Cedar Grove Baptist Church
Why We Exist
Jesus said to him, “‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.’

38 This is the first and great commandment.

39 And the second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’

40 On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.”
And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.

Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,

teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” Amen.
We exist to: **Celebrate** God's presence through **Worship**.

We exist to: **Demonstrate** God's Love through **Ministry**.

We exist to: **Communicate** God's Word through **Evangelism**.

We exist to: **Edify** (build up) God's family through **Fellowship**.

We exist to: **Educate** God's people through **Discipleship**.
I. How do we Celebrate God's Presence?

A. Worship is expressing our Love to God.
   - "You shall worship the Lord your God, and Him only you shall serve." (Matt. 4:10)
   - But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. (John 4:23-24)

B. Notice: nothing is said about style.
C. What are some Expressions of Worship?

- **Singing:**

- Unity of instruments and singing:

- Praise and Thanksgiving:

- Commitment:

- Praying:

- Hearing the Word:

- Giving:

- Baptism:

- Meditating:

- Lord’s Supper:
Celebration
- Ps. 122:1, I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go into the house of the Lord.

Inspiration:
Isaiah 40:31, But those who wait on the Lord Shall renew their strength; They shall mount up with wings like eagles, They shall run and not be weary, They shall walk and not faint.

Preparation:
Eph. 4:11-12, And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, 12 for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ,
II. How do we Demonstrate God's Love?

...love your neighbor as yourself.

A. We demonstrate God's Love through Ministry.

- “By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.” John 13:35

- “There are different kinds of gifts...There are different kinds of service (ministry)... Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.” (1 Cor. 12:4-5, 27 NIV)

B. At Cedar Grove -- Every member is a minister.

- Every task is important.

- Every member is a “10” in some area.

- The profit of all (1 Cor. 12:7)
III. How do we Communicate God's Word?

A. Through Evangelism: make disciples.

- **EVANGELISM**: “His intent was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known ...” Eph. 3:10

- **Rom. 10:13, 14** "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." 14 How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them?

B. Have you ever thought why God leaves us here?
IV. How do we Edify the Family in Fellowship?

...baptizing them (Bring them into the fellowship)

A. Why our church should grow.

1. Because God loves people!

- 2 Peter 3:9, *The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.*
2. Because God commands us to reach out.
   - Luke 14:23, Then the master said to the servant, ‘Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel them to come in, that my house may be filled.
   - Acts 1:8...you shall be witnesses to Me...
   - Matt. 28:19, Go...make disciples...

3. Because Growth is God's will and plan for the church.
   - Col. 2:19 ...holding fast to the Head, from whom all the body, nourished and knit together by joints and ligaments, grows with the increase that is from God.
   - I will build my church, (Matthew 16:18)
   - We should count people because people count!
B. We believe our church must grow in two ways.

- In **quantity** and in **quality** at the same time.

- Matthew 24:14, *And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come.*
V. The Church Exists to Educate God's People.

A. First we communicate, then we educate – teaching them...

- Heb. 6:1, Therefore let us leave the elementary teachings about Christ and go on to maturity.

- 2 Pet. 3:18, “But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.”
Ephesians 4:11-13

“. . . some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, to prepare God's people for works of service (ministry), so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.”

Who does the ministry?  

The people!

B. What are the pastors supposed to do?  
- Prepare the people to do the ministry.
Let’s see if you can remember them:

#1 We exist to **Celebrate** God’s Presence through **Worship**.

#2 To **Demonstrate** God’s love through **Ministry**.

#3 To **Communicate** God’s Word through **Evangelism**.

#4 To **Edify** God’s Family building the **Fellowship**.

#5 To **Educate** God’s people through **Discipleship**.
God wants you to worship HIM!

To love others!
To tell others about Jesus!
Be a part and bring others into the fellowship of the church?
Grow in His grace and knowledge?