



MT. BETHEL UMC
COMPASSION INTO ACTION

OPPORTUNITY PROFILE

for the position of

SENIOR PASTOR

APRIL 2015

OVERVIEW

Mt. Bethel United Methodist Church has left an imprint of grace and friendship on Atlanta, Georgia as they live their mission statement of “Compassion into action through the power and presence of Jesus Christ so that our community and our world will be transformed.” They are known throughout the entire United Methodist Church as a congregation deeply dedicated to both Grace and Truth. Over the years, thousands have come to experience the power and presence of Jesus Christ through the ministry of the people of Mt. Bethel. This year, 2015, will be the 175th year of Mt. Bethel’s life as a community of faith, and it promises to be the most exciting season in this church’s history.

Described as “the friendliest big church you’ll ever visit,” the Mt. Bethel family is ever reaching out to embrace new people and needs in the community and around the world. The next Senior Pastor of Mt. Bethel will have the opportunity to continue the mission of *compassion into action* and lead a great organization to the next level of Kingdom effectiveness. We believe that God will speak through the church leadership and guide the selection of a new Senior Pastor for Mt. Bethel UMC.

The church currently reports regular attendance averaging just over 3,100 and a membership of nearly 9,700. The current annual budget is \$10.3 million.



MT. BETHEL

A leader among United Methodist churches, Mt. Bethel provides spiritual growth opportunities for people of all ages:

- *Numerous international and domestic mission trips and countless community projects with thousands of participants.*
- *Recreation and fitness (4,000+ participate annually).*
- *Life Groups and Sunday classes (1,000 regularly participate).*
- *Weekly children and student activities and programs throughout the year.*
- *Day Care, Preschool, and Academy (totalling over 1,000).*

WHAT MT. BETHEL BELIEVES

Mt. Bethel UMC believes in God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit; faith in the mystery of salvation through Jesus Christ; and celebration of the sacraments (Baptism and Communion). According to the foundational statement of beliefs in the Book of Discipline, United Methodists share basic affirmations in common with all Christian communities. *Go to www.umc.org to read the full statement.*

MT. BETHEL’S MISSION

“Compassion into action through the power and presence of Jesus Christ so that our Community and our World will be transformed.”

Mt. Bethel’s mission is to be a Christ-centered culture which draws people toward an intimate relationship with Jesus Christ, transforming them into disciples who are full of the Holy Spirit, resulting in the overflowing of God’s love through purity of heart, compassion to the needy, service to the world, sacrifice of self, and the sharing of His message to all people.

WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Mt. Bethel currently provides a wide variety of worship opportunities each weekend, desiring to engage diverse sets of people in worship that is relevant to each. The Senior Pastor is the primary preacher in the two Sunday morning services that meet in the main Sanctuary. Additionally, Mt. Bethel has several other outstanding associate ministers who lead distinctive worship communities each Sunday.

Mt. Bethel's main campus is located on 44 breathtaking acres of land in the area known as East Cobb County in the northwestern suburbs of Atlanta. The facilities offer opportunities for recreation, fellowship, and worship. Four services are held there each Sunday.

TRADITIONAL WORSHIP SERVICE

In the traditional Sanctuary service, the pastors are robed, the predominant musical accompaniment is the church pipe organ, and a robed choir sings the anthem. The order of worship typically includes a greeting, United Methodist hymns, children's message, scripture readings, silent prayer and meditation, the Lord's Prayer, offering, sermon, and closing prayer. The Senior Pastor generally gives an inspirational message, often without notes using scripture, real life stories, and Bible application. An earlier alternative traditional service, officiated by an associate minister, is in the chapel and offers United Methodist hymns, scripture readings, silent prayer and meditation, the Lord's Prayer, sermon, and closing prayer.

BLENDED WORSHIP SERVICE

The blended service has a traditional style worship service with a mix of music that may include hymns, gospel songs, worship choruses, special music, and various interpretations of old and new music. Although the order of worship is the same as the traditional service, the atmosphere is more casual.

CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP SERVICE

In this service, held in Fellowship Hall, there is a worship band that plays contemporary music followed by a message by one of the associate ministers. There may be additional components such as video or other visuals to enhance the worship time or the message.



ADDITIONAL WORSHIP SITES FOR THE MT. BETHEL FAMILY:

St. Philip UMC, 2400 Favor Road, Marietta, GA 30060. Led by a Mt. Bethel associate minister, this service is a casual worship service environment with dynamic contemporary music. The Sunday service is one action-packed hour from 11am to 12noon. A hot breakfast is served from 9:30am to 10:45am.



Mt. Bethel North Campus, 2509 Post Oak Tritt Road, Marietta, GA 30062. Led by a Mt. Bethel associate minister, the worship style at this campus is one of renewal worship, which includes modern songs but also some of the traditional elements of worship, such as the Lord's Prayer and the Apostles Creed, in a relaxed and inviting family atmosphere. This new campus will make a great impact on this community and the world as the Gospel of Jesus is spread.

A FEW OF THE MANY CHURCH MINISTRIES

Mt. Bethel has literally hundreds of ways for parishioners, from infants to the elderly, to get involved in the life of the church. Families can connect with the Mt. Bethel community seven days a week. From the bustling recreation ministry that brings thousands through the church athletic fields to the well run Children and Student ministries, Mt. Bethel has something for everyone.



Throughout the year, thousands of Mt. Bethel members go beyond the church walls to serve in the community. Currently, Mt. Bethel partners with over 30 community mission organizations.

The power and presence of Jesus Christ was felt in a new and powerful way during a bitter cold snap in December 2010 when Sr. Pastor Randy Mickler challenged the congregation to respond to the needs of the homeless in the Atlanta community by bringing them into the church facility to spend the night. This successful ministry continues today and has had a profound impact on the missions mindset of many church members.

In addition to serving locally, Mt. Bethel has established close relationships with different global ministries such as BrightPoint for Children, Deborah House-Romania, Estonia Church, Evangelism Explosion International, International Leadership Institute, Life Academy-Romania, Project 82 Kenya, and SIFAT. Each year, we have many teams who travel to different countries to serve in various ways.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Mt. Bethel UMC is a place children can come to learn about God's Word and to live and love like Jesus taught. Children are quite visible at Mt. Bethel, with over 400 in Sunday school followed by worship experiences designed specifically for different age groups. Along with the weekly services and activities for children, there are many child and family-friendly events available throughout the year. One of the most highly attended event is our summer Vacation Bible School. Every summer, our Children's Ministry hosts over 600 children, 50 rising middle school students, and 150 volunteers for a week of worship, crafts, stories, and fun! Over half of our participants are non-members, which presents a powerful opportunity to share the love of Jesus Christ to those who might not otherwise have heard the Good News.

STUDENT MINISTRY

Our Student Ministry has numerous weekly activities for both middle and high school students. In addition to various camps, retreats, and mission trips throughout the year, our Student Ministry hosts over 700 students and college leaders for one week end each year. Students from all over East Cobb come to Mt. Bethel for DNOW (Disciple Now). Throughout the weekend, the students play fun games, experience incredible worship, hear challenging messages, and serve the community. Most importantly, students have the chance to unpack what they've experienced with college leaders who have come to serve from universities throughout the Southeast.

DISCIPLELIFE

DiscipleLife is Mt. Bethel's main avenue of adult discipleship. DiscipleLife includes Life Groups, Sunday School, and Bible and Disciple studies; they are small groups of people where you find community and support. Most importantly, involvement in DiscipleLife enables participants to grow in their personal relationship with Christ. Currently, Mt. Bethel has 1,000 active participants in DiscipleLife groups.

RECREATION MINISTRY

The Recreational Ministry includes a wide variety of activities for children, students, and adults: organized team sports such as basketball, baseball, softball, flag football, volleyball, lacrosse, and soccer and group fitness programs such as yoga, Pilates, and body sculpting. The Christian Activities Center has an inside walking track, cardio equipment, a weight room, fitness classes, and an indoor climbing wall that is open to Mt. Bethel UMC members as well as the entire community. The Recreational Ministry has over 4,000 participants each year, 65% of whom are not members of Mt. Bethel. Many of these families are unchurched, and the Recreation Ministry is their first exposure to love of Jesus Christ.

CHRISTIAN PRESCHOOL, DAY CARE & ACADEMY

More than 30 years ago, Mt. Bethel began what became one of East Cobb's most respected preschools. The preschool provides children ages 16 months through five years a stimulating learning environment, while surrounding them with Christ-centered principles of grace, compassion, and love. As East Cobb and the Preschool grew, two additional needs became obvious: a Christian day care and a Christian elementary school.

In 1997, Mt. Bethel opened a Christian Day Care facility. Located one block from the main campus, the Day Care offers full-time child care, where children can learn and play in a loving, Christian environment. Mt. Bethel Christian Academy opened its doors in 1998 with two Kindergarten classes and has since grown to over 560 students (K-9th grades). Mt. Bethel Christian Academy is unique in that excellence in academics is pursued in a truly Christ-centered environment.

MUSIC AND ARTS MINISTRY

Mt. Bethel members worship with their voices, instruments, and hearts. There are musical genres to suit everyone: a 120-member Chancel Choir, praise and worship band, handbells, and 30-member orchestra.

Go to www.mtbethel.org for more information on Mt. Bethel's ministries.

ROOM FOR IMPROVEMENT**THE BIGGEST ROOM IN THE CHURCH**

Let's be honest, nobody's perfect. Every family has areas of strength and areas where they still have room to grow. Like the lines on the closet wall we use to mark our children's growth, here are a few marks where Mt. Bethel has room for growth:

ENGAGING MEMBERSHIP

While Mt. Bethel boasts a 9,700 person membership roll, weekly attendance is only 3,100+

ENGAGING THE EMERGING GENERATION

Mt. Bethel has a tremendous opportunity to reach the next generation by using technology, relationships, missional causes, and more contemporary worship forms.

ENGAGING GENEROSITY

While Mt. Bethel boasts a \$10.3 million budget, the untapped potential for sustained generosity cannot be underestimated. Future ministry potential beckons!



RETIRING SENIOR PASTOR

Randy Mickler was born and raised in Madison, Florida. He received his B.A. degree from the University of Georgia, Master of Divinity from the Candler School of Theology at Emory University, and his Doctor of Ministry from the McCormick Theological Seminary in Chicago. Randy has been in the ministry since 1972, the last 27 of those years as the Senior Pastor of Mt. Bethel.

A part of Randy's theology is that the Christian faith is more often "caught" than taught. Christian fellowship is crucial in Randy's ministry. It is his belief that the warmth of God's love is experienced in the atmosphere of genuine Christian fellowship.

Mt. Bethel has flourished with this "fellowship" concept of ministry. Today, Mt. Bethel has grown in every aspect of ministry offering fellowship and friendship opportunities to every age group.

THE POSITION

The ultimate authority of the church rests in Jesus Christ and the Word of God. The Senior Pastor will preach and teach the Word, provide pastoral care and counsel, administer the sacraments, and order the life of the church for service in mission and ministry.

THE SENIOR PASTOR IS RESPONSIBLE FOR:

- Ensuring that Jesus Christ is recognized as the head of the church.
- Being the primary "vision caster" for the church - painting a picture of a preferred future for the church family.
- Providing the primary leadership and encouragement of the church's spiritual growth.
- Serving as the primary preacher for the Sunday morning Sanctuary worship services.
- Overseeing the direction of the church's ministries.
- Administering and adhering to the provisions of the Book of Discipline.
- Embodying the teachings of Jesus in servant ministries and servant leadership.
- Representing the church to the community and beyond, as well as to other Christian ministries.

The Senior Pastor works with the Staff Parish Relations Committee which has responsibility, along with the other staff, to manage the ministry of the congregation for making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. The Senior Pastor will be involved in counseling and pastoral visits as appropriate. He may also be involved in ministerial ceremonies including marriages, baptisms, and funerals.

The Senior Pastor will play a critical role in shepherding and mentoring the clergy and staff of Mt. Bethel, but his or her primary responsibility is to be the shepherd of Mt. Bethel Church. Along with the District Superintendent (DS) and the Staff Parish Committee, the Senior Pastor will annually review the ministerial staff. Currently this includes Associate Pastors for Christian Education, Missions, Worship, Senior Adults, and Congregational Care.

The Chief Operating Officer reports to the Senior Pastor and serves as a strategic partner in handling the details of the church's day-to-day operations including: Finance, Human Resources, IT, Bookstore, Facilities, and Recreation among others.

QUALIFICATIONS

A candidate is most likely to come from a senior pastor position at a large United Methodist Church. Such a church is likely to have weekend worship attendance of 1,500 to 4,000 and most likely to have a mix of traditional and a blended (or contemporary) style of worship. The Senior Pastor should be able to minister effectively to people at all points along the theological, developmental, and social spectrum. All candidates should fulfill the biblical qualifications for church leadership (I Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:5-9) and fully support the Mt. Bethel mission statement.

KNOWLEDGE

- This person is likely to have had ten to 25 years of pastoral experience and to have worked with churches that have developed diverse and effective ministries.
- Experience in working within the United Methodist polity in their appointment, annual conference, and the general church to create a God honoring partnership for Grace and Truth.
- Knowledge of organizational behavior—particularly large churches—and how they operate.
- Has earned a four-year college degree and a Masters in Divinity Degree. An earned doctorate is preferred.

SKILLS

- An exceptional preacher, able to teach the Scriptures and apply them in the lives of their hearers in a motivating and personal manner. A communicator who can project a personal and extemporaneous style (often without notes) will most closely match the current congregational preference.
- The developed skill of organizational communication to staff and key leaders would make the next Senior Pastor exceptionally effective.
- Skill and experience in using media to enhance the listeners' connection to preaching and programs would be ideal, including blogs, podcasts, social media, music or video messaging, etc.
- The skill of mentoring and coaching leaders to become more effective in their own ministries and calling.
- An understanding and celebration of the culture of the local community would be preferred.
- The skill of balancing a high energy, others-focused ministry lifestyle with the need to nourish family, personal spirituality, and the life-long marathon of serving Jesus is essential.

ABILITIES

- The ability to convey authenticity, transparency, humility, and even brokenness, in both preaching and a daily walk.
- To be a warm and compassionate shepherd, willing and able to empathetically connect with parishioners and community members at times of transition and crisis in their lives.
- The courage of a prophet to form biblical and theological convictions and to proclaim them despite pressure to conform to cultural or political trends.
- The proven ability to lead a large-sized organization, to inspire and motivate people, and to develop and communicate the vision with a contagious enthusiasm.
- The ability to engage diverse people and groups, quickly grasping perspectives and providing relevant spiritual perspective in these contexts.
- The ability to be secure and confident in his/her own calling, to receive feedback, and to create a high functioning, collaborative team.
- To possess the passion of a lifelong learner open to change and growth while encouraging others to do the same in response to the leading of the Holy Spirit.

HISTORY

Mt. Bethel's history began in 1840 when 16 charter members organized "Bethel Methodist Episcopal Church" in eastern Cobb County. Over 175 years later, the church, now named "Mt. Bethel United Methodist Church" is still serving the Greater Atlanta area.

Mt. Bethel's first house of worship was a one-room log structure with a dirt floor. Mt. Bethel remained at its original location until the late 1870's. At that time, dedication and determination resulted in a new church at the intersection of Lower Roswell and Johnson Ferry Road. Shortly thereafter, this church building burned, but members and others in the community soon erected another one-room church on the same site. Today, this same building serves as Mt. Bethel's chapel and is used for church services, communion, weddings, and meetings.

Over the next 100 years, Mt. Bethel went through periods of growth and expansion in both their membership and buildings. With each growth phase, the campus was expanded for the increasing membership. To date, Mt. Bethel has occupied six houses of worship - four of which are still present on the main campus on Lower Roswell Road. These historic landmarks continue to add beauty and a sense of history to the Mt. Bethel experience.

SURROUNDING AREA

Atlanta is a world class city of 5.5 million people, and one of the ten largest cities in America. Nearly 750,000 Atlantans reside in beautiful Cobb County on the Northwest side of the city. East Cobb is an upscale suburb of Atlanta located 19 miles to the northwest of downtown. Marietta offers an array of enchanting shops, galleries, museums and parks, including community gem Glover Park on the historic square, and was recognized as an All-American City in 2006. Marietta was named one of the nation's 10 best communities by the National Civic League, and its commitment to quality of life is unsurpassed.

Educationally, East Cobb is served by the Cobb County School District-the second largest school system in the state, guiding more than 100,000 students. Some of the best schools in Greater Metro Atlanta are found in East Cobb, including three high schools in the top 20 of the state. Recreationally, East Cobb maintains more than 40 public parks and is near to numerous lakes for water sports. The Chattahoochee River winds through East Cobb, which offers the coolness of the river shore or hikes through miles of trails.

The Atlanta climate is temperate year round with annual average high temperature hovering around 70° and an annual average low temperature of only 50° and generous precipitation year-round. Residents enjoy four distinct seasons, including temperate winters and the dazzling spring that fans of The Masters Golf Tournament in nearby Augusta would easily recognize. Metro Atlanta boasts a stellar business climate, including headquarters for 16 Fortune 500 companies, including The Coca-Cola Company, The Home Depot, Delta Air Lines, AT&T Mobility, UPS, and Newell-Rubbermaid among others.

The unincorporated areas of East Cobb have managed to maintain low tax rates while enjoying the benefits of swim, golf, and tennis communities; educational resources; shopping centers; and family-friendly activities. The combined economic and lifestyle advantages afforded residents of Cobb, along with the county's proximity to Atlanta, leave little question as to why so many families choose to call Cobb County home. "East Cobb is a great place to live because it offers so many of the things that people want...low taxes, great schools, stable property values, and easy access to Marietta, Roswell, and Atlanta."

UNITED METHODIST APPOINTMENT & SELECTION PROCESS

Mt. Bethel will be following The United Methodist Church Book of Discipline which calls for a consultative process between the Staff Parish Relations committee and the Bishop and Cabinet. Mt. Bethel has asked The Dingman Company to assist them in an advisory capacity with this process. The Staff Parish Relations Committee will be presenting to the Bishop and District Superintendent a profile of what they think is needed in the future Senior Pastor for Mt. Bethel. Pastors who are interested in being considered as a candidate should first notify their Bishop according to The United Methodist Discipline.

In 2016, the Staff Parish Committee will be in final consultation with the Bishop and Cabinet regarding the Bishop's appointment. Typically the Bishop and Cabinet should make a projection of appointment in April with an announcement no later than May. The new Senior Pastor would be appointed and begin July 1.

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