

Saint Elmo Presbyterian Church

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CHURCH PROFILE

Saint Elmo Presbyterian Church
Chattanooga, Tennessee



THANK YOU

FOR YOUR INTEREST

Dear Pastor:

St. Elmo Presbyterian Church is not so much a place but a people. We are committed to glorifying God by preaching, teaching, and living out the Gospel of Jesus Christ, led by the Spirit and living in unity with one another. In Christ, God's mercy has come to us that it might go through us to the St. Elmo community, Chattanooga, and the rest of the world. On the following pages you will see evidence of the Lord's provision for St. Elmo Presbyterian Church over the years.

We are grateful for everything the Spirit has done in and among His people and eagerly anticipate His plan for the next season of our congregational life. The pastoral search committee is excited to share a little more about the church with you. We are humbled and grateful to our congregation for placing their trust in us and pray we will be faithful to the vision of St. Elmo Presbyterian Church, the Church at large, and to you as well.

We invite you to review the following information in our Church Profile. Our contact information is on the last page if you have questions. This profile should help you discern whether God is calling you to serve our church. On the pages that follow, you will find information about our church's history, congregation, leadership, and ministries, and information about the community we serve. You will also find an assessment of our church's current needs, a description of our vacant lead pastor position, and, finally, information about how to apply.

May the Lord bless you and His church as we seek His will together.

Grace and Peace,

The Pastoral Search Committee of St. Elmo Presbyterian Church



OUR STORY

The history of our church is a long one, but in many ways we're a church that has been re-founded more recently. The Lord's faithfulness and providence has been seen throughout and is still our hope today.

St. Elmo Presbyterian Church (SEPC) was founded in 1889 by First Presbyterian Church in the new township of St. Elmo, Tennessee, located at the foot of Lookout Mountain. The Civil War was not long past, including the Battle of Chickamauga, one of the most significant conflicts of the war and fought less than 10 miles from St. Elmo.

Throughout its history, the church has relied on the Lord during times of trial and blessing. In 1891, the church treasurer notoriously skipped town, absconding with church funds and the church secretary. In the early 1900s, SEPC founded Lookout Mountain Presbyterian Church, which is now one of the leading churches in the area and is planting churches of their own. God has been faithful throughout the history of SEPC, especially during a wonderful period of revitalization with pastor Cal Boroughs.

In the years prior to Cal's arrival, the church had fallen on hard times. The St. Elmo neighborhood was in visible decline, and the church was losing members. SEPC had been through several pastors and had shrunk to 40 members. It was only budgeting six months at a time since church giving was at an all-time low. People were discouraged. In 1986 the congregation held a vote on whether to continue.



St. Elmo Presbyterian Church circa 1890

In 1987, the church narrowed down their pastoral search to two men, Cal and another candidate. Cal was without a call and had been away from full-time ministry for some years, a challenging and humbling time in his life. SEPC decided to call the other pastor, who left in 1990. Instead of going through a new pastoral search, the church chose to extend a call to Cal Boroughs who began his ministry at St. Elmo in August of 1990.

Cal's pastoral gifts revived the church and helped nurture a church home that was welcoming to young families moving to the St. Elmo area. SEPC became an oasis of nourishment and refreshment for weary believers who were ministering in other fields, primarily education.

Over the first 10 years of Cal's pastorate at SEPC, the church blossomed as new members joined and as covenant children were born. By the early 2000s, there were over 70 children in the church. In the early 2010s, the congregation added a fellowship hall, expanded Sunday school rooms, and remodeled most of the downstairs. The Lord's faithfulness to the congregation was palpable in the growth and vitality of the church throughout Cal's ministry.

Cal retired in August 2020, after 30 years of faithful service to our church. Despite the Covid-19 pandemic and the sadness of our beloved pastor's retirement, we rejoiced at how God had taken such good care of the congregation. That good care has continued with the arrival of Bill Massey, our interim minister.



Cal Boroughs speaking in chapel at Covenant College



SEPC viewed from Lookout Mountain

SEPC exists in close proximity to several other churches in the Chattanooga area, many of them in the PCA. SEPC is also near two Christian educational institutions with which the church has strong partnerships and connections—Covenant College (the college of the PCA) and Chattanooga Christian School, a K-12 institution. Many church members are employed at these institutions as tenured professors and teachers, and SEPC draws students from both.

Since many people from SEPC are not from this area, the church feels like a second family. During each Sunday worship service, there is devoted time for impromptu prayer requests, which adds to the “family” character. This community ethos also spills over into a strong mercy ministry focus, so that over the decades we have supported numerous ministries in the broader community (including Shepherd’s Arms Mission, Widows Harvest Ministries, and Channels of Love). Our church has also sponsored a Boy Scout troop with several boys participating every year. And historically, we’ve had a strong missionary impulse, with many church members ending up in the mission field as long-term missionaries.

We are currently a congregation and a neighborhood in transition. SEPC has been a “parish” church serving members living in St. Elmo, but now it serves people from surrounding areas, including North Georgia. The neighborhood property values have skyrocketed and a less churched group of residents has moved into the local community. Our church looks forward to better understanding these transitions and how we can best serve and reach this rapidly changing community. We are excited to see how the Lord’s plan will unfold.

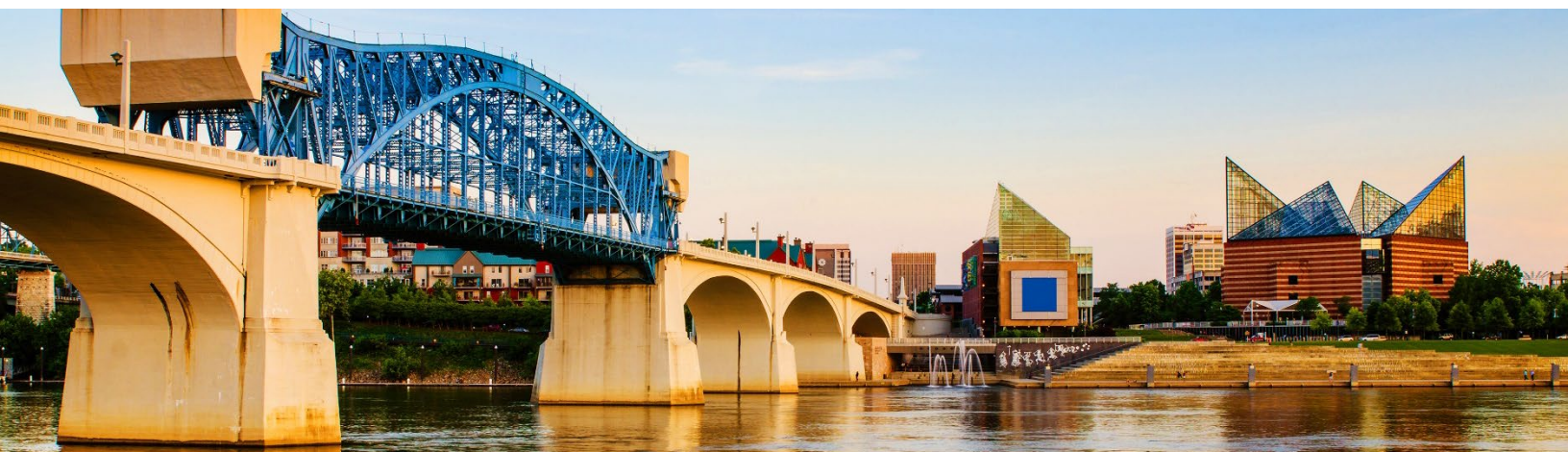


OUR SETTING

St. Elmo Presbyterian Church is in the historic district of St. Elmo within the city boundaries of Chattanooga, Tennessee. Chattanooga is a growing, mid-size city in East Tennessee, known for its history, outdoors, entrepreneurial spirit, and high-speed Internet access. US News and World Report ranked Chattanooga as one of the best places to live based on quality of life and people's desire to live there. Chattanooga is near other major cities such as Atlanta, Nashville, Knoxville, and Asheville. With Tennessee's zero state income tax and a lower cost of living than other cities, Chattanooga is attracting more people to the area.

St. Elmo is experiencing a period of growth and transition as young families and single professionals move into the neighborhood. With this transition, St. Elmo has seen an abundance of new housing and home improvements along with new retail development and up-and-coming restaurants, all within walking distance, making this neighborhood a unique place to minister.

Chattanooga is known for its outdoors, with many hiking trails (easy access to the Appalachian and Cumberland Trails), rock climbing, and even an Ironman competition. Kayaking and paddleboarding the Tennessee River are a popular weekend activity as well as hang gliding from Lookout Mountain. Chattanooga possesses a vibrant city life with several music festivals, including Riverbend and Moon River. Major attractions that delight visitors and locals alike include the Hunter Museum of American Art, the Tennessee Aquarium, Ruby Falls, Rock City, and the Incline. All of this attracts both locals and visitors to this growing city.



WHO WE ARE

Paul reminds the Philippians that we are partners in the work of the Gospel, and that we are marked by our bonds of love, knowledge, and discernment. St. Elmo is a church that demonstrates these things by sacrificial giving of time and God-given talents for His Kingdom. Here is a sample of the people and essential ministries both in and around St. Elmo Presbyterian Church.

Darrell Stewart

Music Ministry

Darrell came to Chattanooga via Philadelphia and New Jersey. He and his wife Margaret have attended St. Elmo Presbyterian Church for 30 years. Darrell's role in the church is as pianist and special music coordinator. He oversees the wide variety of music and musicians in the worship service and delights in hearing the congregation "joyfully singing to the Lord." Darrell not only uses his hands for God's glory as he plays the piano but loves woodworking as well.



Rob Allen

Ruling Elder

Rob grew up in the Chattanooga area attending the Lutheran church. He came to the PCA through a Chattanooga Bible Institute tape and the RUF ministry at the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga. Rob joined SEPC about 8 years ago and the session a few years after that. He works in the insurance industry in Chattanooga. As one of the members in our congregation without ties to Covenant College, as a bachelor, and as the church liaison for Project 52 (a local ministry meeting people's practical needs), he has a heart for those who don't always fit into our church's frameworks.

Don Houston

Building and Grounds

Don is originally from Memphis, Tennessee. He is a retired engineer and worked at Tennessee Valley Authority for 40 years. He and his wife, Carrie, have been a part of SEPC for 18 years. With Don's engineering background and his love for fixing things, he is ideal as the head of the Building and Grounds Ministry group at SEPC.





David and Gwen Macallister

Deacon and Deacon Assistant

Gwen and David live in St. Elmo with their 4 children and have been at SEPC for over 20 years. Prior to becoming members, they attended while students at Covenant College. Gwen, who grew up in California, is an English professor at Covenant, and David, originally from Florida, is the woodshop instructor at Chattanooga Christian School. They love the outdoors, hiking, traveling to National Parks, and spending time with friends and family. As part of the Diaconate, the Macallisters have worked to take care of the church's physical building and administer the use of the deacon's fund.

Marylou Carl

Church Secretary

Marylou grew up in New Jersey. Although she lived in St. Elmo for over two decades, she recently moved into her new home in Flintstone, Georgia. She worked as an elementary school teacher for over 10 years and then became our church secretary in 2003. She is essential to the daily operations of the church. Her two passions are dogs and people with a sense of humor.



Shelley Madueme

Women's Ministry

Shelley grew up in California and Alabama and spent 9 years in the Chicago area as a young adult. There she met her husband Hans while they were both in seminary. Today they live in Flintstone, Georgia, with their two children. She is the Director of Digital Marketing at the Chalmers Center for Economic Development and coordinates our women's ministry.

Mark Slavovsky

Church Treasurer

Mark has been attending SEPC for 16 years (since his college days), along with his wife Claire. Mark and Claire live in St. Elmo along with their two children. In addition to serving as our church treasurer, Mark guides the church in finances and budgetary concerns and teaches accounting at Covenant College. He enjoys biking and is particularly excited about the opening of the new Virginia Avenue Greenway extension through St. Elmo.





Susan and Herb Lea

Stephen Ministry Leaders

Susan and Herb have attended SEPC for 21 years, having joined the church after returning from their work overseas as missionaries in France and in Africa. They are both retired, but Herb trains Stephen Ministers while Susan serves as Stephen Ministry placement coordinator. They both grew up in Reformed/evangelical churches and were drawn to the missionary field. Susan and Herb have four children, six grandchildren, and live on a farm in Northwest Georgia with chickens, cattle, horses, and dogs.

Rob and Elaine Tinholt

Children's Sunday School Coordinators

Rob grew up in the Christian Reformed Church in Grand Rapids, Michigan, and Elaine grew up in the Southern Baptist Church in Rossville, Georgia. They reside in St. Elmo with their three children and have attended SEPC for 20 years. Rob is an elementary PE teacher and Elaine is a professor of education at Covenant College. Together they currently oversee our elementary, middle, and high school Sunday school programs.



OUR RESOURCES

SEPC MINISTRIES

Arts and Aesthetics
Bible Studies and Small Groups
Buildings and Grounds
Children's Ministry
College and Career
Fellowship
Finance
Mercy
Missions
Music and Worship
Stephen Ministries
Youth Ministries–middle and high school

MINISTRY PARTNERS

Family Promise
Project 52
Shepherd's Arms
The Bethlehem Center
Troop 2, Scouts BSA
Widows Harvest

2021-2022 BUDGET

Total Budget	\$ 285,600
Administration	\$ 12,455
Benevolence	\$ 54,400
<i>Includes Mercy and Missions Ministry Groups</i>	
Buildings and Grounds	\$ 30,875
Christian Education	\$ 21,630
<i>Children and Youth Ministries</i>	
Ministry Groups	\$ 8,330
Salaries, Benefits	\$ 155,660

PASTOR PROFILE

St. Elmo Presbyterian Church is seeking a senior pastor who exhibits visionary, servant-leadership and is motivated to learn about and address the challenges of an historic yet redefined local context. He will be able to navigate the changing demographics of St. Elmo's growing community of young, unchurched families, and maintain a strong emphasis upon God's Word in preaching, teaching, and discipleship.

QUALIFICATIONS

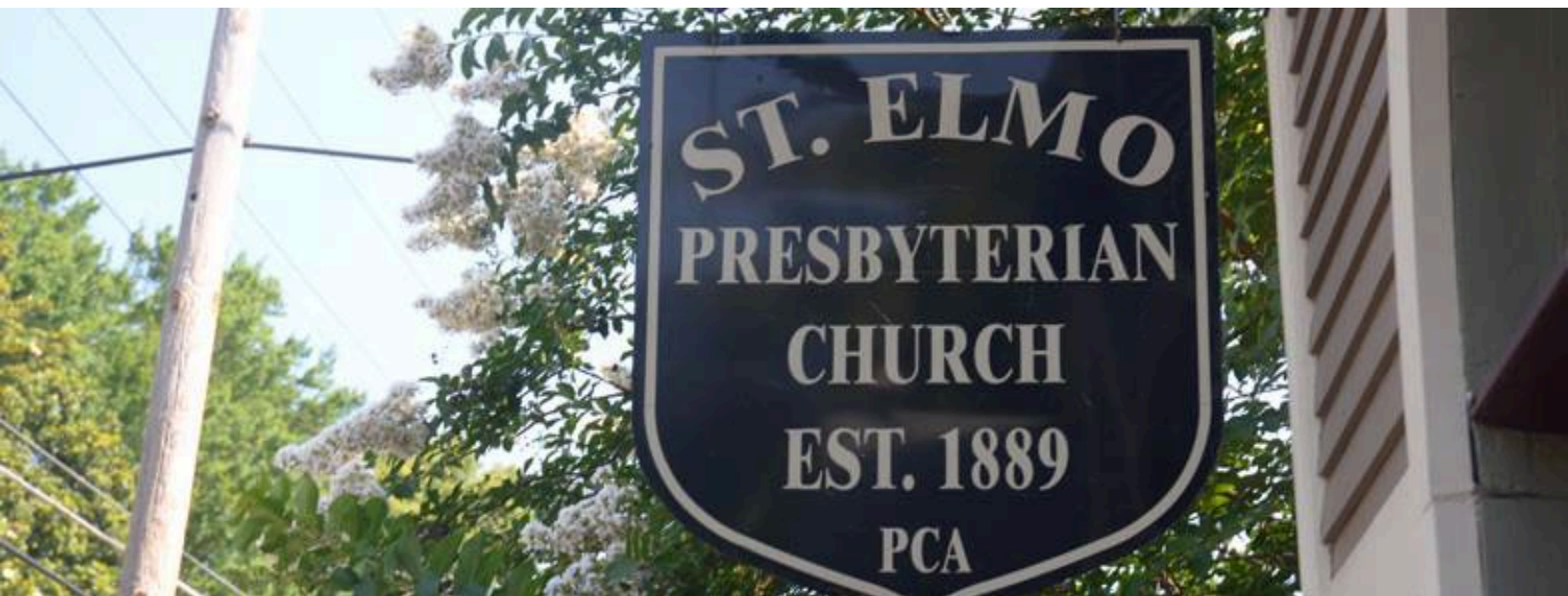
- M.Div. and/or D.Min.
- Ordained in the PCA with at least 5-10 years of pastoral and sessional experience
- Gospel-centered preaching that communicates boldly and humbly to a growing and diverse audience, both believers and non-believers
- Strong biblical character that consistently exhibits spiritual maturity, integrity, purity, and humility with a prayerful dependence on God and a life above reproach
- Ministry and vision that understands and embraces the mission and vision of St. Elmo Presbyterian Church and is willing to expand and enrich that understanding both within the church (internal) and in the local community and beyond (external)

PROFESSIONAL SKILLS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- Expository preaching with a commitment to Reformed theology as expressed in the Westminster Confession of Faith
- An aptitude to lead corporate worship
- Ability to encourage and train lay workers as a leader-equipper
- Dedication to reach young families, and grow current children's and youth ministries
- Commitment to local outreach, evangelism, and world missions
- Pastoral care of the members of the congregation
- Collegial and collaborative relationship with the Session, Diaconate, staff, and ministry groups – able to lead, train, delegate as needed
- Rich personal prayer and devotional life

PASTORAL GOALS

- Guide our church transition from an inward to an outward focus that is able to bear effective witness to the surrounding community
- Collaborate with the Session to create a strategic plan to implement our vision for internal and especially external growth
- Support us in reviewing and analyzing all present ministries and activities to establish whether they promote the core values and vision of the church, including consolidating and/or ending of ministries as needed
- Manage the preaching load of a solo pastor and willingness to transition to multiservice when the need arises
- Participate and engage with the PCA, including local churches, agencies, presbytery, and General Assembly



HOW TO APPLY

St. Elmo Presbyterian Church has contracted with McGowan Global Institute to assist in our pastoral search. If you're interested in applying for this position, please

1. Register at McGowan Global Institute's website
<https://www.mcgowanglobal.com/pastor-registration/>, and
2. Contact Dr. Charles McGowan of McGowan Global Institute,
charles@mcgowanglobal.com.

Thank you for your interest,

The Pastoral Search Committee

St. Elmo Presbyterian Church
Chattanooga, Tennessee
lance.wescher@covenant.edu