



*Joseph is a  
fruitful vine,  
A fruitful vine  
beside a spring;  
Its branches climb  
over the wall.*

*Genesis 49:22*

**Leawood Baptist Church**  
75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration

October 20-24, 2021

In 2013 we were approached to participate in the Memphis Morning Center. The goal of this ministry is to provide comprehensive maternity care at no cost to patients, working alongside the local church to pour the love of Christ into the lives of all the women being served. Leawood has graciously devoted a portion of the JOY building to house the clinic.

The ministries of Leawood Baptist Church have been so vast over the last 75 years we cannot possibly mention them all. The Lord has so richly blessed this congregation and this community. He has called many into ministry and missions from our family.

In the coming years we will strive to continue sharing the love of Christ, to reach out to individuals and groups in the name of Jesus. We long once again to cover this campus in prayer and to have hearts open to the call of God. Leawood has certainly been blessed to be *“a fruitful vine”* whose branches have climbed over the wall.

## Pastors Past and Present

1946-1948	Rev. Tom Brandon
1948-1951	Rev. R. J. Sedberry
1951-1956	Dr. T. T. Crabtree
1956-1991	Dr. Jerry L. Glisson
1991-2000	Dr. Thomas M. Vinson
2000-2003	Dr. Kenny Bruce
2003-2007	Dr. Greg Love
2008-2016	Dr. Marc Byrd
2018-Present	Dr. Floyd A. Paris

## A Message from Our Pastor

Leawood Baptist Church is a testimony to the faithfulness of our Lord Jesus Christ. As we celebrate the 75th Anniversary we reflect on all the lives that have been touch by the Lord over the years, the waves of Holy Spirit revival that came our way, the men and women who faithfully serve in the many ministries of Leawood, and the lives that would be forever changed.



Leawood has been blessed with Godly leadership over the years with men like Dr. Jerry Glisson and Brother John Ellzey. Under this duo Leawood saw great Kingdom expansion with ministries like “The Lord’s Witness” Youth Choir, the Bus Ministry, the TV Ministry, sports ministries, and many, many more. Hundreds came to church each week on the buses, and hundreds more came by cars or walked.

Macon and Homer became the focal point in the community as members went out sharing the Gospel. Leawood buses crisscrossed the community and the city. People drove from surrounding towns, counties, and even states, just to be a part of what God was doing here on this corner.

The influence, however, didn’t stop here. Many of those whose lives had been changed have gone on to serve the Lord in churches all over Memphis and the Mid-South. They carry with them the love and care and training that they learned here at Leawood. Others surrendered to the Ministry and have carried the Gospel around the world, serving as Pastors, Ministers of Music, Youth Ministers, and Missionaries.

Everyone who has ever been a member of Leawood Baptist Church shares in the blessings of those who have gone out from Leawood. This is the reason that we are celebrating the 75th Anniversary of the living legacy to God’s Amazing Grace that is the Leawood Baptist Church.

Praising the Lord Jesus,  
Dr. Floyd A. Paris  
Pastor, Leawood Baptist Church

# Celebration Speakers

## Wednesday, October 20



**Wint Fox** grew up at Leawood and is the son of Jimmy and Sherry Fox. Wint and his wife, Vickie Vinson Fox (also of Leawood) have four children. The Foxes have served in many churches around the country and on the foreign mission field with the International Mission Board. They are currently at Piperton Baptist Church in Piperton, TN where he serves as Senior Pastor.

## Thursday, October 21



**Shawn Allred** grew up at Leawood and is the son of Ken and Susan Allred. Shawn and his wife, Stephanie Bass Allred (also of Leawood) have three daughters and live in Kenton, TN where he serves as Pastor of First Baptist Church.

community in Tennessee and frequently held their yearly congress at Leawood each year in September. One of their goals is to reach out to all Arabic speaking peoples. We are privileged to have their children joining in our nursery and children's Sunday School. We have enjoyed the fellowship and ministry of this congregation for more than 25 years, as they are still meeting with us.

## The Expansion East

In 1997, due to the quickly growing Eastward expansion of our city and feeling the need to spread the Gospel as that area grew, the church purchased 32 acres of property on Houston Levee Road in Cordova. About 40 percent of the church congregation were living toward the east part of the county. To establish a presence in this community would allow these church members to minister in their own neighborhoods. There was no desire to close our Leawood campus on Macon Road. Leawood would now adopt its motto "One Church with Multiple Congregations". In late 2000 a groundbreaking ceremony was held on the property. In September of 2001 a second congregation began meeting at Woodland Hills Conference Center. They met there until the church building was completed. The first service in the new building was held on Easter Sunday 2002. After the leadership felt the church was established, they organized into their own congregation and became Leawood East Baptist Church in 2003.

## Moving Forward

God has continued to use our church buildings and congregation at Leawood. He has provided opportunities time and again to open our doors to serve our community.

In 2000, a need was identified to open a Mission Center to provide counseling, clothing, and food to the people in our area. A duplex on Dyer Street was remodeled and volunteers eagerly signed up to begin this outreach in our community. We have added The Toy Store at Christmas where parents can shop for new toys. We also have a Backpack Ministry to provide school supplies in the fall each year.

During the early 2000's we opened our gym as a meeting place for Memphis Athletic Ministries, an after school and summer program to reach inner city youth for Christ and to give them a safe environment in which to play and learn. This continues to be a thriving ministry and safe haven for our neighborhood children.

Soon after “the Lord moved in” on Leawood, a great concern was expressed that there were a lot of children in our community who were not being able to attend this church who openly welcomed everyone. In August of 1971 it was decided to begin a Bus Ministry. The Bus Ministry started with one bus and 6 workers, by 1974 it had grown to 14 routes with more than 500 riders and 106 workers coming in every Sunday. This ministry is still in existence today, some 50 years later. An untold number of people have come to know Jesus through this vital ministry.

In April of 1974, during a revival led by Jack Taylor, the members of Leawood were challenged to become involved in a ministry of prayer. Over 175 people stayed after the service to learn more of this vital ministry. Within one month a place was designated and remodeled to become a Prayer Chapel and enough intercessors volunteered to fill the 168 hours (one full week) of prayer. In 1978, during his prayer time in the Chapel, Dr. Glisson was impressed by the Lord that Leawood needed to build a Prayer Tower. After sharing this with the congregation the church voted, in July of 1978, to build the Prayer Tower. This ministry continues to this day.

### Foreign Missions in Our Own Backyard

As our world and community were changing, Leawood had opportunity to begin ministry to internationals. In the 1980s, a ministry to the H’mong people was established. This congregation met at Leawood for 9 years as we shared in fellowship and facilitated ESL classes for our Laotian brothers and sisters.

Again, in late 1997, God opened the opportunity to provide space and assistance to a new international congregation. Iglesia Bautista La Buena Esperanza (The Good Hope Baptist Church) moved their small congregation to Leawood and began to worship and fellowship there. They quickly outgrew the Chapel and moved into the Fellowship Hall. They were given Sunday School space for their children. They grew into a congregation of over 250 in the 8 years they met at Leawood and left to find a building they could call their own. They eventually gave birth to a second congregation, and both are thriving today. Two other Hispanic congregations have met in our facilities. Mount Olivet and currently Casa de Oracion (House of Prayer).

The River Nile Church, a Sudanese congregation, moved into Leawood in 2001. At that time, they were the hub of the Arabic speaking religious

## Friday, October 22



**Marc Johnston** grew up at Leawood and is the son of Franklin and Mary Johnston. Marc and his wife, Sandy, have three children and live in St. Augustine, FL. Marc is on staff at the Florida Baptist Convention and serves in Community Ministries.

## Saturday, October 23 Sunday October 24



**Phil Glisson** grew up at Leawood and is the son of Dr. Jerry and Helen Glisson. Phil and his wife, Teresa have three children and four grandchildren and live in Memphis, TN. Phil began preaching during his college days as a Youth Evangelist. This was during the early 1970’s when revival was sweeping across America and many young people were coming to Christ. There was a great need and desire among churches to hold revival meetings and Phil volunteered to go. The doors continued to open and these many years later he is still going to churches to preach as the invitations continue to come. Phil is in full-time evangelism and Teresa (and her side-kick, Scotty) often travel with him to lead in the children’s services.

# Mission Statement

We exist to exalt God, equip,  
and encourage the body of Christ to  
reach the world with the Gospel.

# Vision Statement

We are determined to grow as a  
multiethnic and multicultural  
community of faith committed  
to the Great Commission  
with a heart for Memphis and  
beyond in the heart of Memphis.

# Current Staff



Floyd Paris  
Pastor



Clayton Wilbanks  
Associate  
Pastor



Isaias Uaene  
Missions &  
Evangelism



John Scott  
Youth

## In the Beginning

On July 30, 1946, a group of Baptists met to make plans to establish a new Baptist church. This church was to be located as near the corner of Homer and Macon as possible. On Sunday, August 11, 1946, the first congregation began meeting at a Civic Club Building located at 3460 Buchanan. This would be their meeting place until a permanent location was established. At a business meeting held on September 1, 1946 the church voted to name the new congregation Leawood.

On November 10, 1946, a group of ten pastors met with the Leawood congregation who were then organized into a Baptist church. On that day 56 members were added to the church. The charter was closed on January 6, 1947, with a total charter membership of 97.

On March 30, 1947, the church moved from the temporary meeting place on Buchanan to a converted and remodeled church building at the corner of Macon and Homer. Leawood had found her home!

The months that followed were months of struggle and sacrifice. Due to the faithfulness, hard work and encouragement of its staff and members, Leawood became one of the fastest growing churches in the city. For the first 48 years new buildings and properties were purchased and built to meet the needs of the ever-growing congregation and ministries of the church. God was blessing abundantly in this church which was established with a heart for the people of its community.

## When God Moved In

In August of 1970, during a Youth Rally, a spiritual explosion hit the youth of the Leawood church and community. Night after night youth were being saved and the excitement soon caught on to the rest of the church. The "Revival" continued, and people were coming to the Lord at every service. A Youth choir was formed that was in love with the Lord and had a heart for people and for witnessing. The choir was named "The Lord's Witness" by Youth/Music Minister John Ellzey who led the students in evangelism, as well as music. The choir was consistently invited to sing at other churches and events. For many years the Youth group and choir led in the state Youth Evangelism Conference held in Nashville each spring, thus taking Leawood outside the city of Memphis and allowing the Lord to use them to spread His gospel across the state and beyond.