

Stepping away from the past ...  
Embracing the future ...

To make Christ relevant to  
a lost world where He is  
desperately needed.



MC<sup>3</sup>† Church

Fully Devoted to Christ

# A New Day is Dawning

As you know, our senior minister, Art Stansberry, and the elders have been searching and seeking the Lord's will about the next steps for Mount Carmel Christian Church.

This has been an ongoing process for several years and it has not been taken lightly by any stretch of the imagination.

Last year, we took a first big step by making the decision to sell this property. It was tough in some ways because 6015 Old Stone Mountain Road has been our church home for a long time. But it was the right decision.

For too long now, we have committed too much of our resources to maintaining this building. Going forward, we want to spend the Lord's money on ministry.

Now, after much prayer and searching and discussion, we have developed a plan to move this church into the 21st century and hopefully make us more effective in sharing the gospel with those who need it most.

Effective Easter Sunday, Mount Carmel will become **MC3+ Church**.

We will strive to become a family that follows Christ and serves His Kingdom. Our vision is to focus our efforts on the ONE who needs Christ in our community and our world. Our mission will be to create Fully Devoted followers of Christ.

This is a bold step forward. We're stepping away from the past and embracing a future to make Christ relevant to a lost world where He is desperately needed.

This decision acknowledges that the Mount Carmel Christian Church we all know and love must be re-envisioned and reimagined to become effective once again at winning new people to Christ and meeting the needs of key segments of our community, especially young families.

**Going forward, we will stand strong on the unchanging principles of God's Word. Our message and what we believe does not change—it is an eternal truth.**

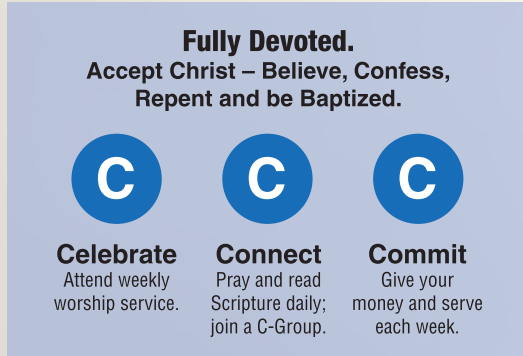
**However, we must adapt our methods—the way we share what we believe—to meet the needs of a fast-changing world.**

It is our fervent hope and prayer that every member of Mount Carmel Christian Church knows they are loved, respected and a valuable part of this church family. We are trying to follow God's guidance and plan for Mount Carmel and we hope you will search your heart, pray and remain a member of this body of believers.

# What can you expect?

## 1. A church family Fully Devoted to Christ and putting His Kingdom first.

Helping everyone—members and nonmembers alike—become **Fully Devoted to Christ** is the mission of our church. We will do this by focusing on a model that helps people become devoted based on accepting Christ and adhering to the three Cs:



## 2. Location in the Stone Mountain-Lilburn area of Gwinnett County.

MC3+ will meet initially in our existing building at 6015 Old Stone Mountain Road in Stone Mountain. Once the property sells, we plan to relocate in the Stone Mountain-Lilburn area of Gwinnett County.

## 3. Modern, more contemporary style of worship.

We want to create a worship service that transcends—beyond just songs and lights—and connects spiritually and emotionally with all who attend our services, whether they are believers or not.

## 4. Vibrant children's and student ministry.

We know from statistics that if someone is going to accept Jesus as their Lord and Savior, they will most likely do so before age 18. As a result, we must make a new and stronger commitment to put children at the forefront of everything we do.

## 5. Unrelenting commitment to prayer and Scripture.

Everything we do must be grounded in our relationship with Christ and the Word of God.

## 6. A focus on the ONE who needs Christ in our community and world.

Adhering to Christ's teachings in Luke 15—where Jesus talked about the lost sheep, the lost coin and the lost son—we will be a church more focused on capturing the one who is lost than pleasing the 99 who are saved.



### **7. Weekly Connect (life) groups as our model for Bible teaching and fellowship.**

We want to transition from our current model (weekly Bible school classes on Sunday) to Connect (C) groups, or life groups comprised of six to eight individuals or five to six married couples that meet in someone's home for fellowship, Bible study, prayer and accountability. As long as we continue to meet in our present facilities, Bible school will be offered for all ages. However, once we relocate to new facilities—whether rented or owned—we expect space will be limited and will begin the transition to weekly C groups.

### **8. Commitment to serve—all members, assuming they are able bodied, will be asked to serve in some capacity, both within the church and in the communities we serve.**

We want service to be a hallmark of MC3<sup>+</sup>. We have identified several ministries that will be vital to the start-up of our new church: Children, Students, Worship (Technical, Ushers, Communion Prep), First Impressions (Security, Parking, Greeters), Connect Groups, Prayer Team and Café Team. This list is not intended to be limiting but is merely the starting point to helping us achieve our vision and mission.

### **9. Missions giving integrated with overall budget—(10 percent off the top).**

Through the end of 2018, we will continue to fund missions through the Faith Promise effort, where our members designate a portion of their tithes and offerings specifically for missions. Once we relocate to a new location, our missions will be funded through a 10 percent tithe off our weekly offering. In addition, effective April 1, all offerings collected in Bible school classes will be earmarked for the church's general fund and Bible school classes will no longer provide separate funding for missions. (Exceptions will be made for donations collected for flowers, class parties, etc.). This will help MC3<sup>+</sup> honor God's Word to bring the whole tithe into the storehouse (Malachi 3:10).

## **10. An opportunity to recommit to membership in the new church.**

In May, we will stage Recommitment Sunday to give all existing members the opportunity to recommit as members of the new church. This will give us an opportunity to clean up our church records and prepare us to be the church we want to be in the future, including a vote on new bylaws that will be presented to the congregation in November.

## **11. Continued identification with the Christian Church**

MC3<sup>+</sup> will remain a part of the unity movement to restore the New Testament Church. The “Restoration Movement” began when believers distressed with creeds, legalism and denominations, called the church back to the authority of the Bible. The Movement grew into what we call the Christian Church. We do not call ourselves a denomination, because we believe that we are not “the only Christians,” but that we are “Christians Only.”

## **12. Elder protected and staff led.**

The board of elders is the governing body of the church and responsible to the congregation for administering the spiritual and business affairs of the church. As such, the elders serve as shepherds for the congregation and rely on and support the church staff to lead the day-to-day operations of the church.

# Next Steps

1. ***Please be in prayer regarding these bold changes for our church*** and don't hesitate to question the elders or church administrator about any of the proposed changes.
2. ***February 21 or February 25*** – Attend a Q&A session with the elders. Two meetings will be held: 7:30 p.m. in the fellowship hall (right after Wednesday night life groups) on Feb. 21 and immediately after church services in the fellowship hall on Feb. 25.
3. ***March 4, 11, 18 and 25*** – Participate in a four-week transitional experience to equip our congregation with a thorough understanding of MC3<sup>+</sup>'s DNA. In addition to the worship service, all Bible school classes will be taught from the same lesson plans to reinforce Art's messages on these four Sundays.
4. ***April 1*** – MC3<sup>+</sup> launches on Easter Sunday with services in the Fellowship Hall.



## What We Believe

- **The Bible is the inspired Word of God.**  
(2 Timothy 3:15-17, 2 Peter 1:20-21)
- **The absolute deity of Jesus Christ.**  
(Philippians 2:5-7, John 14:9, John 8:57-58, John 1:1)
- **The Virgin birth of Christ**  
(Isaiah 7:14, Matthew 1:22-25)
- **The Historical “Fall of Man.”**  
(Genesis 3)
- **The sinful nature of man.**  
(Jeremiah 17:9, Romans 3:23)
- **The Substitutionary death of Christ on the cross.**  
(Isaiah 53:5-6, 1 Peter 2:24-25)
- **The bodily resurrection of Christ.**  
(1 Corinthians 15:1-8)
- **The literal return of Christ.**  
(John 14:1-8, 2 Peter 3:3-13)
- **The resurrection and assignment of all people to heaven or hell.**  
(Revelation 20:11-15, John 5:28-30)
- **The abiding presence of the Holy Spirit in all believers.**  
(Romans 8:9-11, Ephesians 1:13-14)
- **Jesus Christ is the Son of God, the leader of the church, and the source of eternal life.**
- **The triune Godhead of God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.**  
(Genesis 1:26, Revelation 1:12-18, John 16:7-11)
- **The Church must reflect God’s love for one another and lost people.**  
(1 John 4:7-12, Luke 15:11-32)