

WE GROW

WE LEAD

Church

PROFILE

WE STAND

WE SERVE

**southern  
hills**  
BAPTIST CHURCH



# Isaiah 61

*“The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is on me, because the Lord has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor and the day of vengeance of our God, to comfort all who mourn, and provide for those who grieve in Zion—*

*To bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of joy instead of mourning, and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair.*

*They will be called oaks of righteousness, a planting of the Lord for the display of his splendor.*

*They will rebuild the ancient ruins and restore the places long devastated; they will renew the ruined cities that have been devastated for generations.”*

**In 2015, when celebrating 100 years of our church’s ministry in Tulsa, we chose this scripture in Isaiah as our theme.** It reflects who we are: a community who has experienced the Spirit of the Lord, called from brokenness to wholeness, from captivity to freedom, from mourning to joy, from ruin to restoration. And so we proclaim the Good News to the poor and trust God to bind up the brokenhearted. We are imperfect saints...authentic and yet fully loved by a perfect God. This is the community at Southern Hills.

Our mission statement, values statements and belief statements have been prayerfully chosen to reflect the central tenets of our church. We invite you to review them on [our website](#).

**It’s hard to wrap words around our church.**

*But let us try...*



## *We grow.*

Growing to be more fully devoted followers of Jesus is inherent in every activity at Southern Hills. From Sunday mornings to Friday nights, every opportunity to learn or serve draws us into the life of a disciple. We get to know ourselves—our shortcomings and our strengths. We encourage each other and push each other. Members share their hearts and insights while ministers and pastors teach, so that everyone has the opportunity to become grounded in a personal relationship with Christ, growing to become more like Him, and serving others.

Southern Hills has become a wonderfully diverse population drawn from different backgrounds and different sectors of our society with the shared desire to love Jesus more fully. This diversity nurtures growth in each of us as we discover how much we truly have in common with our neighbor, regardless of skin color, background or socio-economic status.

Southern Hills provides ample opportunity for members to grow in understanding, compassion and love for people who look nothing like them. We don't mind pushing each other beyond our comfort zone.

## *We are authentic.*

As tempting as it is to show our brothers and sisters that we are “good Christians,” Southern Hills has created a place where our members can say, “I’m a Christian, but I am struggling.” We encourage each other to embrace the grace of God for our salvation and lean heavily on God’s grace to do the continued work of renewing our minds and our habits. Life is messy. None of us have arrived...and we know it.

22 years ago, we introduced the ministry of Celebrate Recovery to our community. We had no idea how one single ministry would shape our congregation from the inside out. The result has been authentic relationships, healed marriages, recovering addicts and personal growth. We would not change a thing about our “safe-place” reputation.

## *We lead.*

At Southern Hills, we embrace a model of shared leadership with a shared vision—one that is revealed by the Holy Spirit not only to the pastor, but also to the congregation. Deacons, elected by the members, work closely with the pastor to lead the church into the future. We believe the push and pull of shared leadership provides another opportunity to continue to grow as disciples...seeking God, listening for His voice, learning from each other, practicing humility and deferring to one another in love. But in all things, we ask for the leadership of the Holy Spirit.

Our church history is filled with stories of individuals stepping into leadership roles. We have seen our members create ministries with God-given vision, and, as a church, we have supported and encouraged them along the way. Often, the board members and staff of these ministries are found within our church family. At the heart of our leadership is a desire for our members to live out their God-given purpose.

Additionally, our church community has leaders from organizations outside the community. Entrepreneurs, business executives and college professors who sit in our pews often contribute their unique perspectives and experience to the life of our church through wise counsel and mentoring.

We celebrate all the leaders within our community, and what God is doing through them.

## *We are planted.*

Southern Hills is located in the heart of Tulsa and has been in this same neighborhood since its beginning.

The diversity of our church surroundings reflects the diversity of our membership. With Tulsa's most beautiful neighborhoods and affluent lifestyles within a mile of our location, the church itself is nestled in a lower- to middle-income neighborhood. Our location is strategic, and even when opportunities have presented themselves, we have elected to stay in this demographically diverse part of Tulsa.

Surrounded by homes, businesses, schools and apartments, our church has ample opportunity to minister to our neighbors in many ways. Church demographics are wide, and we have developed vibrant ministries for all age groups, from babies through senior adults.



## We stand.

We stand firmly with the never-changing Word of God. We stand to be light in an increasingly dark culture. It's difficult to stand for anything today without offending someone. And while we strive to be an inviting church to any or all, we realize our stance on culturally hotbed topics will be a deal-breaker for many. Jesus told us this would happen. So we stand: Marriage is between a man and woman. God created us male and female. We do not hate. We do not discriminate against someone of a different faith or color. We do not align Jesus with a political party. This list goes on. But we hope by standing strong, we become a lighthouse—firmly stationed—in a tumultuous culture.

All that said, while we believe God's word is infallible, we know our human interpretation of it is not. Therefore, we strongly pursue “in essentials, unity; in non-essentials, liberty; in all things, charity.”

## We serve.

Southern Hills has developed a culture of service. Our members don't just hear the Gospel message; they walk it out in how they care for one another. This spirit to serve isn't birthed through shame-based messages of “ought to,” but through genuine relationships.

Life Groups and other small groups at Southern Hills create small, caring communities who show up for each other. Hospital visits, prayer support, Bible studies, and family celebrations happen within communities who *know* each other. Being known and loved is a common experience at Southern Hills. Sincere connections create organic motivation to serve one another.

And out of the overflow of loving community, the natural outcome is to serve those outside our church walls. For decades, God has used the unique perspectives of individual church members to find interesting and strategic ways to serve Tulsa and the world beyond. From our car care clinic, to a transitional program for women rebuilding their lives, to a girls' home in Africa, our members have birthed ministries and provided meaningful ways for our church members—their friends—to become involved. The result? People serving together, growing even more deeply in connection with one another, while sharing the Gospel with a hurting world.



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