

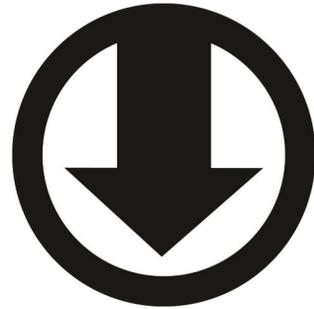
Ownership



**How to
Become an
Owner at
The Bridge**



Ownership



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The Bridge



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Ownership Class

Benefits of Becoming an Owner

The Bridge is a place where you can belong before you believe. We love you no matter where you've been because it isn't as important as where you're going. If we have committed our lives to Christ, we are His sons and daughters, and we have been adopted into His family. We inherited The Bridge as it is because those before us committed and sacrificed. As sons and daughters in the family business, you have the opportunity to build upon this legacy for the generations to follow. Members have rights while owners have responsibility. Becoming an owner, as an alternative to a regular attender, is making that commitment so The Bridge continues to be a place where people can belong before they believe.



But when the set time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those under the law, that we might receive adoption to sonship. Because you are his sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, "Abba, Father." So you are no longer a slave, but God's child; and since you are his child, God has made you also an heir. - Galatians 4:4-7

Where Are We Going? Why?

OUR VISION: Giving Life by Giving Christ

Apart from Christ, there is no life. As a local church and as individual believers within that church, we present Christ, share Christ, teach Christ, and demonstrate the love of Christ to our world. To give Christ is to give life!

In addition to the overarching vision and mission of The Bridge (we'll discuss our mission later in the class), God has placed the following vision in our hearts.

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The Bridge is the vision of a community of people...

Who come from every walk of life and background.

Who have a spirit of being producers in the Kingdom of God and not just consumers.

Who provide a hospital for the hurting.

Who share the Good News of Jesus Christ with the thousands of unchurched residents.

Whose vision extends beyond its own reach, both locally and abroad.

Who are part of a movement making an eternal difference in through the power and inspiration of the Holy Spirit.

Who are giving life by giving Christ.

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What's What?

LOCATIONS

The Bridge is one church with many locations: Goldsboro, Mount Olive, Princeton, Smithfield, and Jalacte, Belize.

HISTORY

The beginnings of The Bridge were very humble. A revival meeting set in a brush arbor in 1918 inspired the decision to organize a church for the area. J.W. Wellons and D. J. Little worked together with eight charter members and formed a church. They purchased a half-acre of land for \$50, erected a 40' by 28' building on that site and called itself Whitley Holiness Church, acknowledging the nearby railroad siding and crossing, Whitley Station.

In 1922, Whitley Holiness Church joined the Pentecostal Holiness Conference, changing its name to Whitley Mission. Renamed again in 1924, it was called Whitley Pentecostal Holiness Church until January 2012 when it changed to The Bridge, standardizing the name between the multi-sites.

Highlights:

- Commencing with the revival meeting in 1918, the church met together twice a month.
- In 1953, Brother Ralston Butler and his wife, Winnie, came to serve as the part time pastor of the church. His role transitioned to full time with the completion of the parsonage in 1954, enabling the church to meet weekly.
- In 1961, Whitley Pentecostal Holiness Church moved closer to Highway 70 and built a new sanctuary. The old facility continued to be used for Sunday school classes.
- In 1990, Pastor Ferrell Hardison and his wife, Millie, came to serve as the pastor of the church, serving a congregation of 69 people.
- In 1995, after a robust capital campaign, the church built a larger facility at the current location on Whitley Church Road taking steps toward reaching the goal of 500 people by 2000.
- On November 10, 2007, fulfilling the vision to reach Goldsboro, a second campus named The Bridge Goldsboro was launched and Whitley Pentecostal Holiness Church became a true multi-site church, serving 700 people through four weekly services.
- Bursting at the seams, in October 2011, The Bridge broke ground on its new worship center, including a 1,200-seat auditorium, a coffee shop, a resource center, media production center, a conference room, and various meeting spaces.
- In January 2012, Whitley Pentecostal Holiness Church changed its name to The Bridge to unite the two campuses and set the standard for future additional campuses.

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Highlights cont.:

- On October 28, 2012, The Bridge held its first service in the new auditorium with 1,670 in attendance.
- The original worship auditorium was renovated into the kid-friendly Bridge Kids Auditorium, holding the first service in the space on September 8, 2013.
- In 2013, The Bridge Jalacte was established in Belize. The Bridge committed to sending a team to Belize each year for fellowship and discipleship.
- Recognizing the need for a committed Sunday congregation and in response to demand, The Bridge Goldsboro held its first Sunday morning service in February 2014.
- On October 9, 2016, The Bridge Mount Olive launched as a portable church on the campus of the University of Mount Olive, and The Bridge commenced offering five weekend services between three campuses for the first time in our history.
- In June 2017, Pastor Jim Wall and his wife, Kim, came to serve as the pastor of the church, serving a congregation of 1,541 people.
- On January 1, 2020, Awakening Church in Smithfield, NC merged with The Bridge. Pastor Allen Peacock, his wife, Misty, and the congregation were welcomed to the Bridge family.

The Bridge remains committed to its original vision, to be a safe place for people to come and investigate a relationship with God through Jesus Christ, and to be a healthy place for Christians to grow in their spiritual journey. We believe that God will do more than we can ask or dream...the future looks exciting from here!

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Who Can be an Owner?

OWNERS

Ownership is offered to those who are living out Jesus' great commission. Owners have accepted salvation and publicly declared their commitment to Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior by baptism. Owners have committed to be involved in biblical community and serve His church with their time, talents, and treasure.

OUR MISSION: *Belong, Commit, Grow, Serve*

- Belong** To provide a sense of belonging to the broken and the seeking.
- Commit** To call people to give their lives fully to Jesus Christ and His will.
- Grow** To lead people to ever deepening levels of spiritual maturity.
- Serve** To demonstrate the love of Jesus by generously giving resources, time and talents.

BELONG

The Bridge is a place where people can belong before they believe. Just as Jesus Christ sought to spend time with and speak truth to the lost, the broken, the hungry and the hurting, The Bridge seeks to be where people can encounter Jesus Christ in a real, meaningful, life changing way.

Will you help others to BELONG?

COMMIT

At The Bridge, we're all about Jesus' great commission:



Therefore go and make disciples of all nations... - Matthew 28:19

To walk out that commission, we're called to commit to Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior and to publicly declare that commitment through water baptism.

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Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.
– ROMANS 6:3-4

_____ is a priority.



Baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit
- Matthew 28:19

We are united in the _____ of Baptism.

We Believe:

- Baptism is the outward expression of an inward change.
- Baptism is not salvation. It is a powerful symbol of salvation.
- Baptism is our first act of obedience as a believer.
- Baptism shows that we identify with Jesus as our Savior.
- Baptism shows that we identify with this family.
- All of us share this in common: One family
- We are all alike, united in Christ. He breaks down every barrier.
- Baptism shows the difference between those **passionate** for the commission and those **passive** towards the commission.

We are united in Baptisms _____.



Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptized by John. But John tried to deter him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?" Jesus replied, "Let it be so now; it is proper for us to do this to fulfill all righteousness." Then John consented. **As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water.** At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and lighting on him. And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased." - **Matthew 3:13-17**

Baptism by _____ is required for ownership at The Bridge.

Will you COMMIT to Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior and publicly declare this decision through water baptism?

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GROW

Growing in your faith and your walk with Jesus Christ is important at The Bridge! We don't care where you've been, but we care where you're going. And you can't get there alone.



So in Christ we who many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others.
– Romans 12:5



They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone was filled with awe, and many wonders and miraculous signs were done by the apostles. All the believers were together and had everything in common. Selling their possessions and goods, they gave to anyone as he had need. Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved. – Acts 2:42-47



Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body, and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us draw near to God with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.
– Hebrews 10:19-25

Growing as an owner at The Bridge means you'll be involved in the biblical communities of The Bridge — attending services weekly, being part of a Bridge Group or a serving team (or both!), and attending events of interest.

- Worship Experiences (Sundays)
- Bridge Groups
- Serving Teams

Will you choose to GROW through these opportunities?

Ownership Class

SERVE

At The Bridge, SERVING is the result of choosing to _____ to Jesus Christ and to _____ in your walk with Him.



Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be slave of all. For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many. – Mark 10:43-45



It was He who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up. – Ephesians 4:11-12

There are many opportunities to _____ at The Bridge and in the community:

Guest Services

Volunteers know that first impressions make a huge impact. These teams are made up of individuals who love creating welcoming environments for every guest at The Bridge.

- Parking Lot
- Greeters
- Guest Guides
- Connect Center
- Coffee Shop
- Ushers
- Bookstore
- Emergency Response

Bridge Kids

Bridge Kids volunteers are passionate to see children experience Jesus on their level, serving infant through fifth grade, in safe, age-appropriate environments where the Bible is taught in a creative and relevant way.

- Registration
- Infant Nursery (Birth - 1 year)
- Toddler Nursery (1-2 years)
- Preschool (3-5 years)
- Kids Church (K-5th grade)
- Kids Church Worship
- Champions (Special Needs)

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Bridge Students

Bridge Students volunteers have a heart to see high school and middle school students grow and fall in love with Jesus daily through teaching, environments, and worship that is relevant to their world.

- Check-in/Greeter
- VIP
- Snack Shack
- Chaperones (set-up crew & security)
- Small Group Leaders
- Band
- Media

Connect

Care volunteers serve in a wide variety of areas including Next Steps, Bridge Groups, Follow Up, Prayer and Care.

- Bridge Group Home Provider or Leader
- Mentor/Counseling Team
- Prayer Team

Outreach & Missions

Outreach and Missions volunteers embody “being the hands and feet of Jesus” as they serve in our surrounding communities, our country, and our world.

- Soup Kitchen
- American Red Cross
- Community events
- Prisons
- Seymour Johnson Air Force Base
- Kentucky Missions Team
- Belize Missions Team

Creative & Technical Arts

Creative and Technical Arts volunteers use their skills to keep The Bridge on the cutting edge. From graphics, worship, choir, drama, creative environments, operating cameras and sound, to trouble shooting computer issues, this team helps make the weekend experience excellent!

- Media Team
- Worship
- Band
- Choir
- Creative Team
- IT Team

Ownership Class

Serve with your Resources

Giving is an act of service and worship. We believe that God is the giver of all that we have, so we give back to Him as an act of worship with gratitude in our hearts. We give our time, talents, and treasure to be used by Him for His glory. When you give, you are not giving to a church, an organization, or the church staff; you are giving to God. He has blessed us to bless others. He only asks that we give back a portion of what He has entrusted to us.

Tithing

Fact: I can't _____ God.



Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this," says the Lord Almighty, "and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it. – Malachi 3:10

As an owner of The Bridge, I will commit to _____ God with my _____.



Honor the Lord with your wealth, the firstfruits of all your crops; then your barns will be filled to overflowing, and your vats will brim over with new wine. – Proverbs 3:9-10

AN OWNER'S COMMITMENT

Owners of The Bridge make these five commitments:

- **Salvation:** Commit to Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior
- **Baptism:** Commit to declaring your salvation through water baptism
- **Service:** Commit to volunteering on a serve team
- **Tithe:** Commit to tithing to The Bridge
- **Invest & Invite:** Commit to investing in others and inviting them to belong

Appendix

CORE VALUES

BOLD FAITH

We value bold faith and believe that following God involves intentional acts of courage and that selflessly giving of oneself is necessary to advance His Kingdom in the world. (Acts 2:42-47)

LOVING GOD

We value loving God and believe that consistently engaging in a variety of personal and corporate worship experiences is the ultimate expression of love for every believer and church. (Mark 12:30)

BIBLICAL AUTHORITY

We value biblical authority and believe that the Bible serves as the ultimate source of truth and is the guide to faith and life because it is inspired by God, it is truth without error. (2 Timothy 3:16-17)

CULTURAL RELEVANCE

We value cultural relevance and believe that Christ followers must clearly communicate the never-changing truth of God to an ever-changing world in order to reach spiritually lost people with the message of Jesus Christ. (1 Corinthians 14:16-17)

AUTHENTIC RELATIONSHIPS

We value authentic relationships and believe that an honest and loving community is essential for personal development and the advancement of the Kingdom. (1 John 3:16)

LIFE CHANGE

We value life change and believe that God cares about every area of our lives, and wants to bring change through consistent prayer and study His Word. (Ephesians 4:14-16)

ESSENTIAL BELIEFS

The Bridge is built on a core set of what we call _____. These are the beliefs in which we have unity and on which we base our fundamental decisions.

GOD

God is the Creator and Ruler of the universe. He has eternally existed in three personalities: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. These three are coequal and are one God. (Genesis 1:1,26,27,3:22; Psalm 90:2; Matthew 28:19; 1 Peter 1:2; and 2 Corinthians 13:14)

JESUS CHRIST

Jesus Christ is the Son of God. He is coequal with the Father and Holy Spirit. Jesus lived a sinless human life and offered Himself as the perfect sacrifice for the sins of all people by dying on a cross. He arose from the dead after three days to demonstrate His power over sin and death. He ascended to Heaven and will return again someday to earth to reign as King. (Matthew 1:22,23; Isaiah 9:6; John 1:15, 14:1-30; Hebrews 4:14-15; 1 Corinthians 15:3-4; Romans 1:3-4; Romans 1:3-4; Acts 1:9-11; 1 Timothy 6:14-15; Titus 2:13)

Appendix

THE HOLY SPIRIT

The Holy Spirit is coequal with the Father and the Son of God. He is present in the world to make men aware of their need for Jesus Christ. He also lives in every Christian from the moment of salvation. He provides the Christian with power for living, understanding of spiritual truth, and guidance in doing what is right. He gives every believer spiritual gifts when they are saved. As Christians we seek to live under His control daily. (Acts 1:8; 2 Corinthians 3:17; John 16:7-13, 14:16-17; Galatians 5:25; 1 Corinthians 2:12, 3:16; Ephesians 1:13, 5:18)

THE BIBLE

The Bible is God's Word to us. It was written by human authors, under the supernatural guidance of the Holy Spirit. It is the supreme source of truth for Christian beliefs about living. Because it is inspired by God, it is truth without error. (2 Timothy 3:16, 1:13; 2 Peter 1:20-21; Psalm 119:105&160, 12:6; Proverbs 30:5)

HUMAN BEINGS

People are made in the spiritual image of God, to be like Him in character. People are the supreme object of God's creation. Although every person has tremendous potential for good, all of us are marred by an attitude of disobedience toward God called "sin". Sin separates us from God and causes many problems in our life. (Genesis 1:27; Psalm 8:3-6; Isaiah 53:6a; Romans 3:23; Isaiah 59:1-2)

SALVATION

Salvation is God's free gift to us but we must accept it. We can never make up for our sin by self-improvement or good works. Only by trusting in Jesus Christ as God's offer of forgiveness can anyone be saved from sin's penalty. When we turn from our self-ruled life and turn to Jesus in faith we are saved. Eternal life begins the moment one receives Jesus Christ into his life by faith. (Romans 6:23; Ephesians 2:8-9; John 14:6, 1:2; Titus 3:5; Galatians 3:26; Romans 5:1, 10:9-10)

ETERNITY

People were created to exist forever. We will either exist eternally separated from God by sin or eternally with God through forgiveness and salvation. To be eternally separated from God is hell. To be eternally in union with Him is eternal life in Heaven. Heaven and hell are real places of eternal existence. (John 3:16, 14:17; Romans 6:23, 8:17-18; Revelation 20:15; 1 Corinthians 2:7-9)

IN ADDITION TO ESSENTIAL BELIEFS, WE UPHOLD THE FOLLOWING:

In **Non-Essential Beliefs**, we have liberty. *We accept him/her whose faith is weak. We do not pass judgment on disputable matters. Who are we to judge someone else's servant? To his own master he stands or falls. So then each of us will give an account of himself to God. So whatever you believe about these things keep between yourself and God.*

In all our beliefs, we show **charity**. Paul taught the church at Corinth, *"If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but have not love, I am nothing."* (Romans 14:1,4,12,22; 1 Corinthians 13:2)

Appendix

WHO'S WHO?

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

The Bridge is one church with many locations: Princeton, Goldsboro, Mount Olive, Smithfield, and Jalacte, Belize.

We are a staff-led church with spiritual and financial accountability provided by two lay teams. Elders ensure our spiritual health, and the financial stewardship team ensures our financial health. Each location has a senior leadership team that leads the day-to-day ministry. The Bridge Jalacte uses a different structure that is keeping with their culture and context.

The Bridge Executive Leadership Team is made up of the senior pastor, executive pastor, and the lead pastor for each location.



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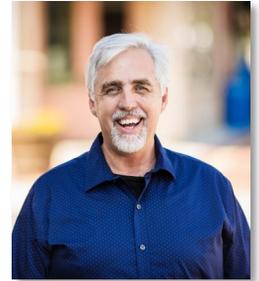
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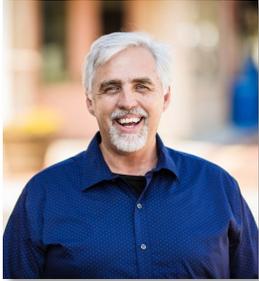
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