



Cory and Nica Adams
Pastor of Youth and Family Life Candidate
Coming for a visit Sept. 16th-20th

We are excited to introduce Cory and Nica Adams who will be visiting us in mid-September! Our pastor search parent council team, along with Pastor Jeff, after much prayer and consideration, has recommended to the elders that Cory and Nica come meet our church family. Three separate interviews have been conducted, references have been reviewed, and Pastor Jeff has visited with Cory's former ministry pastor. This visit is an exploratory visit with the purpose of confirming Cory's character, competency, and chemistry. It is an opportunity to discern God's leading for Cory and Nica, as well as our church family. We will communicate more details about the Adams' visit in the days ahead.

Here are some details Cory has shared about his Testimony, Call to Ministry, Family Info, Youth Ministry Philosophy and his experience.

Testimony: The story of my salvation is miraculous, not because it is some exceptional story, it is miraculous because of what happened. Jesus Christ died for me a sinner who deserved God's wrath. He chose me. I did not deserve or earn this in any way. But by his incredible love and kindness he atoned for my sins and gave me in his righteousness. The fact that my story seems normal in and of itself is amazing. I grew up in the church, but it was in the second grade that I heard the Gospel and it changed everything. The pastor of the small church in Georgia exposed what I knew to be true, I was a sinner. He helped me understand the depth of that sin and the severity of the punishment that was rightly due for it. Thankfully, that is not the end of the story. He then presented Jesus as the one who came to pay the debt for the sins I committed. He did not do this out of obligation or my deservedness, he did this because of his great love for me. He chose me to be his. I wanted this Jesus. After the sermon I went to talk to the pastor, and he talked to me about repentance and faith in Christ. Ever since that moment when I repented and placed my God given faith in Jesus my life has not been the same, it has been his.

Call to Ministry: My mom would tell you that, "after Cory was saved, he told the preacher that he wanted to do what the preacher did." I honestly do not remember that but will take her word on it. When I think back to how God called me to ministry it starts with my family moving to Florida when I was in the 8th grade. We started attending and became members of Riverbend Community Church, ask later about how we ended up here, this would end up being one

of the biggest means of grace in my life. During my years in youth and sitting under biblical Christ-centered preaching God started to change my desires and developed a passion to serve him and his church. This was a gradual change that involved me being discipled by different pastors, during this time I continued to grow in my love for the Lord and the desire to serve him became more prominent. Others around me started to notice not only the desire I had to serve him in my later years of high school, but also a gifting. Through any conversations with pastors and wise counselors I came to the realization that God was calling me to serve. After I realized this, I did everything I could to continue to serve him, whether that meant teaching in the nursing home or cleaning after Harvest Fest. Not only did I continue to serve I sought to surround myself with men who would encourage me, correct me, and build me up in accordance with the Bible. I took every opportunity to prepare in my studies too, through reading, listening to lectures and sermons that were available, and pursuing classes. Christ gave his life for me, in serving him I give my life to him.

Family Info: My wife and I married in May of 2019. I was born in March of '92 in GA and she was born in March of '93 in TN. We both grew up going to church. We both were saved at early ages in life. We can not wait to grow our family through whatever way the Lord might do this, our home is currently open for foster children. Veronica (Nica) was valedictorian of her high school and graduated from UCF nursing program. She has served in many areas from transplant units to hospice care (this is her passion.) We both love dogs. I love to read, grow fruit and vegetables in the garden, and watching or participating in pretty much any sport (FSU and Pittsburgh teams.) Nica loves to cook, relax outside, and play games with our friends. Nica excels in carrying for others. One of my favorite things about ministry is ministering to students and others alongside her.

Philosophy of Youth Ministry:

- Youth ministry must be God glorifying.
- Youth ministry must be Christ-centered.
- Youth ministry must be Spirit dependent.
- Youth ministry must be Scripture saturated.
- Youth ministry must have a gospel culture.
- Youth ministry must focus on disciple making.
- Youth ministry must be outreach oriented.

Core Commitments of Youth Ministry:

1. Youth ministry's main purposes are:

- To share the Gospel and preach the Word to unbelievers so they might hear and come to faith and be transformed by the Word of God.
- Share the gospel and preach the Word to believers so they might grow in their faith and become more like Christ. They will learn to put their faith into action and not become stagnant in their walk with the Lord.
- Walk alongside parents in their discipleship ministry to their children. This involves encouraging, equipping, and challenging their children to be more like Jesus Christ by centering everything around Him. If Jesus is their central focus and worship, then they will naturally be propelled outward to minister to the church and world.

2. Youth ministry is never a replacement or substitution for the primary worship time of the church.

3. God's church is intergenerational and diverse. The local body is intergenerational and diverse. Youth ministry must be intergenerational and diverse. This means that there should be youth actively participating in body life and members of the local body actively participating in youth ministry and the lives of the students.

4. Students that are believers are believers. This statement has a profound effect on our expectations for them. They are to disciple and be discipled, worship and participate in leading in worship, and they are to be served as well as serve others. Youth ministry is not the waiting room for students to prepare for "real life ministry" they are part of the church now, this means their real life ministry is now.

5. In youth ministry, discipleship is central. We come alongside of the church and the families of these students to provide Scripture-based, relational discipleship. This involves the Word being taught to the group at large, small group time in the Word that is highly discussion based, and intentional relationships and friendships that are centered around Christ. We accomplish these things through fellowship (games, activities, events), worship (singing, prayer, sitting under Bible preaching, and serving), and through counseling (biblical counseling.)

6. Youth ministry is an excellent place for members of the church to serve and meet the needs of the church body. We value those who serve, and we take their role very seriously. We emphasize making sure those ministering to our youth are mature

believers. We come alongside these leaders by discipling and equipping them for ministry and growing their Christian faith. Also, it is important to make sure we provide a safe environment. Therefore, we take every measure to ensure no youth or leader is put in a situation that might be deemed unsafe or inappropriate.

7. Youth ministry should be enjoyable and fun, but never at the expense of any of the core values. We do all things in student ministry with the goal of seeing believers and nonbeliever's lives changing and becoming centered on Jesus Christ. We continually emphasize the good news of the grace He freely offers to all those who will believe. We do everything we do (from playing games to dedicated time in the Word) for the sake of developing relationships and providing genuine opportunities to fellowship, evangelize, and worship our Lord and Savior.

Cory says, :The Lord has used student ministry to shape me and make me into the man I am today. I have a passion for seeing students come to know Christ through his grace and love in the gospel. It is a privilege to walk with students and their parents as they in their understanding of who Christ is and what he has accomplished on the cross. My greatest delight as a pastor is to see students put their faith in Christ and walk in obedience to him."

Experience & Education

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF MOUNT WASHINGTON *Youth and Activities Pastor | Mount Washington, KY*

- Planning out and preparing expositional and topical sermons twice weekly and occasional pulpit supply.
- Equipping parents, leaders, and students with resources to grow in Christ, this included starting a youth ministry resource library.
- Maintained clear communication with students, their parents, and the church as a whole.
- Putting together and executing community wide events for fellowship and outreach.
- Intentionally disciplining and counseling students and leaders. Recruiting leaders and training them to disciple, teach, and counsel others.
- Partnered with local schools to provide for students and community needs.
- Preparing and presenting budget for youth and activities ministries.
- Participated in weekly staff meetings to decide and implement vision for church wide ministry.
- Planning camp, events, and other activities.

RIVERBEND COMMUNITY CHURCH *Youth and Children's Ministry Intern and Leader | Daytona, FL*

- Planned out events for entire summer for youth and children's ministries, including VBS, Camp, and more.
- Preached and taught lessons in every ministry in the church from senior adults to children.
- Organized, planned, and participated in community outreach events and international mission trips.
- Researched and implemented new curriculum for student and children's ministry.
- Met regularly with staff to make decisions for youth and children's ministry

EDUCATION

Christ Theological Seminary *Daytona Beach, FL | 2019-20*

Biblical and Theological Studies Boyce College *Louisville, KY | 2013-2015, 2020-2022*

ACBC Certification (in progress) *Phase 1 of ACBC Certification*