



Back: Tony, Meredith, Gray
Front: Caroline, Carey

Far Hills

COMMUNITY CHURCH

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TONY CHESTER

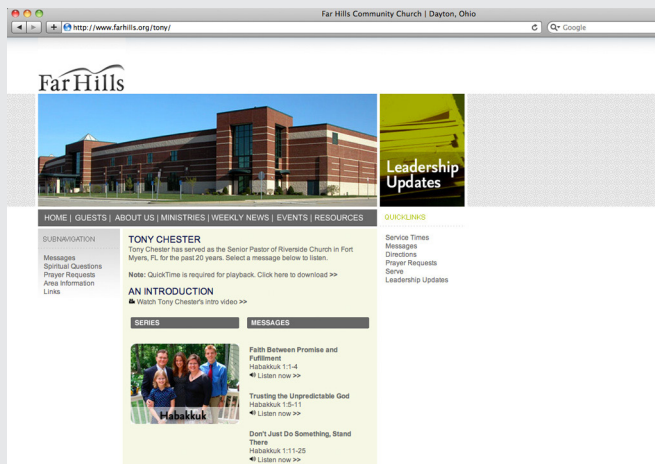
My wife, Carey, and I are delighted to be in this process of discovering God's direction for both our ministry and yours. We have genuinely enjoyed getting to know your Search Team and hearing of the rich heritage, current needs, and potential for the Kingdom at Far Hills.

My time with your Staff and Elders has sharpened my awareness that, if God directs, my experiences, strengths, and desires appear to be a good match for Far Hills.

Carey and I came to serve at Riverside Church, in 1986, amid a season of polarization and fragmentation. By God's grace, He enabled us to invest patiently in that congregation through pastoral engagement and leadership. During our twenty years at Riverside, we were able to see Him rebuild confidence and momentum in the ministry. God restored that church's missional spirit and blessed that body of Believers with many resources and ministries that reach hurting and broken people.

WATCH & LISTEN ONLINE

An introduction video and 10 audio messages are available online at www.farhills.org/tony.



Q & A SESSIONS

Friday 8/28 at 7:00pm in the Multipurpose Room
 Volunteers & Teachers, Staff, Deaconate

Saturday 8/29 at 10:00am in the Multipurpose Room
 Open to all

SUNDAY, AUGUST 30

10:30am Worship Service with Tony's message
12:00pm-5:00pm Building is open for prayer & fasting
5:00pm Family Gathering in the Worship Center

We enjoyed many blessings, while at Riverside Church, including a new, strategically-located facility and high-impact Student and Children's Ministries. We offered a progressive, yet doctrinally-sound, philosophy of ministry leading to the development of intentionally relational outreach and disciple-making. The Christ-centered Recovery Ministry has impacted many people who might not have otherwise connected with a church. We led Riverside Church to cultivate a broad "community church" appeal while remaining doctrinally, and cooperatively, Southern Baptist. This welcoming "open arms" environment allowed us to reach people who might have seen denomination as an initial barrier.

My Family...

Carey and I have been married for 26 years and have been blessed with three wonderful children. Our eldest, Meredith, just graduated from Florida State University. Our son, Gray, graduated with the class of 2009 from Fort Meyers High School. Caroline, our youngest, will begin sixth grade in a few weeks. My family has always been my first ministry.

My Mission...

My mission is to be a faithful believer, husband, father, and leader for Christ. I am convinced that "true success" includes ministering from the center of my own walk, nurturing a healthy, growing marriage with Carey, seeing my children embrace God's plan for their lives, and leading others to impact their world for Christ.

My Background...

I received my Bachelor of Science in Biology from Berry College, Mt. Berry, GA in 1981. That fall, I began at Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary, Memphis, TN. I completed the Master of Divinity (cum laude) there, interning in College Ministry at Bellevue Baptist Church. Dr. Adrian Rogers ordained me into the ministry, at Bellevue, in 1986. I earned my Doctor of Ministry, in 2004, from Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary, Boston, MA. Studying preaching under the esteemed Dr. Haddon Robinson was a great privilege.

Carey and I met in the College Ministry at West Rome Baptist Church in Rome, GA. She graduated early (magna cum laude) with a degree in Accounting from Shorter College.

My Philosophy...

I believe every church should aspire to capture its community for Christ and have a significant role in the global advancement of the gospel. My philosophy of pastoral leadership focuses on building a cohesive leadership team and leading from the center of that group. The qualities of maturity, unity, and focus evidenced by that core of key leaders should also be shared by the congregation. My strongest contributions are the pulpit ministry, leading through relationship-building, and vision development. The guiding question in all we do is, "what kind of church reflects the heart of God and moves His hand of blessing?" If we get that right - anything is possible!

Carey and I have had one central concern in all of this inquiry: Do we see the fingerprints of God as indicators of his direction? We are looking forward to meeting you next Sunday and discovering, together, God's plan. Regardless of the outcome, Far Hills is on our hearts and in our prayers. We are confident God has a plan and a very special walk of grace ahead for you.

In Him,

Tony Chester
Colossians 1:28-29