

## Healing Place Staff Pastors

**Brian Hackney** as a founding pastor of Cross Timbers, Brian served on the Leadership Team and as Worship Pastor for six years before transitioning to the role of Argyle Campus Pastor, focusing primarily on pastoral care. Having more of a heart for people than operations, Brian eventually turned over the campus pastor role to pursue full-time work in The Healing Place. Brian's compassion and empathy for others were born out of his own marriage struggles, along with grieving the loss of his 2-year-old son, Corban. Brian is certified by Life Innovations to administer the Prepare/Enrich marriage and pre-marital inventories and loves sharing the insight he has gained from working with over 1500 couples over the last 20 years, and in his own marriage of over 33 years.

Brian is a certified Mental Health Coach through the American Association of Christian Counselors, and does in-person sessions, as well as on-line Zoom meetings. Brian specializes in couple's counseling, as well as family dynamics, and parenting. He has also done extensive work with men who struggle with anger or addiction due to unhealed father wounds. He also has a heart to help people walk through faith struggles that result from trauma or loss. In his free time, Brian enjoys playing the piano, watching football, listening to podcasts, hiking, fishing, reading, and playing Texas Hold 'Em. Brian, and his wife Jamie, have 3 adult children, Chandler, Christian, and Carson, and one granddaughter, Ruthie Jean, and live in Aurora with their 3 dogs, Jessie, Rascal, and Mila.

Brian is currently scheduling privately. (Email [thehealingplace@crostimberschurch.org](mailto:thehealingplace@crostimberschurch.org) or call 940-240-0029 to schedule.)

**Christina Fitzgerald** has her Masters degree in Counseling: Marriage and Family, is Prepare/Enrich certified, and certified by the AACC as a Mental Health Coach. Counseling has always been a passion of Christina's due to her gift of compassion, wanting to help people walk through life's challenges. Christina has learned from the challenging circumstances in her own life, and knows that joy can be found, even in the mist of trauma and struggles.

Christina has called Cross Timbers home since 2003. She met her wonderful husband, Ray, at CT many years ago and they got married in 2014. This marriage was a double blessing as she not only gained a husband but an amazing daughter as well, Jade. Several years and many doctor's visits later, God finally said yes, and they were blessed with another amazing daughter, Lizzy. Over the years, Christina has served in several areas of the church, including support groups, kids, and youth small groups. She also has experience with loss of a parent at a young age, depression, anxiety, infertility, and overcommitment.

**Juan Vazquez** and his wife, Janice, worship and serve at Cross Timbers. They have been married for 16 years and have 7 children including the custody Luis a nephew. Juan and Janice also have the privilege and blessing of raising Juju a special needs Angel with Down syndrome. Juan is Professional Licensed Counselor Associate in Texas and earned his Masters in Mental Health Counseling from Colorado Christian University. He enjoys working with couples and marriages. He knows marriage is hard, having survived a separation and divorce during his 20-year military service. Juan sees marriage not as an entitlement, but as a gift from God for us to experience the dynamics of His own relationship with us and to put into practice Mathew 5, 6 and 7. Juan also meets individually with men, women, and teenagers. Juan understands the pressure leadership and daily responsibilities impose on marriage, family relationships and spiritual relationships. Juan is an advocate for experiencing wellness through the reframing of the thoughts, the challenging of cognitive distortions, and providing a holistic approach to mental wellness. This is done discipline targeting healthy nutrition, rest, exercise, spiritual nourishment, support and practices. He believes in a holistic approach to wellness via mind, body, and soul. He enjoys spending time with his family, exercise, flying airplanes or helicopters and flight instruction.

**Kayla Schroeder** has been married to her husband Terry for 38 years. These years have helped her develop a real world understanding of what it takes to have a healthy and lasting marriage. Together Kayla and Terry have raised two kids who are now both adults working in fields that help others. Kayla is certified by AACC as a Mental Health Coach and is certified by Association of Biblical Counselors to equip and encourage people to have health and mental wellness. Kayla enjoys doing premarital counseling with couples. She also shares hope with those who are hurting in marriage and those who struggle with living problems. Kayla believes changing your self-talk and changing your "script" can lead to breakthrough.

Passionate in helping women find their healing and self-worth, she understands what it's like for young women to struggle with things such as anxiety, depression, alcohol, self-mutilation, body dysmorphia, and gender identity crisis issues. Kayla loves to share there is Hope and Peace in a challenging and ever-changing world.

**Ores L Johnson Jr**, (AKA Spooky), and his beautiful wife of 27 years, Denisa, are blessed with three amazing young-adult children: Darius, Jordan, Alexyss, and daughter-in-love Vanessa and one grandson Ezekiel. Spooky served as an assistant pastor for 13 years, and it was during that time he found a passion for helping people walk through tough situations and circumstances. While serving he realized he wasn't exempt from life's test and trials, and in that he found freedom knowing that through it all God still loves him. It was then he discovered his purpose, helping people find freedom through Christ.

## CARE COACHES SCHEDULING ONLINE

### FEMALE

**Brittany Beck** lives in North Texas with her husband of 15 years and 2 school aged children. Brittany has been an educator for 15 years and has recently left the classroom to follow the passion God has placed on her heart of serving others through coaching. She is a certified Life Coach and Mental health coach that has a passion for serving female clients of all ages. Through each stage of life Brittany has struggled and worked through common issues such as anxiety, lack of confidence, maintaining friendships, self-care, understanding her worth, and feeling like she wasn't enough. Over the last few years, she has been on a journey of healing and discovering her true worth in the Lord. Brittany's obstacles through marriage, parenting, self-image, and career changes have allowed her to see God's faithfulness and His ability to heal and transform. She has a passion for helping teen girls, young adults, and women of all ages understand their worth, overcome their fears, and reach their full potential.

**Diana Nellessen** is married to Dan and between them, they have four adult children -many with families of their own. God has allowed Diana to experience many trials in life, equipping her to support others as they face their own struggles. With an empathetic, accepting approach, her heart's desire is to help people connect with God's unique blueprint for them, building their confidence and faith along the way. Her core belief is that the emotions we experience are common, regardless of the life situations that evoke them. God continues to make divine introductions to her clients, skillfully matching their needs with the gifts He has bestowed upon her. She'd love to walk through your trials and tribulations with you as you evolve into a confident overcomer.

**Jamie Hackney** and Brian have been married for 31 years and have three young-adult children. Their son, Corban, passed away when he was two years old and now lives in heaven. Because God has helped her in her marriage, death of child and parenting, Jamie is passionate about helping women of all ages that are struggling in their marriage, or who feel stuck in life due to grief and loss, depression, or just feel overwhelmed. She also loves working with children, teenagers, and young women.

**Jennifer Shepard** and her husband, Clint, have been married since 2016. They have a beautiful, blended family of five children ranging in ages. Their oldest son is a United States Marine. He and his wife are stationed in California at Camp Pen. Their 18-year-old son just started his first year of college pursuing aviation. Their daughter is in her first year of High School. Then they have two middle school sons. Clint is a First Responder for Denton County.

Jennifer has been in full time ministry for 12 years, working for Cross Timbers for the past 5 years. It was during this time that she found freedom as she began to learn about her gifts, passions, and talents. Jennifer is a Certified Mental Health Coach through the American Association of Christian Counselors and is continuing her education as a Professional Life Coach.

She has a desire to help those who are hurting, experience the same freedom that she has found. She has a passion to help those who are facing divorce, starting a blended family, navigating through hard relationships, kids leaving home, and finding the blessing in the mess. She looks forward to hearing from you...just as you are, wherever you find yourself in life!

**Joy Longfield** has been married to her husband Brett for over 20 years and has 2 adult children. Joy is a Certified Mental Health Coach through the American Association of Christian Counselors. Her passion is for women of all ages, including teenagers, to come into true freedom in Christ through stewardship of their body, mind, and spirit working in unison with one another. Life is messy and hard, and we are all broken and suffer varying degrees of trauma throughout life. Learning to live in the conflict between the joy and wonder versus the fragility and danger of living in this fallen world has been a continuous learning opportunity for Joy. She has experience in divorce, fostering/adoption, trauma (physical, emotional, and spiritual), loss of loved ones and grief. She also has a deep understanding of the struggle's women face relating to diet, exercise, and body image. She worked as a certified personal trainer and nutritional counselor for 8 years and has a desire to come alongside those who long for victory in these areas. Joy and her husband have led marriage groups and schedule couples' sessions together. Joy loves the outdoors, hiking, biking, and camping. She loves fitness and nutrition, reading, and spending time with her family and 3 dogs.

**Kathy Palmer** and her husband, Scott, have been married for 50 years and have 2 adult daughters and 5 grandchildren. Kathy says, throughout our married life we have had to face alternative lifestyle choices, drug and alcohol addiction, divorce, and custody court battles. Through it all we knew Jesus was at work in all our lives, even when it didn't look or feel like it. I have a heart to try and help people navigate through the yuck and disappointments of life. To find ways to thrive and not just survive when life is not going the way you thought it would or when hit with heartbreaking events. Navigating boundaries and finding JOY in the strength of the Lord! Willing to work with women, young adults, or couples.

**Katy Gable** was born and raised right here in Argyle. Katy is a new mom and enjoys spending time with her husband of 10 years and young daughter, usually doing anything outside. They enjoy traveling with their camper, riding UTV's, boating, swimming, and spending time with family, friends, and neighbors. Katy is passionate about serving at the Healing Place, using her personal experiences with the effects of alcoholism in a family, emotional childhood traumas, teenage pregnancy, anxiety, and depression to help other women feeling hopeless, lost, or just overwhelmed. She has a heart for walking alongside young women who are trying to navigate those tough life transitions; from high school teenager to college student to entering the workforce to becoming a wife or a new mom. She wants to be that relatable go-to person for you, who walks beside you without judging or condescending. She can be that listening ear and voice that helps you sort through your feelings, anxiety, stress, and depression, and she can put together some resources and coping skills to help you become a confident and emotionally intelligent woman.

**Lissie Kevlin** has worked in student ministry for over three years, and she has a huge heart for middle school and high school students. She grew up in the area, and her family has attended Cross Timbers since she was in 1<sup>st</sup> grade. Lissie graduated from Liberty Christian in 2014 and then went to TCU. She now works as a Student Pastor at Cross Timbers. Lissie is passionate about the next generation. She has walked with teenage girls through social, emotional, family, mental health, and numerous other struggles. She enjoys working with girls from ages 11-18.

**Misty Fitch** and her husband have a blended family with 4 children who are now teens to early adults. She has served in ministry at some capacity for more than 20 years and has a passion for helping people understand their identity is found in Christ. A divorce found her on the ground trying to figure out who she was outside of being a wife, and she was determined to help other women understand their identity doesn't come from whatever title they may hold. From teens to women, Misty has a desire to help them realize who they are and find freedom in whatever is holding them back from being everything God created them to be.

**Paula Salyer** is a widow, with 3 sons and 8 grandchildren. She has had to overcome many trials in life. Paula had an alcoholic father growing up, divorced parents, husband's suicide, bankruptcy, son fighting addiction, and a job loss. Paula says, "I was not sure what a care coach was, but I wanted to use my painful life situations to help others. I discovered while training to be a care coach, that it helped me work through my issues and find more freedom and healing in my own life."

**Sandy Anthony** and her husband Gary have been married for 40 years. They have four adult children and eleven grandchildren. Sandy has served families in ministry for over forty years. Sandy desires to see people set free. Sandy is a Marriage and Family Therapist, Licensed Professional Counselor, and EMDR Trained Therapist. She has led faith-

based marriage classes, and counsels' individual clients who may be experiencing divorce, spouse abuse, infidelity, and reconciliation. She has led grief classes and is currently working on meeting the needs of widows and orphans in our local community. Sandy does individual, couples, and family counseling, specializing in blended families. Sandy has experience counseling those with addictions, depression, anxiety, bipolar, dyslexia, multicultural transition and language barriers, for those who want to strengthen their language skills or English. Her passion is to see her clients restored and made whole, physically, mentally, and spiritually. Sandy loves to connect her clients to resources that will assure their growth and stability in their families, church, and surrounding community.

**Shawn Wolfe** and her husband Doug have been married 29 years and had the privilege of raising a blended family and watching God's faithfulness in creating something beautiful and good from what had previously been broken. By the grace of God, Shawn and Doug have three grown children (and two young granddaughters), who all contribute to society and love each other! Shawn recently, (5 years ago), went back to school to pursue her desire to encourage others and received her Master's in Rehabilitation Counseling. Shawn is a Certified Rehabilitation Counselor which specifically qualifies her to work with individuals with cognitive and physical disabilities. Shawn most recently worked for the University of North Texas counseling college students and served as the facilitator for the Student Veterans Support Group on campus. Prior to that she worked for a Christian non-profit organization, Covenant Kids, in counseling foster children and cared for her elderly mother with Alzheimer's for 3 years. Shawn believes by experiencing Christ's amazing love and grace we can change our thoughts about ourselves, and in turn, change our behavior. At times we cannot control our circumstances, but we can ALWAYS choose our thoughts about our circumstances. Shawn says "In the counseling profession, this approach would be called the Cognitive Behavior Theory. In God's Kingdom it is called the Who I am in Christ Theory". New thoughts lead to new behavior which ultimately leads to a new, BETTER, abundant life. Shawn enjoys working with students, and adults of all ages.

**Sherri Strain** is divorced with 2 grown children, a fur baby, 8 grand-blessings. Sherri lives a well-rounded life enjoying time with her family, thrifting, crafts, and decorating her home. She has many years of experience as a hospice nurse, equipping her to compassionately sit and listen with others. Sherri's not so perfect life, shaped by poor choices, propels her to help women find the same hope and healing she has found in Christ. She has earned the Mental Health Coach certification training through the American Association of Christian Counselors and is eager to walk with you on this journey to freedom. She meets with women who are experiencing abandonment, unhealthy lifestyles choices and depression.

**Tabitha Philips** is an ordained and endorsed Chaplain specializes in providing end of life pastoral care supporting patients, families, and healthcare staff. She passionately leads grief facilitation, legacy work, end of life conversations, bereavement support and decedent care. Her heart is to sojourn with those experiencing infant and pregnancy loss, chronic illnesses, terminal diagnoses such as cancer and the death of a loved one. Tabitha currently serves as a Hospice Chaplain and Bereavement Coordinator for VNA (Visiting Nurse Association) Hospice in Denton County.

Tabitha has experience with spiritual distress, over functioning and perfectionism. Having faced loss due to geographical transitions and divorce, Tabitha feels called to meet people right where they are, journeying alongside them in their quest for meaning-making in the chaos. She has her M.Phil., CPE and is certified by AACC as a Mental Health Coach. Her compassion and empathy are born out of seasons of spiritual struggle, grief, loss, joy, and celebration. Tabitha lives in North Texas and enjoys spending time with her family, gardening, writing, and meeting people from different cultural and spiritual backgrounds.

## **MALE**

**Brett Longfield** and his wife, Joy, have been married for 20 years and have 2 adult children. Brett is a certified Mental Health Coach through the American Association of Christian Counselors, and does in-person sessions, as well as on-line Zoom meetings. He works with men of all ages, as well as couples, and he and his wife also work with couples together. Brett has always had a heart for making others feel valued, and his compassion for others has been strengthened through his experience in parenting, fostering/adoption, blended families, death of immediate family

members, family members with mental illness, and leadership. He is particularly passionate about practicing stewardship in all areas of life (spiritual, emotional, physical, and financial), as well as finding meaning & purpose in life right where you are. In his free time, Brett and his wife like reading, fitness, adventures, being outdoors, playing games, and sports. They are blessed to be a part of Cross Timbers Church and members of small group community of real people trying to live like Jesus in the sphere of influence they occupy.

\*\*Brett has hours available online but also does privately scheduling. You can find additional availability with Brett by emailing him at [blongfield@hotmail.com](mailto:blongfield@hotmail.com)

**Robert Rouse** and his wife Tracy have been married 24 years and have five (5) adult children and two (2) grandsons. He works with men, young men, and all veterans. Professionally, Robert's current career is in sales/marketing. He has experience with veteran issues, parenting, family members with addiction, stress, work environment issues, couple issues, divorce, and unemployment. Robert is a great listener and provides a perspective to help you uncover your issues. He is the ministry leader for the Veterans Support Group and is an active member of the Serve Team, currently serving on the Parking Crew.

**Steve Gornik** has been married to Jayne for 10 years and they have a blended family of 5 adult children. He works with men of all ages and couples. Steve has experience in working through marriage issues, parenting, divorce, remarriage, blended families, pornography, financial stewardship, life transitions and leadership. He is sincerely interested in helping people break through barriers so they can live a more fulfilling Christ-focused life. Steve and Jayne also offer premarital counseling using the Prepare & Enrich Premarital Assessment tool.

\*\* Steve only meets by Zoom or FaceTime for his appointments.

**Steve Williams** and his wife Daisy have been married for 11 years. Together they have 9 children, 11 grandchildren and are expecting a 12<sup>th</sup> in January 2023. Steve works with adult men, young men and couples. Steve has experience with marriage issues, divorce recovery, blended family issues, general life issues such as stress, anxiety, depression, etc. Steve is a combat veteran who is experienced in dealing with PTSD as well. Steve and his wife worship at Cross Timbers church where Steve also serves with the worship tech team and is active in the veterans support group.

**CARE COACHES SCHEDULING PRIVATELY (Email [thehealingplace@crosstimberschurch.org](mailto:thehealingplace@crosstimberschurch.org) to schedule.)**

## **FEMALE**

**Alissa Pearson** and her husband, Tim, have been married for 5 years. They are a blended family with 4 children (ages 20, 15, 13, and 10). After working for 9 years as a child care director, the Lord called her back to school to complete a Master's in Marriage and Family Therapy at The King's University. Alissa is currently completing the Mental Health Coach certification training through the American Association of Christian Counselors. She is Gottman Level II trained, a certified facilitator of both Prepare & Enrich and SYMBIS, and she and her husband are certified Marriage Mentors. Alissa has a heart to walk with individuals, couples, and families as they seek to find freedom, peace, and healing. She does in-person sessions, as well as online Zoom sessions.

**Amanda Muscle** has learned that waiting for the other shoe to drop, is often worse than the shoe dropping. When her shoe dropped, the world kept spinning and God was there, holding her hand. As a Care Coach, Amanda shares that hope and peace only Jesus can bring! Amanda has earned the Mental Health Coach certification training through the American Association of Christian Counselors. She has a heart for walking along side military and civil service families, foster and adoptive families, as well as individuals struggling with co-dependency. Amanda and her husband Chris have been married for 13 years. Landon and Leighton, their two sons, are their greatest adventure! When needing to soothe her soul, Amanda reaches for her paddle board and seeks out the nearest lake!

**Carol Meade** was married for almost thirty years, then divorced, then widowed. Carol has 5 adult children. She works with adults, usually women, but not exclusively. Carol is a Stage IV cancer survivor (4 years), as well as experienced as a parent of a child with pediatric cancer and the devastation that accompanies a critically ill child. She has experience

with family members with mental illness and personality disorders; financial devastation and recovery; as well as teaching tools for overcoming depression, anger, bitterness, co-dependence, and insecurity. She has been unemployed and homeless as well as self-employed and a successful small business owner. She can help with entrepreneurial and small business development and issues pertaining to a self-employed person. Carol recently received her Master's in Pastoral Counseling and Leadership Coaching. She is a good listener and loves helping people realize the strength they have within themselves to look beyond circumstances and make new, positive choices.

**Sonya Johnson** and her husband, Ores "OJ", have been married for 50 years. They have four adult children, six grandchildren, and four great grandchildren. She works with women, young adult women, and couples. Before moving to Texas, Sonya worked alongside her husband pastoring a church. She has taught parenting classes and coached Youth/children from single parent homes and foster care. She has mentored many single, married, and divorced women. Sonya listens well and helps others to connect to God for emotional healing. She believes they experience relief from the pain of unforgiveness and other deep-rooted issues that can be remedied by way of spiritual healing.

**Stephanie Hanson** and her family transferred to Cross Timbers from Gateway in 2020. She and her husband John have a blended family with 5 children. She has a passion for helping those going through divorce do it with as much love and grace as possible, finding positive ways to co-parent and see the other person through Jesus' eyes instead of through the hurt. She also loves helping blended families – from meeting individually to a step-family class she teaches with her husband, she has a desire to help others avoid the pitfalls that are commonplace when combining families. Stephanie completed Freedom Ministry classes, Divorce Recovery classes, and completed the Mental Health Coaching classes through Light University.

**Tanya Farmer** and her husband, Eric, have been married for 14 years. She works with women and young women. Tanya has experience with coparenting, blended families, sexual abuse, family members with addiction and mental illness. She loves helping others find another perspective when times are hard. She encourages women to do what they never thought possible.

## **MALE**

**Ores "OJ" Johnson** has been married to his wife, Sonya, for 50 years. They have four adult children, six grandchildren, and four great grandchildren. OJ has experience as a Pastor, chaplain, community leader, associate, and counselor working with families, married couples, Men's groups, youth, etc. His passion is to assist in rebuilding communities, by mentoring one person at a time, one family at a time, one community at a time to become one nation under God for His glory and honor and honor as the True Body of Christ.