city will be loved and embraced by Christ Central people at every contact.”

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~Timothy Price, Christ Central Church

“Some have moved their businesses downtown. Some who lead in their professional fields serve among those on the margins. Some have hired others who were unemployed,” said Daniel. “Our church body includes many kinds of people, from those who were homeless and jobless to Ivy Leaguers.”

Christ Central meets in the historic Hayti Center. “The Hayti community was a black-owned business district in the 1940s to 1960s. It was self-sustaining and welcoming and a refuge during the civil rights era. We want to be a neighbor in the Hayti community,” said Daniel.



Christ Central Church Pastor Timothy Price, 2nd from the right.

“Jobs for Life training has helped our members serve the community well, and we plan to use Faith and Finance to help understand personal finances better,” said Daniel. “We had a men’s group last year that focused on emotional and spiritual health, seeing more than 30 men talk about shame, sadness, guilt, and how Christ meets them in that.”



Christ Central Church congregation.

Many dechurched and unchurched people have begun to find community inside Christ Central Church, and many lifelong church participants have found new life breathed into themselves through serving here.”

Daniel concludes: “From the beginning, we’ve planned to be a church plant who plants community focused churches. Because of the makeup of Durham, that means they will be multiethnic and will include various socioeconomic classes from around the city and beyond. The mission is exciting. If we aren’t growing, we will burn out. Our hope is that Christ Central will still bring Christ to this city in 100 years. So we plod slowly and faithfully and with vision and passion to see the Gospel advance today in this place.”



The American Tobacco Campus now serves as a major entertainment center in downtown Durham.



*“When you are broken and need help, it’s hard to find a safe place. At Midtown, we’ve tried to change that. We’ve put a huge focus on community in our church. Everything is based on community – evangelism, discipleship, worship, mercy. Community is the context where people come alive individually and corporately.”*

~Lindsey Williams, Midtown Community Church

## Midtown Community Church: Raleigh NC



Midtown Community Church Pastor  
Lindsey Williams, 2nd from the right.

When Lindsey Williams began Midtown Community Church in Raleigh NC in 2009, his desire was to create a place where young professionals could be a part of a community filled with authentic relationships. “When you are broken and need help, it’s hard to find a safe place. At Midtown, we’ve tried to change that. We’ve put a huge focus on community in our church. Everything is based on community – evangelism, discipleship, worship, mercy. Community is the context where people come alive individually and corporately.”

The importance of community came to life for Williams, a Raleigh native, during his time in Charlotte, where he attended seminary and began his career in ministry. “I began to spend time with other pastors

and churches with a heart for the Great Commission, the local church, and church planting as a tangible and biblical means of living out the Great Commission. I was around wonderful people who had a desire to connect the Gospel to people who had no understanding of the Gospel. Being around pastors who knew the value of church planting was a compelling example to me.”

Lindsey and his wife Kara believed God was calling them to move back to Raleigh to start a new work there. “Raleigh is a rapidly growing city that needs an authentic church presence among the growing population of young professionals. Midtown has become a wonderful place to connect and provides a place of worship for this particular underserved population.”

With his heart for church planting, Lindsey looks forward to Midtown planting churches.



Midtown Community Church congregation.



Downtown Raleigh.

Since many are new to the Christian faith, they can identify well with those who are dechurched or unchurched. “Midtown organized with her own elders in leadership in 2015. As we build up a healthy spiritual infrastructure, we trust God that Midtown will give birth to new churches who advance the Gospel.

“Since Midtown included people of great faith and people wrestling with skepticism from the beginning, God gave us a community where it is safe to wrestle with matters of faith or to not to have it all together. This is a safe place for honest, open, and authentic exploration of the Christian faith, and as a result, we are seeing people come to faith in Christ.”



## Trinity Park Church: Morrisville NC



Trinity Park Pastor Corey Jackson.

Nearly six years ago Corey Jackson led 16 families in worship at Morrisville Elementary School in Morrisville NC, and Trinity Park Church was underway. Today, 65 families from 25+ distinct cultures call Trinity Park their church home. Corey had previously served in Chongqing, China, a city of 34 million people, among the least evangelized cities in the world. When returning from overseas, he felt God's call to plant a church that would engage the new America, with all its diversity, preaching the Gospel to every heart.

The Research Triangle is a region anchored by North Carolina State University, Duke University, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and the cities of Raleigh, Durham, Cary and Chapel Hill. Corey and his wife Olivia felt God calling them to this region, and the Morrisville area stood out because of its ethnic diversity and rapid growth.

Trinity Park includes members who are from Japan, Korea, China, Vietnam, Thailand, Australia, India, Iran, Germany, Moldova, Ukraine, Great Britain, Canada, Italy, Costa Rica, and Haiti. "We all naturally want to hang around people who are like us, but the Gospel changes that. Jesus calls the majority culture to take a posture of cultural humility. And He calls those from minority cultures not just to find other people who share in their language and values but to join the greater church with Christ-centered hope and faith," said Corey.

"In addition to offering ESL classes, a Good Neighbor team with World Relief, including more than 30 adults, serves the community. Our team is led by two refugees originally from Vietnam and Moldova who immigrated 20-40 years ago. They help set up apartments and serve newcomers in practical ways, such as getting doctors, jobs, papers, etc. We emphasize that loving our neighbors is having the courage to walk across the street and meet people different from you. It's a Gospel imperative to love all of your neighbors; it's not a Gospel suggestion.

"Last year we had two household baptisms. An African American mother joined the church by profession of faith and her two boys were baptized. A Chinese mother joined the church by profession of faith. She was baptized, along with her two

daughters. We had eight kids in our last communicants class from seven different nations—Vietnam, China, Taiwan, Ukraine, Moldova, India, and the United States.

"Our hope is to start a church planting incubator in the fall of 2017 so that we can begin sending out planters in 2018 or 2019 to build on what God has started here." Corey emphasizes that the foundation and strength of Trinity Park is Christ Himself, not the church's diversity. "The Gospel, a very applied Gospel, is the drawing card. Diversity is the byproduct – the mission is to preach the Gospel. One of the first families in our church was a Chinese family. What drew them to our church was that their children would hear the Gospel and might know the grace of God."



Trinity Park congregation.

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~Corey Jackson, Trinity Park Church



## Disaster Response in South Carolina



Clint Stockton, Pastor of Andrews PCA in Andrews SC, surveys his flooded community; many homes were completely submerged.

When historic flooding ravaged South Carolina in October 2015, the homes of more than 50 PCA families were affected, a greater number than any previous natural disaster. In addition, the meeting place of the ironically named Watershed Fellowship Church, a PCA mission church, was completely destroyed. A river runs beside the old historic mill building where the church meets. A man-made dam gave way, and the building was flooded, along with many of the neighboring businesses.

The volunteer help was strong. “Over the first 100 days we had 3,000 volunteers, many unaffiliated with the PCA,” said MNA Disaster Response Director Arklie Hooten. “Watershed’s pastor Kevin Thumpston is very involved in the community, and an outpouring of people came to help.”

MNA Disaster Response set up four work sites in South Carolina: at the PCA

churches in Andrews, Kingstree, Sumter, and Cornerstone PCA in Columbia. PCA members in the greater Columbia area, which includes at least 15 PCA congregations, mobilized hundreds of their members to join in the restoration of their communities.

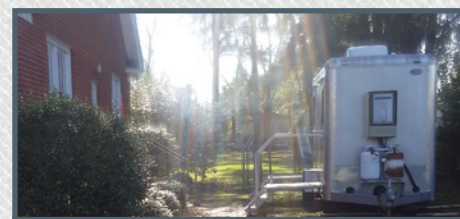
“Andrews PCA was the church community most heavily affected,” said Arklie. “One member in his eighties lost everything. PCA first responders were on site as soon as the water receded, gutted his house down to the block walls, and put in all new sheet rock, insulation, and heat and air conditioning units.”

Arklie attributes the rapid response in South Carolina to the planning in place before disaster struck. “The presbytery had a disaster response structure in place with strong leadership, so the response was swift and effective. There were coordinators already identified at each church and a communication system was already in place.



Kevin Thumpston, Pastor of Watershed Fellowship Mission PCA, coordinates volunteers rebuilding Watershed’s sanctuary.

“Central Florida Presbytery, Palmetto Presbytery, and First Presbyterian of Stanley NC all had shower trailers ready to send, and Cornerstone had a youth facility with showers ready to host volunteers. If you think a warm cleanup shower is necessary at home, it is even more needed at the work site. While other denominations were still scrambling to set up work sites, our sites were ready to host volunteers.”



Central Florida Presbytery’s Volunteer Shower Trailer, seen here onsite at Andrews PCA in Andrews SC, is one of three shower units deployed to support MNA Disaster Response relief operations in South Carolina.

Donations given to MNA Disaster Response aided the community as well. “MNA channeled financial gifts to PCA families identified by local church Diaconates as being in need,” said Arklie.

There is still much to be done after the initial cleanup. Skilled volunteers – electricians, plumbers, floorers – are needed into summer. Arklie adds, “There is a biblical order in the way we respond. We get our family, the local PCA congregations, on their feet first. This builds a strong, stable force to go out together to help the rest of the community.”

MNA serves PCA churches and presbyteries as they advance God’s Kingdom in North America by planting, growing, and multiplying biblically healthy churches through the development of intentional evangelism and outreach ministries. For a list of MNA staff, visit our website at [www.pcamna.org](http://www.pcamna.org). Material in *Multiply* may be reproduced with permission. Address comments to: Fred Marsh, Managing Editor. Writing and design provided by Big Bridge, Asheville, NC ([thebigbridge.com](http://thebigbridge.com)). *Multiply* is published by MNA. [Follow us on Facebook at facebook.com/pcamna](https://www.facebook.com/pcamna) and on Twitter at [twitter.com/pcamna](https://twitter.com/pcamna)

1700 North Brown Rd. • Suite 101 • Lawrenceville, GA 30043 • P: 678.825.1200 • F: 678.825.1201 • [mna@pcanet.org](mailto:mna@pcanet.org) • [www.pcamna.org](http://www.pcamna.org)



Mission to North America  
Presbyterian Church in America

1700 N. Brown Road, Suite 101

Lawrenceville GA 30043

T: 678.825.1200 • F: 678.825.1201

[www.pcamna.org](http://www.pcamna.org)

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## INSIDE MULTIPLY SPRING 2016

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## From the Coordinator

*"All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.  
Go therefore and make disciples of all nations..." -Matthew 28:18-19*



Dear Friend,

It has been my joy over the past 17 years to serve the PCA as MNA Coordinator. Our commitment as a ministry has been to serve the Church to advance God's Kingdom. We have done that by serving churches and presbyteries as they plant new churches, and by developing new

outreach ministries such as MNA Disaster Response, Refugee and Immigrant Ministry, MNA Special Needs Ministries, and Metanoia Prison Ministries.

The Kingdom advances through our obedience to the Great Commission of our Lord. As a young pastor, at the founding of our denomination, I chose to commit my ministry to such a vision. I am thankful to the Lord that He has given me many opportunities over

the years to fulfill my heart's desire in the local church, in a church plant, and now most recently in serving as the MNA Coordinator.

At the spring 2015 MNA Committee meeting, I announced my desire to transition from serving as MNA Coordinator. Concluding a search over the past year, the MNA Committee plans to present a new Coordinator nominee for election at this coming General Assembly, meeting in Mobile AL in June.

I personally want to thank each of you reading this transition note for your prayers, commitment to MNA ministries, and generous financial support. And as you pray for the advancement of the Kingdom, please remember to pray for Linda and me as we heed God's next call on our lives in "obedience to the Great Commission."

In His Name,  
Jim Bland, MNA Coordinator