

The Cadence of a Gospel Community of Artists

Every culture has a rhythm; a cadence that defines it.

I believe that every person has a desire to live within community; a deep longing to be connected with others, accepted and valued. For the follower of Jesus, this community is called the church. Every community has culture - a rhythm that it follows; a cadence that is easily recognizable. Those of us that serve First Baptist Powell through the Worship Ministry, want to keep in step with this gospel driven cadence. That cadence is described as follows:

WE PASSIONATELY PURSUE TO KNOW, LOVE, AND FOLLOW JESUS ABOVE ALL OTHER PURSUITS.

All of our artistic pursuits are tied directly to Jesus. If any of those pursuits attempt to outpace our pursuit of Jesus, then we either abandon such pursuits, or put them in their rightful place far behind the pursuit of knowing, loving, and following Him. Monthly, leaders within this Worship Community address this pursuit in a newsletter that we send out through email. I encourage you to read and think through each devotional. May you be encouraged and strengthened in your resolve to pursue Jesus.

WE LOVE, ENCOURAGE, AND REGULARLY PRAY FOR OUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS WHO SERVE ALONGSIDE US.

This is really the heart of a gospel community. This is what uniquely defines us - our pursuit of one another. The New Testament pages are lined with verses urging us to love one another deeply, to encourage one another daily, and to pray for one another diligently. Each week, we compile a prayer request list from all areas of the worship ministry, and send those out through email. As one who desires to serve the church within the Worship Ministry, I pray you do these three things well - love, encourage, and pray.

WE HUMBLY, GRATEFULLY, AND REVERENTLY EMBRACE THE PRIVILEGE OF SERVING OUR CHURCH WITH THE TALENTS AND GIFTS GOD HAS GIVEN US.

We take seriously the talents and abilities that God has entrusted to us. To harbor pride and entitlement is anti-community, and most importantly, anti-Christ. We are servants of the church community, not entertainers, and certainly not loners. As servants, we steward these talents with an attitude of gratefulness that God has given us a purpose within the church community. Because it is a calling from God, we do not approach what we do flippantly. Whether we are singing, playing an instrument, or making sure the words show up on a screen, we do so as unto the Lord. You are a valued servant of our church. We regularly recognize those that embrace this attitude of service.

EMERGENCE
CONGREGATION

WE PURSUE EXCELLENCE BY STRIVING TO BE PUNCTUAL, PREPARED, AND PROFICIENT.

In order to steward well these talents and abilities God has given us, and in order to honor our brothers and sisters we serve with, we make it a priority to start and end our rehearsals and sound checks on time. You know the saying, “If you’re five minutes early, you’re ten minutes late.” We strive to arrive at a time that allows us to get set-up and ready by the time the rehearsal starts. We also strive to be prepared to rehearse, not practice. Practice happens at home during the week. Rehearsals happen Wednesday nights and Sunday mornings before the service. We are continually refining what is offered online through the PlanningCenterOnline platform and through our website that aids you in becoming prepared for each service, and proficient at your instrument or area of service. We provide practice tracks and sheet music through PlanningCenterOnline. We send links to training videos, podcasts, and training articles throughout the year which are also posted on our website in order to make it easy for you to be better at what you do. We feel pursuing proficiency honors the Lord and enables us to better serve the church community. Also, as part of this striving for excellence in these areas, it is expected of those who serve in the Worship Ministry to attend 70% of all rehearsals and services, as well as 70% attendance within a Life Group or Small Group.

I expect this cadence to change and grow as we change and grow together. Each year the Worship Ministry Leadership Team will assess and make the necessary changes to these aspects that describe the type of cadence we desire to embrace.

Thank you for serving our church. Thank you for being a valued part of this community.

The Worship Leadership Team