

ARKANSAS STATE



**ALUMNI & FRIENDS NEWSLETTER 2024**

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**BAPTIST COLLEGIATE MINISTRY**  
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**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**



*"The BCM empowered me to grow in my faith...*



*...I've learned to share the gospel...*



*...to do mission work...*



*...and to lead others to Christ."*

**- Taylor, Junior from Paragould, AR**

# Campus Minister's Update

Dear Alumni & Friends,

I just completed my fifth year as the Campus Minister here and I am happy to share that God is at work at Arkansas State and at the BCM! We have seen more students involved this year than in any previous year since I have been here. We have seen more students going (38 on spring break missions and 27 serving over the summer), leading (43 on leadership team, 49 applied), and attending worship (101 average in the fall). We've also seen several students surrender to the ministry, six students baptized in their Jonesboro church, and several more trust Jesus as their Savior for the first time this year. The campus enrollment is up at Astate and the students we encounter are hungry for Jesus and a great community. We are eager to meet those needs.



*Tyler Hoffpauir*

We aim to provide a fun, Christ-centered community, but it's not all fun and games. Having a facility on campus and being available every day is impactful. There are serious spiritual matters that we get the opportunity to address. Just in my office this year I have been able to see God do some incredible things. The first week of school I had a freshman come in and ask how they could be baptized. A day later another freshman shared that they needed help to overcome their pornography addiction. One of my favorite memories this year happened when one of our Bible study leaders asked me to meet with a guy in their group because he had questions about Christianity. I was able to answer his questions and lead him to faith. A few months later a student surrendered to ministry, and another shared with me how their community at BCM had given them a reason to continue on in life and played a large part in them not committing suicide. What we do here matters.

In June, I was able to attend the Southern Baptist Convention Annual Meeting in Indianapolis where I worked our national collegiate ministry booth. We had people of all ages from across the country stop by and say, "I was saved at BSU," "I was called to ministry at BCM," "I met my spouse there," or "BCM changed my life." It was so encouraging to hear these stories, and I want you to know that it is our mission to continue that legacy. We want every student to encounter Jesus in a life-changing way that helps them live on mission and become the next leader of their local church.

We are only able to continue our ministry because of you. If BCM impacted you in a special or significant way would you consider giving? As we reach more students we need more funds to minister, host great events, and share with more students about Jesus. You can be a part of that at [Astatebcm.com/give](http://Astatebcm.com/give).

Tyler Hoffpauir  
Campus Minister



# Life Updates & Student Quotes

## — 1950s —

### **Darrell Williamson**

Lives in Jonesboro, AR & attends Walnut Street Baptist Church.

### **Lance Hanshaw**

Lance remembers his time at the BSU, with Carol Smelly as the director, as a very important time in his life. "Carol was a wonderful mentor, friend & leader for the students there. We truly were a union for Christ & the BSU had an impactful influence on my life."

## — 1980s —

### **Kim (Clark) Winger**

Kim is grateful for what ASU BCM meant to her. She now has a son attending the Naval Academy and he loves the BCM there.



*Our Students Enjoying Dinner Before Worship!*

## — 1990s —

### **Trent Broussard**

Trent is the new Dean of Music at William's Baptist University.

### **Danny Griffin**

Danny is still working for the University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture as a County Extension Agent in Van Buren County & just completed his 28th year. His wife teaches school in Clinton. He is pastoring a small country church outside of Clinton, Corinth Baptist, and this November they will celebrate 150 years.

### **Todd Rouse**

Todd was selected as the Region 8 News Teacher of the Month for December 2023. He was nominated by some of his students at Valley View Junior High. Todd teaches English and Language Arts; he has been teaching for 14 years. Way to go Todd!

“

**Being able to go worship with my friends every Monday night is a truly amazing experience that I can't explain.**

*Emily, Freshman from Clinton*

## — 2000s —

### **Jace & Missy Tubbs**

In December, Jace completed his Doctor of Ministry degree with an emphasis in Discipleship from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. Congratulations!

### **George and Haila Hill**

George graduated in June 2023 from the College of International Security Affairs at the National Defense University with a Master of Arts of Strategic Security Studies.

### **Dr. Donald Schmidt**

Dr. Schmidt: is senior pastor at Lakeland Baptist Church in Lewisville, TX. He and his wife, Melody, have been there since 2014, and they have 3 children.

### **Lorenzo Balderas**

Lorenzo was named Teacher of the Year at Annie Camp Junior High for the 2023-2024 school year. Great job!

### **Brandon DeGroat**

Brandon was promoted by Cross Bank in Wynne to the position of Jonesboro community bank president.

### **Ben and Linsey (Bullock) Neiser**

The Neisers are transitioning back to Jonesboro later this summer to help their teenage girls have a better overall environment and experience for spiritual development. They have served college students and planted a church over the past 10 years in Provo, Utah.

### **Corley (Madden) Shumaker**

Corley is working as a PACE Enrollment Coordinator at Central Baptist College in Conway.

### **Shauna Baker**

Shauna and her husband welcomed their 3rd child this past year. Best wishes to the growing family!

“

**BCM has given me the desire to grow closer to God and read my Bible more consistently.**

*Nathan, Junior from Drasco, AR*

## — 2010s —

### **Matt Whitworth**

Matt and his wife welcomed their 3rd child, Killian, this year. Killian joins his big brother and sister.

### **Patrick & Courtney (Wentworth) Ryan**

Patrick and Courtney welcomed a beautiful baby girl, Nora Rose, on January 4. Congratulations to the new family of 3!

### **John Mark and Caitlin Pierce**

The Pierces are still happily living in Benton, AR. John Mark is in sales around the Central AR area and Caitlin has the privilege of staying home with the kids. This year they welcomed our 3rd baby, Abigail Ruth into the world on July 12th. Adalyne Rose is 7 and Theodore is 5 starting Kindergarten in the fall. JM is still attending Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth online and preaching within the Central Baptist Association in our area. They are faithful members of FBC Benton and in the free time they have enjoyed camping across this great state!

“

**BCM events have helped me become more comfortable sharing my faith with those around me.**

*Seth, Junior from Arkadelphia, AR*

### **Jana (Minnick) Smith**

Jana and her husband, Justin, welcomed their first child, Nathaniel, this May.

### **Blake and Bryanna (McClanahan) Irvin**

Blake and Bryanna have experienced tons of changes in the last year. After being displaced after their home was damaged in the March 31, 2023 tornado that came through Wynne, AR, they were finally able to return to their repaired home in May 2024. They have remained an open foster home with a current placement of a 12 year old girl and are still “Mom” and “Dad” to their 19 year old foster daughter, Kaley. They were honored to be nominated as Foster Parents of the Year and received the inaugural “Perseverance Award” given at the statewide DCFS annual foster parent banquet. Bryanna is still working as a Champion for Connected Foster Care and Adoptions, a branch of Arkansas Baptist Children and Family Ministries (ABCFM). She took on an additional role with ABCFM at the first of the year as the QBHP Trainer with Living Well Counseling. Blake is still working as an Arkansas State Police Trooper. They joyfully welcomed their third son, Elliott Brooks Irvin on June 10, 2024.



*Caleb Andrews, Allie Jones, & Cade Bennett Leading Our Monday Night Worship*

### **Stephen and Alex (Sanders) Henry**

Stephen and Alex are currently living in Beaumont, TX. Stephen has been the youth pastor for almost 2 years. Our church family has been such a blessing in doing life together. Alex has been working for a non-profit clinic that has been going through financial hardship but it appears to be on the mend.

### **Katie (Studebaker) Conatser**

Katie got married last year, congratulations!

### **Tyler & Jordan Tollett**

Tyler and Jordan welcomed their baby girl, Anna Beth, into the world on November 9, 2023. Congratulations to the new parents!

### **Chad Logan**

Completed his Doctorate of Ministry with an emphasis in Church Revitalization at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in 2023. Great job!

### **Mark and Leah Parsley**

Mark has been on staff at Mount Carmel Baptist Church in Cabot since June of 2019. In early 2024, he transitioned from Student Ministry to Worship Pastor.



*BCM Students Packing Lunches for Displaced Refugees During Our 2024 Mission Trip to Chicago.*

# Life Updates & Student Quotes

— 2020s —

## John Paul Helberg

JP moved to the University of North Dakota to be an Account Executive for the Ticket Sales Team. In January, he was awarded employee of the month as a first year employee. He is thankful to God for his success and the journey put before him.

## Bryce & Katelyn (Ratley) Paxson

Bryce and Katelyn are moving to Little Rock to pursue their careers with Arkansas Baptist Children and Families Ministries. Katelyn is a Mental Health Therapist, and Bryce is the Assistant Director of Communications. They are excited for the possibilities the Lord has given them.

## Tyler & Jessica (Vaughn) Marston

Tyler & Jessie have settled in Dexter, MO. Tyler is the Media Director for First Baptist Church Dexter and Jessie just finished her first year teaching 7th Grade English at Terry W Kitchen Junior High in Cape Girardeau, MO. They are excited to see how God continues to use them while in Dexter!



*Nathan Berry, Freshman, Conducting Spiritual Surveys On Campus*

## Josh & Kinley (Larmoyeux) Ray

Joshua, and Kinley are celebrating 1 1/2 years of marriage. Joshua is beginning a new position as a middle school science teacher, and Kinley is about to begin graduate school to get her Master's in Education with a focus in behavior analysis.

## Michael Buck

Michael accepted a position as a video editor at KATV in Little Rock. In April of this year he received employee of the month and also won an Edward R. Murrow award.

## Abby Moore

After graduating, Abby was accepted into Oklahoma State University's Veterinarian program to continue her pursuit of receiving a Doctorate of Veterinary Medicine.



*Seth & Emelia Checking in Students Before Worship*

## Jordan & Caitlyn (White) Moore

Jordan and Caitlyn are moving to Cape Girardeau this coming winter to pursue Jordan's new position as a church communications director.

## Martez & Jodi (Waters) Broner

Jodi is a Student Success Coach with an adult education program called NexStep Alliance and Martez is a Supply Chain Specialist at Koch Industries. They have the most perfect pup, Mack, and will be celebrating 2 years of marriage this summer!

“

**I was worried when I had left my past church that I would struggle finding a church or organization that I would fit into. There was no need to worry, because God sent me to the BCM**

*Guy, Junior from Cotter, AR*

## Wade Simpson

Wade just got married to his wife, Karina. They are moving to New Orleans so that Wade can pursue his Masters in Missiology at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, and to work at the LSU BCM.



*Students Taking Notes During A Message.*

# Summer Missionaries

## INTERNATIONAL



**Reagan Bingaman**  
Bryant, AR -  
Nehemiah Teams, Philipines



**Seth Campbell**  
Arkadelphia, AR -  
Nehemiah Teams, Nepal



**Bekah Jones**  
Austin, AR -  
Spain



**Gage Massey**  
White Hall, AR -  
Nehemiah Teams, Philipines



**Austin Sweat**  
Batesville, AR -  
Uganda



**Colby Thompson**  
Conway, AR -  
Uganda

## NATIONAL



**Addy Ellenburg**  
Southaven, MS -  
GenSend, Washington D.C.



**Emily Hunt**  
Cabot, AR -  
GenSend, San Francisco



**Caraline Leblanc**  
Malden, MO -  
Camp McLanhan



**Elizabeth Walton**  
Brookland, AR -  
FUGE Camps

## LOCAL



**Caleb Andrews**  
Jonesboro, AR -  
Camp Beaverfork



**Jacob Botwinick**  
Shewood, AR -  
Lonoke Baptist Intern



**Luke Caldwell**  
Conway, AR -  
Spring Lake Camp



**Taylor Coffel**  
Paragould, AR -  
Camp Siloam



**Jarrett Coleman**  
Cabot, AR -  
Super Summer AR



**Cody Cox**  
Memphis, TN -  
Super Summer AR



**Keifer Cox**  
Memphis, TN -  
Super Summer AR



**Jacob Doonan**  
Bryant, AR -  
Spring Lake Summer Camp



**Alli Futrell**  
Mountain View, AR -  
Lonoke Baptist Intern



**Raven Harris**  
Warren, AR -  
Camp Siloam



**Keely McClellan**  
Conway, AR -  
Super Summer AR



**Gabe Morris**  
Jonesboro, AR -  
Super Summer AR



**Joseph Nuhung**  
Jonesboro, AR -  
Camp Beaver Fork



**Emily Pilkington**  
Clinton, AR -  
Camp Aldersgate



**Abigail Scott**  
Jonesboro, AR -  
Super Summer AR



**Caiden Sisson**  
Bald Knob, AR -  
Super Summer AR



**Jalene Tolbert**  
Russellville, AR -  
Camp Siloam



**Mia Young**  
Glenwood, AR -  
Camp Siloam

# Gifts To Our Ministry

Generous contributions from individuals are what sustain our ministry! Last year, 45% of our annual budget came from personal donations, which enable the BCM to host various events, programs, and speakers. These funds also help our students attend conferences, retreats, and mission trips, as well as hire and pay our staff members. The alumni and friends mentioned below have either made a one-time donation or contribute on a monthly and/or yearly basis.

We are deeply thankful for your support!

Kelley Alford	Francisco & Merceditas Felizco	Jamie Pounders
Rodney Bacigalupo	Brooke Flewelling	Christopher Qualls
Paul Ballard	Glynn Fulmer	Bruce Raley
Stacy Bottoms	Alli Futrell	Mary Allen Ray
Amber Boyd	Rita Gambill	Susan Richey
Virginia Brennan	Charles & Jeanie Gibson	Will Roach
Michael Broadway	Anthony & Lindsey Gilberto	Sarah Rodgers
Brad & Nathalia Burleson	Brad & Dianne Greene	Kristy Russell
Kristen Buynar	Marie Hall	Patrick & Courtney Ryan
Lane Carruth	Jake & Christen Hayes	Chris Sanders
Nancy Chlapecka	Wesley Heidelberg	Scott & Sarah Saunders
Judy Covington	John Paul Helberg	Bridget Schaub
Kevin & Shaila Creekmore	Celia Henary	Jacob & Holly Schimmel
Bryah Currie	Kyle Johnson	Kevin & Pamela Sigsby
Terri Davidson	Sandra Johnston	Rodney Stovall
Brian & Mandy Davidson	Amber Jones	Jacob Thompson
Katherine Dawson	David & Sara LaGore	Starla Toddy
Susanne Decker	Mary Lamb	Amber Vaden
Sandra DeMent	Martha McFarlin	Josh Waters
Arliss & Sue Dickerson	Kevin & Kim McGaughey	Darrell Williamson
Johnny & Jannie Distretti	Paul McKinney	Kaily Wood
Janice Dyer	Andra Metcalf	Larry & June Wright
Cheryl Fallis	CJ Miller	Jane Yahoda
Lillie Fears	Casey Pearce	

## Memorial & Honorary Gifts

Doyle Burke in memory of Carol Burns Smelley	Lance Hanshaw in memory of Frank Huckaba
Lance Hanshaw in memory of Carol Burns Smelley	George Sims in honor of Arliss Dickerson
George Sims in memory of Carol Burns Smelley	G. Thomas Leach in honor of Arliss & Sue Dickerson

## Legacy Gifts

Over the past few years we have been blessed by a few gifts that alumni and friends have left to the BCM through their estate or their retirement benefits. If you would like to consider adding the BCM to your will then please contact us. We will consult together with the Arkansas Baptist Foundation which helps us in these matters. Our office phone is 870-932-7241.





# Ministry Updates

## Staff Updates

### Tyler Hoffpaur

Tyler has been our lead campus minister for 5 years. Jana is a professor of education at Williams Baptist and John E is 2. Tyler should complete his Doctor of Ministry degree in December.

### Casey (Distretti) Davis

Casey has been our part-time ministry assistant for 13 years. She is an extremely valuable part of our team as she coordinates finances, shops for food and supplies for events, and supervises our building and our building caretaker.

### Reagan Bingaman

Reagan will be our full-time Associate Campus Minister this year. She will focus on outreach, discipleship, and leadership development of women. She will also supervise our outreach, B3 discipleship, and Family Group teams this year. Reagan graduated from Arkansas State in May. She was our BCM President in 2023 and worked part-time for us this spring. She is currently in Southeast Asia serving with the IMB for the summer. Reagan is able to work full-time this year by living in the old caretaker apartment and because we have received a one-time transfer of funds from the Arkansas Baptist State Convention to help us with staff. We are hoping to retain her and this position for next year. You can give at [astatebcm.com/give](http://astatebcm.com/give) in order to make sure this important position continues.

### Cameron Cobb

Cameron is in his second year with BCM as a part-time campus minister. He supervises our media and worship ministries and helps us develop leaders in those areas. Cameron is also the part-time youth minister at Highland Drive Baptist Church. Cameron is from Warren and graduated from Arkansas State in 2023. He created this newsletter, so thank you Cameron!



Our BCM Staff, from left to right: Reagan Bingaman, Tyler Hoffpaur, Casey Davis, and Cameron Cobb

## Building Updates

We continue to try to steward the great resource of our BCM Center that was completed in 2001. In 2019 we gave the BCM a facelift by repainting the entire building and reflooring several areas including the chapel. This summer we are doing several minor renovations to the BCM:

- Building a permanent wall in the Indian room to have two usable Bible study spaces
- Removing some shelving from the backpack room and reflooring the space to make it a larger room for Bible study groups
- Replacing the 20-year-old air conditioning unit in the downstairs apartment
- Resurfacing the stairs and reinforcing the railing
- Building a sturdier and more permanent stage in the chapel

We believe these improvements will go a long way in helping us minister to students, having the staff we need to minister to them, and improving safety. If you would like to give to help make these building projects happen you can do that at [www.astatebcm.com/give](http://www.astatebcm.com/give).

## Ways To Give

1. You can send a check, payable to the BCM to PO Box 730 State University, AR 72467. Include a note if you want your funds to be used in a specific manner.
2. Give online! Go to our website, [www.astatebcm.com/give](http://www.astatebcm.com/give). Click "Give Now!", and you will be redirected to our AState Giving Portal through the Arkansas Baptist State Convention.
3. You can come by in person to make a donation via check or card. Our physical address is 115 N Caraway, Jonesboro AR 72401.

# Prayer Calendar

## **Aug Collegiate Week**

**4-8** Our National Baptist Collegiate Student Camp with over 1,500 students from across North America!

## **Aug Sorority Move In**

**13** We will host all the Sorority Potential New Members for dessert that night. We are also providing water bottles for them at their houses every day during rush. Pray for them as they go through recruitment and pray for us as we try to connect and minister to them.

## **Aug Serve Team Training**

**13-15** We have over 40 students coming in early for a few days of preparation. Pray for us as we cast vision, encourage, and challenge students to reach their friends.

## **Aug International Student Welcome Party**

**15** In partnership with Word Baptist Church, we will have food and lawn games in front of the student union. Last year we had over 150 international students come by. Pray that we are able to build meaningful connections!

## **Aug Freshman Move-In**

**17** Pray for our leadership students and local churches who will be helping freshmen move in to the dorms and welcoming them to Jonesboro.

## **Aug Move-In Day Lawn Party**

**17** Pray for our first event with new students with food and games outside that night.

## **Aug First Sunday Church Service**

**18** Pray for our local churches around Jonesboro as they will be welcoming and connecting with students.

## **Aug Freshlife (Formerly Freshman Survival)**

**19** Pray for us as we connect with freshmen, challenge them to walk in faith, and introduce them to the ministries in Jonesboro.

## **Aug First Free Dinner & Worship Service**

**19** Pray for our first large group service with worship, teaching, and groups.

## **Aug Pickleball & Pizza**

**20** We are partnering with Nettleton Baptist Church for this fun outreach event in the Red Wolf Center. Pray we connect with many new students.

## **Aug First Church College Service**

**21** Pray for our local churches who will be having their first meetings with college students.

## **Aug First BCM FreshNite**

**22** Pray for our weekly freshmen night where we interview a college pastor on a practical topic and then break students into groups for a challenge like trivia or volleyball.

## **Aug Student Organization & Community Fair**

**28** Pray for our weekly freshmen night where we interview a college pastor on a practical topic and then break students into groups for a challenge like trivia or volleyball.

## **Aug Order of the Pack**

**29** This is the launch of the Naked Guys at our annual school pep rally. We have students get involved every year on this night because they are looking for an outlet for school spirit!

## **Sep Fall Retreat**

**6-7** We will have our overnight retreat at Mt. Zion Camp before the second home football game! Pray this is a time of focus and challenge for these students. Many will stay connected with us for the next 4 years because of this retreat.

## **Sep International Student Friendship Families**

**20** Friendship Families are host families from churches in the Jonesboro area who commit to meet with an international student once per month and contact them weekly.



# Homecoming Drop-In

We're excited to invite you back to campus for the 2024 Alumni Homecoming Drop-In! Join us to reconnect with old friends, share memories, and enjoy refreshments. Check back on our facebook for more details as the date approaches. See you there!

2pm-4pm Saturday, October 5th, 2024

ARKANSAS STATE RED WOLVES v. SOUTH ALABAMA JAGUARS



*Thank You*  
**For Supporting Our Ministry**



# How You Can Help

## I.P.T.A.M.

Join many of our alumni in the I.P.T.A.M. (I Pay Twenty-Five A Month) challenge and help make a difference! By giving up just one specialty coffee a week, you can contribute \$25 per month to support our vital programs. Your donation will help fund events like FreshLife (survival), retreat speakers, assistant staff salaries, and facilities upkeep.

## Life Updates

If you would like to submit a life update, send it to us via mail, email ([asubcm@gmail.com](mailto:asubcm@gmail.com)), or through our website ([astatebcm.com/update](http://astatebcm.com/update)).

## E-Newsletter

If you would like to receive this newsletter via email, let us know through email or our website!