

## **Why Deer Park**

**By Tim Bobbie**

I've been a church member for as long as I can remember. From a child growing up at Beechwood Baptist Church through my long tenure at Broadway Baptist Church to my current time at Deer Park, I've always been active in church. In fact, I've always been a part of the choir, whether it was Children's Choir, Youth Choir, or Adult Choir. It seemed like church members associated me with the choir, but not much else. One thing I found, though, was that love and care can come in many different forms, and I found that each church I've been a part of loved me in different ways.

Beechwood was a small community of Christ-followers where people were loved and cared for, much like Deer Park. As young people left, however, I felt like I had little room left to grow. I then went to St. Matthews Baptist Church. St. Matthews was almost too large, and I felt lost in the mix. Next, I moved to Broadway. Broadway was great and it helped me heal from the loss of my mom, but I eventually felt the call to move on.

So why Deer Park? Deer Park has been the only church that loved me like family and looked at me as not only a member of the choir, but also as a committee member, a loving father and grandfather, and someone who was always there for another "family member" in a time of need. Deer Park accepted me and my daughter with no judgment. And now, even though my son and daughter are no longer active in church, I know they are loved and that people at Deer Park care about them.

My time here has been wonderful and each member of Deer Park has a special place in my heart. While I am not particularly close to my own extended family, church members have become family to me. I have grown to love each and every one of them. When people ask me about my family, I mention my kids, my grandsons, and then I mention my church. Deer Park is a family of love and I am blessed to be a part of it.