



CALLED TO LEAVE CARMEL

We are Chris and Allison Miller and we have two children, Leah (10) and Joshua (6). Our family had been members at Carmel for several years when the announcement was made in late 2018 about the new church plant, Redeemer. To be honest, our family never imagined leaving Carmel. During our years there the Lord had used our experiences to greatly deepen our faith and reliance on him. The Lord's work at Carmel had so many positive impacts not only on our immediate family but on our extended family and friends as well. So the idea of leaving a church that had been such an important part of our lives and felt like our family wasn't even on our radar.

Fast forward several months after the first announcement (and many conversations later), and we had concluded that God was at least asking us to explore the idea of the Redeemer church plant and attend the preview services. All of this took us a bit by surprise! During the weeks that followed the preview services we spent a lot of time praying and considering whether God was calling us to Redeemer. This was a tough decision that we really wrestled over. However, as time went on we both sensed that God was asking us to step out in faith and be a part of this new work. So we decided to jump into the launch team that summer of 2019.

God uses large churches and small churches, established churches and new churches, all to fulfill his perfect purposes.



Pastor Alex commissions and prays blessing over the Redeemer launch team. (8/25/2019)

Being a part of the launch team was a neat experience and allowed us to get to know a small group of people who had all made the decision to move forward with the common goal and mission of planting a church. We had incredible times of worship and discussions around our church's vision, calling and purpose. It was exciting to watch Redeemer grow from the ground up as we met together every week in preparation of the public launch on September 15, 2019.

Now, as we write this, we have just celebrated the one year anniversary of Redeemer's public launch. It has been a good year! We have worn many different hats, as is par for the course with a new church plant. We have been leading the hospitality team, are community group leaders, and Chris has been part of the operations team. The time commitment for church has certainly grown for our family, but that time and investment into God's work has been worth every bit. It's like having a front row seat to watch God at work. Being part of a small church is a new experience for us, and God has taught us a lot over the last year about how to lean into this new experience. We appreciate the relationships we have with much of the church body including the pastors and their families.



Redeemer's first Christmas Eve service

We appreciate the way God has stretched us... and continue to feel excitement as God works to expand his kingdom in Charlotte through Carmel, Redeemer and all the church plants to come!



Redeemer gathers for worship on Sunday afternoons, leveraging space at Bethany Church of Weddington. Learn more at redeemerclt.org.

As leaders of hospitality at Redeemer, we have worked with the pastors to make it a priority of our church body to recognize first time visitors and not let them slip in and out of service without a warm welcome and introduction. When you know the majority of folks in your church body we have found that it makes this task much easier to accomplish!

Considering Redeemer was a brand new church going into 2020 and facing the challenges of Covid-19, it has weathered it well. Overall, the commitment level during the time of meeting virtually was quite high. In God's providence we had begun meeting in early February in our smaller groups within the church (called Community Groups). These groups played a key role in keeping us connected during the time we had to be virtual. In addition, our smaller church size allowed us to get back to meeting in person sooner.

We are thankful for our church experiences at both Carmel and Redeemer. God uses large churches and small churches, established churches and new churches, all to fulfill his perfect purposes. We appreciate the way God has stretched us in our faith at both places for different reasons. We continue to feel excitement as God works to expand his kingdom in Charlotte through Carmel, Redeemer and all the church plants to come!



Carmel is committed to making disciples of those Nearest, our Neighbors and the Nations.

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