



# **THE OAKS**

Community Church

**so that the lost are saved  
the saved are sent  
and the Church is built**





# KINGDOM OVER COMFORT



# SACRIFICE OVER SELFISHNESS



We want to be a people willing to say, “you before me” and willing to give up something we love for something we love more—the cause of Christ!



# ETERNAL OVER EASY

# THE OAKS COMMUNITY CHURCH

“I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word... that they may become perfectly one, so that the world may know that You send Me and loved them even as You loved Me.”

John 17:20-23

Is it possible for a church to be the answer to Jesus’ prayer, instead of the reason for it?

The Oaks Community Church exists to be the answer to His prayer. This means we want to be a church that loves God with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength. We want to be a church that makes a significant difference in the lives of our neighbors.

The Oaks will be launching in the Burlington, NC area in August of 2026. The Burlington area is a strategic location because of its growing population and the many nations that are represented there. Also, its proximity to Elon University and offers a unique opportunity to reach the nations represented by the student body.

We want to see that the lost are saved, the saved are sent, and the Church is built. We love God because He loved us first. We desire to demonstrate our love for God by loving our neighbors as Jesus commanded us to, and we believe this is one way to do that.

The Oaks will aim to carry out the Great Commandment and the Great Commission by equipping every generation to reach every generation of **every nation**.

The Oaks is partnering with the Mercy Hill Collaborative and Send NC, who assess and train church planters to be equipped and supported. During this time, Mike Mitchener, the lead pastor, will be closing working with Perkinsville Church in Boone, NC. The role of Perkinsville is to help support and build up The Oaks while also training Mike as a church planter.



# THE LEAD PLANTER

## Mike and Stephanie Mitchener

*We want to go down swinging—living with Kingdom impact until our final breath.*

Soon after we became Christians we came to the conclusion that if following Jesus was worth anything, it was worth everything. So, 33 years ago, we sold our house, left the car business, and I enrolled at Piedmont Bible College. Since then, a lot has happened. In 2000, we planted Westside Fellowship with just four families. Today about 400 people attend weekly. More importantly, many people have been called into full-time ministry through Westside during our over 30 years there.

In 2020—during the pandemic—we moved “back home” to Pearisburg, VA to pastor Riverview Baptist Church, the church where I had come to faith. We thought we would retire there, but in August of 2023, the Lord released us for whatever He had next...

God revealed to me at a conference that we were called to plant a church that would be the answer to Jesus’ prayer in John 17. We want to raise up “good and faithful servants” who say YES to Jesus no matter what.

Now we obediently answering this call by planting the Oaks Community Church in the Burlington, NC area. Through this church plant we want to see our neighbors loved well, the nations reached, and—most importantly—Christ glorified.





# WHY THE BURLINGTON AREA?

Burlington is a rapidly growing area in North Carolina. In the past few years it has exploded in population. We hope to reach every nation that is represented in the Burlington area.

Top 3 reasons our neighbors don't Participate in religious community:

1. Moved from previous community
2. Did not feel welcomed
3. They feel that religious people are judgmental

Another reason the Burlington area is a strategic location is because of it's proximity to Elon University. For one, many nations are represented by the transfer students that are on Elon's campus. Most of these students will leave after graduation and we want them to be sent with Kingdom purpose. Secondly, we want to help lead the younger generation well. College is such a crucial, pivotal times in many lives and we want to meet these students with the gospel.

12%  
internationals

1/3 have no  
religious  
significance

6  
ethnicities

12  
languages

72% not  
involved in  
religious  
community

**OUR  
NEIGHBORS**

# VALUES

## We Love God

because he loved us first.



**You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. – Matthew 22:37**

## We Love Our Neighbors

because they are His image-bearers.



**Honor your father and mother, and, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” – Matthew 19:19**

## We Love Making Disciplers

because the Next Gen is depending on us.



**Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you, And behold, I am with you always to the end of the age – Matthew 28:19-20**



# HOW TO SUPPORT

## PARTICIPATE



We would love for you to be a part of planting The Oaks Community Church! We need people to join our core team that are dedicated to the mission and will prioritize deep spiritual growth, unity, diversity, and that aim to reflect Christ's love in all that we do. By being part of The Oaks you will be equipped to grow as a discipler, build meaningful relationships, and actively participate in reaching and transforming our local and global communities. If you are interested in joining our core team, visit [www.theocc.church](http://www.theocc.church) to learn more.

## PROVIDE



Giving to The Oaks Community Church enables us to fulfill our mission of saving the lost, sending the saved, and reaching the next generation with the Gospel. Support also helps us nurture love, unity, and diversity within the community, emphasizing the power of sacrificial love to overcome social divides. Additionally, your investment in The Oaks will empower us to send missionaries and disciplers globally, breaking barriers and making a lasting impact in every nation and community served.

## PRAY



Pray for The Oaks to deepen our culture of prayer by prioritizing consistent, heartfelt communication with God. Ask God to raise up disciplers and leaders passionate about prayer, unity, and spiritual growth, moving the church toward bold evangelism and Kingdom impact. Finally, pray for the Holy Spirit to break down barriers that exist unnecessarily in the Church and in society. If you want to partner with us by committing to prayer, visit our website to find a prayer guide so you know how to be specifically praying for us.

To learn more or partner through giving, scan this QR code or visit [www.theocc.church](http://www.theocc.church)

