



THE GATHERING PLACE

SPRING 2020



LAUNCHING A LEGACY *by Lucas Ramirez*

I am excited to announce an exciting new initiative for The Gathering Place. As we head into our 40th year anniversary, our leadership team and board spent time dreaming, praying and strategizing how to launch the legacy of The Gathering Place into the future with even greater momentum. To do this, we are excited to announce that we are launching a community ministry center! This center will be a multi-faceted community engagement tool that will be a combination of part thrift store and part cafe.

Why a ministry center that doubles as

a thrift store and cafe? Firstly, because we have a workforce development issue in our community. According to the United Way, 24% of Glynn County 16-24 year olds are neither in school, work or the military. We want to help change this dismal statistic and expand our already successful workforce development internship programs. This center will be a perfect year-round environment to do exactly that.

Further, the purpose of this ministry center is to offer a safe Christ-centered place for youth and adults to connect with friends, enjoy a cup of coffee and

gear up with cool thrift store finds. This ministry center will broaden our reach as an organization, offer a place for our mentor groups to meet and also help financially support the mission of The Gathering Place to reach, equip, and send.

We are so excited about all the ministry potential and plan to open in 2021! Get all the details on where our leased retail space will be, timeline and how you can give to this capital campaign, visit here: www.thegp.org/gather.

The Gathering Place exists to

REACH students with the Gospel of Jesus Christ

EQUIP students to be effective leaders

SEND students to impact their communities and world

WATCH THE MAIN EVENT

Live



MAIN EVENT GOES FULLY ONLINE FOR SUMMER 2020

Launching Sunday, June 7th at 7:00 pm

This Summer, due to COVID-19, we are pivoting our Main Events to a fully online experience. We are so excited to bring a whole new level of innovation and stream the Main Event straight to your living room!

Even though we can't gather in person this summer, every Sunday night at 7:00pm we will still host the Main Event where students can engage, win prizes, hear the Gospel and have tons of fun. We are inviting parents, youth pastors and students everywhere to also host "watch parties" in their living rooms where they invite just a handful of their friends to watch the Main Event together. Please pray that God exponentially increases the reach of the Main Event through this online platform!

WATCH HERE:
www.TheGP.org/MainEvent

Want to receive updates via text message?!

Simply text any of the following keywords to "56525" – whichever keyword you text will send you relevant updates for that category. (Must text keywords individually)

Mainevent

Youthpastor

Parent



CONGRATS TO OUR GRADUATING INTERNS!



We want to honor and thank three young leaders who just graduated from College of Coastal Georgia and served The GP faithfully as interns while they were college students. Thank you Wayne, Hudson and Victoria!



CAMPUS MINISTRY

Helping Students Transition to College

We are so thankful to the **Communities of Coastal Georgia Foundation** for funding our 2020 College Tour!

For juniors and seniors in our campus programs, we offer The GP College Tour. This is a vital and meaningful trip that helps underserved but high performing students make it to college. This program focuses on empowering and assisting rising and current seniors at both Brunswick High and Glynn Academy to visit, apply to and attend colleges in Georgia.

This past February, John Williams took 12 students to visit eight schools throughout Georgia. We were glad to get the trip in before COVID-19 shut everything down! Following the trip, our

team helps our students make sure they sign up to take the SAT/ACT and we also help them finish their FAFSA financial aid forms. All of our seniors plan to attend college this year and since the inception of this



program, we have had 95% of our students successfully transition to college or university, **many being the first ever in their family!**



WELCOMING OUR NEW ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR OF COLLEGE MINISTRY

We are excited to welcome Wayne Farley as a full-time member of The GP team! Wayne is not new to The GP - he actually grew up attending the Main Events and was a former college intern as well. He is a recent graduate of CCGA and brings a diversity of gifts in digital media, photography, social media and most important of all, a passion for Jesus and making him known! His main role will be to lead Converge, our college ministry at the College of Coastal Georgia. Please join us in welcoming Wayne. He can be reached here: wayne@thegp.org

FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT

**Glynn County
2020 Budget:**

\$611,500

Year to Date Income:

\$256,754

*Please help fuel
our mission!*

*You can make
a gift today:*

www.TheGP.org/give



707 MENTOR GROUPS TURN DIGITAL

WOW! We never guessed that all of our 707 groups would move to online platforms this semester. But, our amazing 707 leaders have created fun and unique ways to connect with students during COVID-19 closures. 707 Groups used Zoom calls, Google Hangouts, and FaceTime to connect digitally like never before. These times can bring fear and anxiety, but our leaders took the time to leverage technology and be a voice of hope in our students' lives. Here are a few ways groups have been "meeting" this semester:

"Thanks to Zoom, we have been able to continue our weekly meeting. We log on and talk about where we have seen God during this quarantine time. This has kept my spirits high as well as those of our boys." – **9th Grade Boys led by Joey Baldwin & David Boland**

"My awesome 707 leaders have made sure we have had a great time on our zoom calls. For example we have done a treasure hunt, we have painted on zoom, we even had a Rock Paper Scissors tournament. They have kept in touch with my family and made sure we were ok during this time!" – **Holly Baldwin, 7th grade student**

"Our group has been meeting together on zoom and sharing our prayer request and our concerns....We have been celebrating a number of Sweet 16 Birthday's with Drive By Pandemic Parades!!" – **10th Grade Girls led by Alicia MacArthur & Elizabeth Jordan**

"We have met via Zoom each Tuesday at 7:07pm during quarantine. We have had a devotional reading time, favorite scriptures shared, and a scavenger hunt. My favorite week was our Painting on Zoom together. I dropped off painting and paint pens at each of their houses, and during the zoom we all painted and laughed together." – **7th Grade Girls led by Jennifer Meyers & Mary Parker**

"Not having a normal 707 schedule this spring has been hard on all of us - leaders and students. But it's been fun finding ways to stay connected! Marcie and I have fun scheduling Zoom calls with the girls - We talk about life, share our "positives and negatives" and laugh as much as possible. I can't wait to hug each of our girls for ten minutes straight when life allows it!" – **Raleigh Nyenhuis, 10th grade group leader**



HONORING OUR GRADUATING 707 GROUPS

This year, we have 65 High School seniors graduating from the 707 program! They represent nine 707 groups: five girls groups and four boys groups. That also means that 18 community leaders have faithfully mentored these students for 7 years! It is amazing each year to recognize these students and leaders — we want to **THANK YOU** and say **CONGRATULATIONS!**

2020 GP SUMMER COLLEGE INTERNS

Our 2020 college intern team boasts 12 students from seven different universities spanning across the Southeast. These interns play a vital role in GP Summer programs including mentoring high school leaders as well as planning and executing our online GP Main Events Live! With a rigorous ministry schedule ahead of them, please pray that God would move in and through them as they passionately share the Gospel this summer!



NIA PRESSLEY

Summer Staff
Clemson University



STEFAN WILCOX

Head Intern
Valdosta State University



CASSIE SHAVER

Head Intern
Georgia College &
State University



BRADON COLBERT

College of Coastal Georgia



ABBY LANE

University of Georgia



JJ STEWERT

Georgia Tech



LEXI SNYDER

College of Coastal Georgia



RYAN CATO

Georgia State



EMMA LANE

University of Georgia



CHARLES POKE

Valdosta State University



MORGAN BRACEWELL

Georgia College &
State University



HEATH SANDERS

College of Coastal Georgia

Please pin this page on your fridge and pray for the college interns all summer!





THE GATHERING PLACE

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CONVERGE AWARDED "PROGRAM OF THE YEAR" BY COLLEGE OF COASTAL GEORGIA

We are honored to have an award winning college ministry! Because of Converge's hard work at CCGA, we were awarded best program of the year by the College administration. Two highlights from this past semester were Converge's joining up with a global non-profit to host the "End It Week" which raises awareness for slavery and sex-trafficking that exists around the world. Additionally, when the college went fully online, Converge took the new opportunity to host "The Landing," the weekly worship gathering, completely online. These events, hosted in partnership with Wesley Foundation, drew many students from 5 different schools and were designed to be fun and interactive with intentional moments to help students encounter the love of Jesus.

Thanks be to God for the work he has done and will continue to do on the campus of CCGA. Converge is excited to get back on campus in the fall and continue declaring the good news of Jesus.