

THE SAINT TIM'S TIMES



Traveling Solo, But Never Alone

by Sarah Swindell

To those newer to St. Timothy's, you understandably haven't noticed my absence this past year, but I, Sarah, am a lifelong member of our church. That's why many who know me have wondered— where is Sarah? Did she move? Did she just sleep through Sunday services again?

The truth is I've been traveling. My remote work means I could take care of business from any place with Wi-Fi. I started small, spending last winter in Emerald Isle. Then, I headed off to visit DC and my sister, Moriah, and to Nashville to see Taylor Swift in concert. I'm often met by surprise when I add I'm taking these trips solo, particularly when I set off for South Africa, but I was never truly alone.

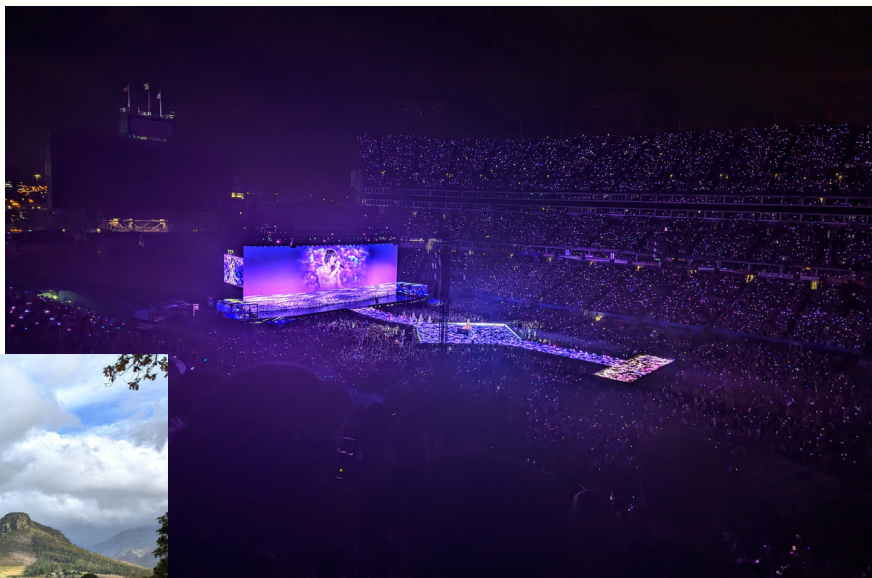
For instance, the magic of Taylor Swift concerts is the unquestioned camaraderie, and that got put to the test when we waited through a four-hour thunderstorm delay. Sitting in the stadium's club level, I never anticipated the girl and her mother I invited to share my table would buy me dinner and drive me back to my hotel at two o'clock in the morning. I even spent the next day working at a swanky hotel coffee shop, only to sit beside two friends who happened to mention the concert. Long story short, they hugged me goodbye after a very excited chat about dancing in the persistent rain.

Those fans were almost as friendly as the city of Cape Town. First off, if you can survive the flight, go to Cape Town. Not only do exchange rates make it an affordable trip, but the region is gorgeous. The landscape ranked only second to the welcoming people. It wasn't the tour guides or my fellow travelers making the experience special.

During a photogenic beach day, I met a woman making bracelets to support her family. She created a custom bracelet for me as we chatted about places to visit and the lack of government support leading to South Africans caring for each other. I also made friends with a barista who wrote my name in my lattes and a bubbly volunteer coordinator, Bhuko, who allowed me to give back on my last day in the city.

This rag-tag group had started a vegetable garden for their neighborhood and used MacGyver-style methods to make it successful. With new friends, I helped plant bush beans. The garden owners eagerly asked about St. Timothy's garden that I happened to mention, and Bhuko promised to send updates about our beans (they did well!). She even took us to a fermentor's shop afterwards where other harvested produce would be preserved in clay Kimchi pots.

Now, I could ramble about the winelands and my safaris, but the pictures I've shared are worth more than my words can describe. The most important thing I want to share is that, no matter where we go, there's always an opportunity for community and connection. Although, if your life won't let you run off to Africa for a month, I'll happily tell you more about it next time I'm home!



Scouting at St. Timothy's

by Grady (8th grade) and Noah (6th grade)

We each started Scouting when we were in 1st grade, as Tiger Scouts, in Pack 46. We've now moved up to Troop 46 and are First Class (Grady) and Tenderfoot (Noah) ranks.

Our favorite things about Scouting are camping, meeting new friends, service projects, and helping other Scouts with their Eagle projects. We enjoy the sense of achievement from earning Merit Badges. Grady's favorite Merit Badges he has earned are Space Exploration, Astronomy, and Game Design. Noah's favorites include Bird Study, Oceanography, and Fish & Wildlife Management.

We have both also participated in the P.R.A.Y. (Programs of Religious Activities with Youth) programs with the Pack and Troop. We completed God and Me and God and Family in Cub Scouts and are currently working on God and Church.

We think that Scouts helps us grow as individuals by learning important life skills, such as financial management, first aid, health and fitness, knot tying, navigation, cooking, survival techniques, leadership, problem solving, and interview preparation.

We're both very excited about going to Scout camp for the first time this summer and hope to earn many merit badges, especially swimming and archery. We both have a goal to earn the Eagle Scout rank, which is the highest rank in Scouting. We love Scouting and would encourage young people to join the program!



Our Nursery Care Providers

The nursery has now been re-opened for just about a year, and we wanted to take some time to introduce you to your wonderful care providers. You may see them around on Sunday mornings and we hope you'll say hello and welcome. The nursery and their ministry is a critical space of love and support for our youngest and their families, and we are grateful for their presence!

Paula Bowen

I am a transplant from Suffolk, VA. I enjoy spending time with my 20 year old daughter, my 2 dogs and family/friends. I love reading and working in my yard. I am a NC Wesleyan and ECU alum. I am an ECU Pediatric Clinical Social Worker at NC-SteP. I serve on the altar guild, unseen dinner guest, cursillo and in the nursery.



Karen Mitchell

I'd like to introduce myself, I'm Karen Mitchell. I enjoy working with young children and snuggling babies. I work with our St. Timothy's preschool with the youngest group. I have worked with young children for many years and hope to see new friends in our nursery soon.



Jessie Zimmerman

Hi! My name is Jessie! I am from Raleigh NC, I am 23 years old, and in nursing school at Pitt community college. I have lived in Greenville for 4 years and will be graduating in May. I worked as a camp counselor for Camp Trinity in 2018 and 2019. I also do a lot of dog sitting and babysitting. I love working in the nursery, and also volunteer my time with EYC at St. Tim's.

