



SOUTHSIDE CHURCH

Henry Transition FAQ

WHAT IS HAPPENING WITH SOUTHSIDE HENRY?

As a church, we have seen countless lives changed by God's power and grace! He has used us all in an incredible way over these last 8+ years. (Read a brief history of Southside Church Henry in the attached insert). God has been and always will be so very good to us. Unfortunately, we have to take an honest look at where we have been and our current reality. We have experienced the effects of the pandemic, which heightened negative shifts in church attendance patterns and a lack of new people engaging further with us. We had four different Lead Pastors in recent years, and events outside our control have impacted us. One of our goals, for many years, has been to see enough growth to create an additional service time for volunteers to attend, but that has never come to fruition.

Despite our very best efforts over the years, including relocating to a permanent facility in 2021 and implementing various engagement initiatives, we have experienced declining or plateauing trends. This has made it increasingly difficult to sustainably accomplish our church's mission and vision. Our team has spent countless hours praying, fasting, seeking wise counsel, and taking an honest look at our trends. As a result, our Southside Ministries Directional Team and Board have made the difficult decision to close our Southside Church Henry location. This is an extremely painful and difficult decision.

WHAT IS THE TIMELINE FOR CLOSING SOUTHSIDE HENRY?

Southside Henry will have our last services on Sunday, March 24 at 10:00 am and Sunday, March 31 at 10:00 am because we want to try and close on a celebratory note in light of how God has used us over the years, even though this reality is sad and difficult. There will be an Open House gathering on March 28 from 5:00-7:00 pm. Our staff will be there

to connect with you, answer questions, and pray with you. Additionally, our staff will be onsite Sunday, April 7, and Sunday, April 14 to help those who have yet to hear to bring them up to speed and care for them.

WILL STAFF/VOLUNTEERS TALK WITH MY CHILDREN ABOUT THE CLOSING OF SOUTHSIDE HENRY?

Staff/Volunteers will not broach the subject in any of our children's or middle school environments. Instead, we will let parents discuss directly with their child(ren) if they choose. Staff will address the subject with high school students at InsideOut on Sunday, March 24.

WHAT ABOUT OUR COMMUNITY GROUP?

While the campus may be closing, community with others can continue. You are not alone. If you are in a small group, Southside will continue supporting your group for the next three months. During this transition, we encourage you to continue gathering and engaging with our services online as you search for a new church home.

WHAT IS MY/OUR BEST NEXT STEP AS A FAMILY?

That will depend on your family, but start with prayer. Ask God what He would be leading you to do, and don't make a decision based on temporary emotions. We encourage you to connect with our Southside Fayetteville City Center location and our online experience or visit other network churches like Buckhead Church and Decatur City Church. If our Southside Henry staff can help you in any way during this transition or pray for you, don't hesitate to ask. We are here to support you!

WHAT IS HAPPENING WITH THE CURRENT STAFF?

The staff have all been offered roles at other Southside locations.

DOES THIS DECISION RELATE TO ANY ETHICAL, MORAL, OR FINANCIAL FAILURES?

Absolutely not! Due to the unfortunate history of too many churches, we recognize that this may cross your mind. Our core team of volunteers, donors, Southside Henry staff, Southside Ministries staff, and so many others have worked tirelessly and with the utmost integrity to accomplish what we believe God has called to be and do as His church in this season. We all have led well, and it's no one's fault. Unfortunately, after years of investing and faithfulness, God is leading us to move in this direction.

WHAT IS THE PLAN FOR THE LAND & FACILITIES?

Southside Ministries consists of five campuses located in Peachtree City, Newnan, Fayetteville, Chattahoochee Hills, and Henry County. All campuses help fund our overall mission and vision as a multi-site church ministry. Southside Henry has been fortunate over these years to be supported by the generosity of attendees of Henry as well as those from our other Southside locations. The plan is to put the Henry campus on the market for sale, and proceeds will further the ministries of Southside Church.

WILL I HAVE A CHANCE TO ASK ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS ABOUT THE CHANGES?

Absolutely! We welcome any questions you may have to bring to one of our Open House gatherings or email your questions to Jake at jmiller@southside.org or Chris at cpatton@southside.org.