

## THE MORTON FAMILY

Matt and Shannon have been married 25 years and have three children. Elizabeth is a sophomore at Texas A&M, majoring in dance science; Abigail, 17, is in 11th grade; and Samuel, 15, is in 9th grade. The Morton family enjoys playing board games, reading, watching movies, serving together, and following Texas A&M sports - Go Aggies!

Matt and Shannon first met on campus at Texas A&M and then reconnected through the college ministry at Grace Bible Church. Shannon has a passion for women's ministry and currently serves with CRU, helping to form women's discipleship ministries.

Fun Facts: Matt is a published author and Shannon was a professional photographer - one of her photos was featured on the Today Show!

EACH ONE SHOULD USE  
WHATEVER GIFT HE HAS RECEIVED  
TO **SERVE OTHERS**, FAITHFULLY  
ADMINISTERING GOD'S GRACE IN  
ITS VARIOUS FORMS.

*1 Peter 4:10*



Elizabeth, Sam, Shannon, Matt, and Abby

## SEARCH PROCESS

Feb 2024: After almost 38 years of faithful service to Spring Creek Church, Pastor Chip announced his retirement.

Mar 2024: A team was chosen to lead the pulpit search. Spring Creek Church members engaged in a survey to help determine the needs of the church and the qualities of the next lead pastor.

April 2024: Onsite interviews and focus groups, informed by our survey results, were conducted by NL Moore & Associates.

May - Aug 2024: NL Moore began the search, reaching out to hundreds of prospective candidates and networking contacts. Potential matches were interviewed and evaluated based on our criteria before being presented to the pulpit team.

Aug 2024 - Jan 2025: Multiple candidates and their spouses were interviewed by our pulpit team. This process involved both in-person and virtual meetings. Theological fit was highest on our list to evaluate during these interviews.

Feb 2025: Final interviews and reference checks were conducted. This resulted in the pulpit team unanimously recommending Matt Morton to the Deacon Board as our final candidate.

Feb 2025: The Deacon Board accepted the pulpit team's recommendation and enthusiastically voted to invite Matt to candidate at Spring Creek!

## MEET & GREET

Plan to take advantage of one of these opportunities to meet Matt, Shannon, and their children in early March. You will be receiving an e-mail that will allow you to sign up for one of the following dates:

- 📅 Thursday, March 6th | 6:30pm
- 📅 Friday, March 7th | 10:00am
- 📅 Friday, March 7th | 6:30pm
- 📅 Saturday, March 8th | 10:00am
- 📅 Saturday, March 8th | 2:00pm
- 📅 Matt will be preaching on Sunday, March 9th at:
  - 9:00am
  - 10:30am

## BUSINESS MEETING & VOTE

- 📅 Sunday Morning, March 16th

During both service times, a business meeting to vote on the lead pastor candidate will be conducted. 75% of the vote is needed to approve the lead pastor candidate. Please make it a priority to be here.



SPRING CREEK  
CHURCH

*Welcome only*  
**LEAD PASTOR  
CANDIDATE**

INTRODUCING  
**MATT MORTON**



## MATT MORTON

Matt is currently in his 24th year of ministry, serving the Lord as the Teaching Pastor of Grace Bible Church-Creekside in Texas. Communicating God's Word in a way that leads others to know and follow Jesus fuels his personal mission. Shannon, his wife of 25 years, shares in this life mission as well. Together, with their three children, they cheer loudly for all things Texas A&M, bond over family board game nights, watch movies, and turn the pages of many books.

Studying for his pastoral pursuit took place at Dallas Theological Seminary(DTS). During that time, he served as the Worship Pastor at a small church in Richardson, Texas. After graduation, he was hired at Grace Bible Church-College Station, serving as their College Pastor, Communications Pastor and most recently, Teaching Pastor.

In 2015, Grace Bible announced the expansion of the Creekside Campus. Matt moved into the Teaching Pastor role, growing this new location to a weekly average attendance of 1300 adults and 500 kids/students. His passion for personal discipleship has been displayed in both his leadership methods and his preaching focus. As he looks to move into this new season of ministry, he will leave behind a staff of over 20 full and part-time members that he has shepherded well.

Matt's academic resume started when he graduated from Texas A&M in 1998 with a Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering. He then completed his Masters of Theology at DTS in 2004. Matt has successfully defended his doctoral dissertation and will formally receive his degree in May 2025 from DTS with a Doctor of Ministry degree. His emphasis has been on expository preaching, to further align with his love for developing preaching skills in young pastors. (cont'd)

Writing has always been a secondary passion for Matt. With the encouragement of his wife Shannon and other shepherds in his life, Matt pursued writing a book on cultivating a life-changing relationship with the Holy Spirit. He titled it Learning to Breathe, self-publishing it in 2022. In addition, he has co-authored a bible study series entitled Ordinary Greatness and has been asked to write for multiple magazines and websites. His gift for writing is displayed throughout these pieces and in his teaching of God's Word.

## Q&A WITH MATT

### What has your journey into full-time ministry looked like?

I grew up with Christian parents, both of whom trusted Christ during their college years. We went to church regularly and I heard about Jesus often.

When I was 5 or 6 years old, I attended an event at our church for kids, with the gospel presented toward the end. I placed my faith in Christ at that time and later that weekend I had a conversation with my dad in which he explained the gospel to me again and confirmed that I had trusted in Jesus for eternal life. Later I was baptized in the church we attended.

During my college years, I grew in my faith and I also began to feel the Lord moving my heart toward vocational ministry. I led worship for my church's college ministry and occasionally had the opportunity to preach and to lead Bible studies. I briefly interned at Grace Bible Church and solidified my desire to attend seminary and pursue full-time ministry. When I completed seminary, I returned to Grace as the College Pastor.

### What are you excited about at Spring Creek Church?

I appreciate Spring Creek's devotion to biblical preaching that is also engaging and relevant to listeners. I have a passion for preaching in a way that connects with the timeless word of God to the lives of contemporary followers of Jesus Christ.

I am excited about the multi-generational nature of Spring Creek's congregation. At its heart, the Great Commission calls us to make disciples of the next generation, leading them to Jesus and training them faithfully. A church that values next-generation ministry is always going to remain healthy and vibrant.

Spring Creek's commitment to global missions is very encouraging to me! Christians who care about bringing Jesus to the nations are usually also faithful to share the gospel here at home. When we catch a vision for God's worldwide kingdom, it empowers and inspires us to participate in it in every way possible: to pray, to give, or even to go!

## ENDORSEMENTS

We have all been praying that the Lord would make it clear who He is calling to be our next pastor. As you can imagine, this has been the sincere prayer Margie and I have been praying over the last months. We believe the Lord is leading us to Pastor Matt Morton. I am still getting to know Matt, but I recognize that he has good ministry experience in one place. He has many exceptional gifts, including teaching God's Word. But most of all, I recognize that he is a humble man of God. Margie and I have thoroughly enjoyed getting to know Matt and Shannon and you will too. We would be very supportive and thankful if the Lord led the Mortons to Spring Creek Church.

CHIP BERNHARD  
*Lead Pastor*

It gives us great pleasure to announce that we, as a Pulpit Team, have selected a final Lead Pastor candidate for Spring Creek Church! After many months of prayer and numerous interviews, the Lord has unified our agreement, and we are excited to welcome Matt Morton, his wife Shannon and their kids Elizabeth, Abby and Sam.

As a Pulpit Team, we learned much about Matt through written materials, extensive interviews, and a visit to his home in Texas. We were committed in prayer through the entire process and are grateful to this congregation for upholding us in prayer. We focused on 3 Core Pillars in our search for the lead pastor which included solid biblical teaching, sound doctrine alignment with Spring Creek Church, and strong leadership. Additionally, we took into consideration the congregation's feedback in NL Moore's churchwide survey as well as feedback from the focus groups.

Matt is, first and foremost, a humble and wise man of God. He is an excellent communicator of God's Word. He has a heart for discipleship and equipping the local church. He is a man of integrity. He loves his wife and family well. In his 20+ years at his current church, he has led and managed large teams and budgets, he has been instrumental in major capital campaigns and has led well through a leadership transition. He has done all of these things with diligence, care for others, intentionality and dependence on the Lord.

We have seen the Lord's hand on these last few months and in what He has revealed about Matt. We are thankful for the Lord's direction and provision throughout this entire process.

Again, thank you for your prayers and support. We look forward to introducing you to Matt and his family early in March. We will have an opportunity to vote on Matt as the next lead pastor of Spring Creek Church on March 16th.

Praising the Lord!

SCC PULPIT TEAM  
*Becky Hubred | Beth Johnson | Ryan Malecki | Scott O'Neal  
Joyce Stearn | Tom Stricker | Dave Tietjen*