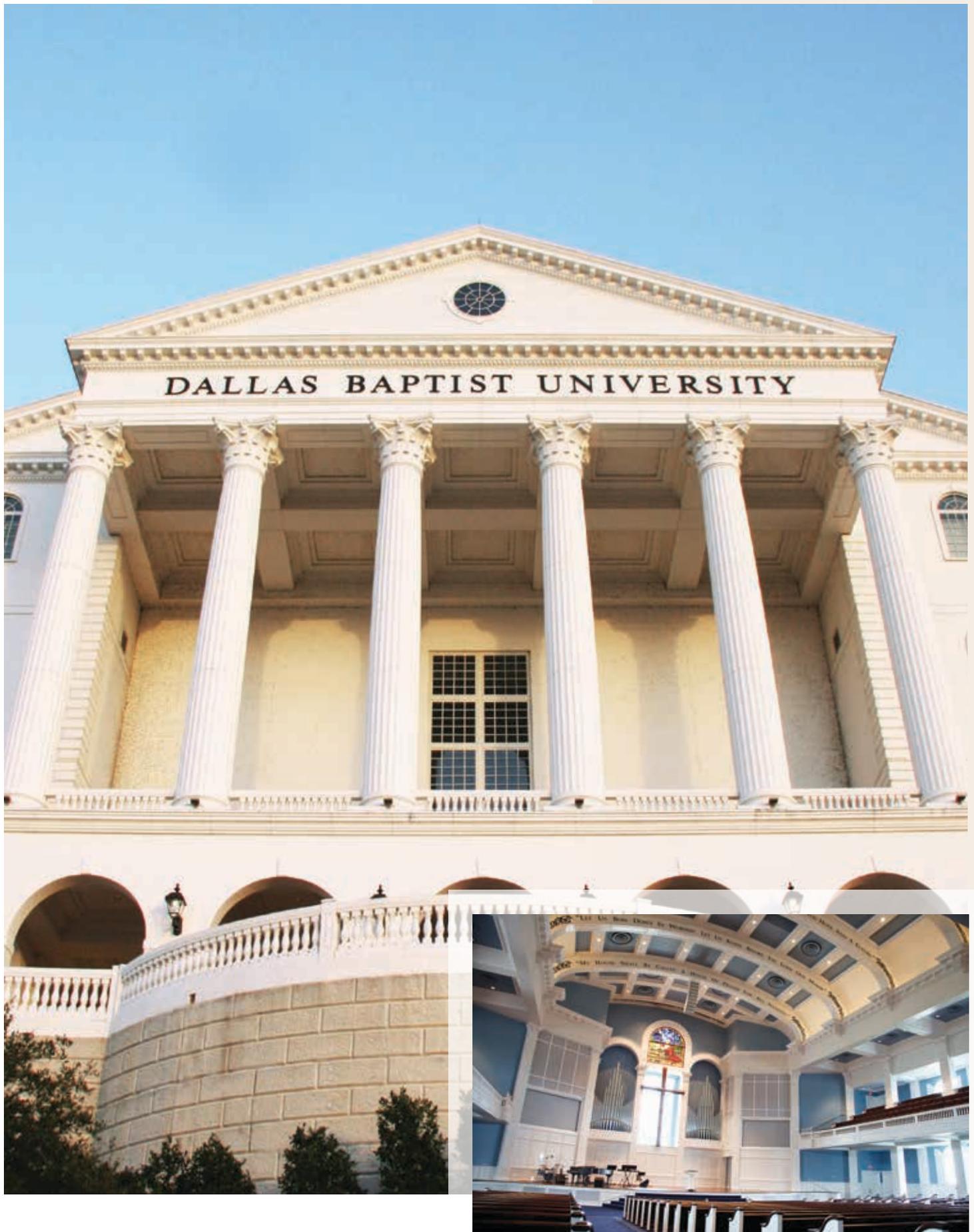


SACRED SPACES



A sacred space is a location that is used for spiritual reflection and worship. The Bible is replete with examples of these locations that were set aside for time with God. In the Old Testament, the Tabernacle and later the Temple stood as locations where the people of Israel met God. In the New Testament, we see Jesus retreating to gardens and other private locations for times of prayer with the Father. Over the past 2,000 years, Christians have continued in this tradition. Whereas we know that because of the sacrifice of

Jesus Christ, we can pray and worship God anywhere and any time, we still find it useful to have places designed for the express purpose of communion with God.

At DBU, we have taken the time to establish sacred spaces throughout the campus. Some are small prayer gardens, others are chapels or prayer rooms, and still others are larger halls designed for worship. In each space, individuals are encouraged to take time from their busy schedules and worship the one true God.



PATTY AND BO PILGRIM CHAPEL

For years, DBU students, faculty, and staff met in the Burg Center to hold chapel services. As soon as the service concluded, maintenance crews would take up the carpets, roll back the curtain, and turn the chapel back into a gymnasium. While the Burg Center provided a wonderful space to hold chapel services, it was never seen as a sacred space. This changed in 2006 when Bo and Patty Pilgrim stepped forward with an \$8 million lead gift for a new chapel building. Inspired by the First

Baptist Church of Providence, Rhode Island, the first Baptist congregation in America, Pilgrim Chapel opened its doors in the fall of 2009. The sanctuary, which holds more than 1,400 individuals, is filled with Christian images and reminders of its function—to serve as a permanent place of worship.

Since its opening, the Pilgrim Chapel has been home to countless special moments. Throughout the day, you can walk inside to see students spending a moment in spiritual reflection. Three times a week, praises are lifted up as students gather for chapel. Family and friends fill the chapel on weekends for special wedding services. Guest speakers proclaim God's Word and provide Christian answers for contemporary society from the pulpit, and choirs and ensembles proclaim the Gospel through song. It is truly a remarkable place of worship.

“write them on the doorframes of your house”

A FOCUS ON PRAYER

When Dr. Gary Cook arrived on campus as president in 1988, the school appeared to be on its last legs. With a perpetual operating debt, small enrollment, low endowment, and a campus in dire need of repair, it was difficult to determine what problem to tackle first. As Dr. Cook would later recall, “I didn’t know what to do when I first arrived, but I knew that we needed to pray.” Within three weeks of the beginning of his presidency, Dr. Cook began an Intercessory Prayer Ministry,

which would seek out some 1,000 senior adult prayer partners to undergird the whole of the life of the University in prayer.

Over the years, this number has grown as the ministry of prayer at DBU has grown. Soon, a special room was dedicated in memory of Cynthia Faith Estes, the late daughter of long-time DBU religion professor, Dr. Weldon Estes. This room, the centerpiece of the Orville and Esther Beth Rogers Prayer Ministry, provides students, faculty, and staff a sacred space where they can sign up for times to come and pray through requests that are sent to the Rogers Prayer Ministry from both on-campus and off-campus members of the DBU Family.

In addition, you will see designated prayer gardens, outdoor sacred spaces that provide a peaceful and reflective area as you walk across the campus. These gardens are lined with flowers and green plants, and have bronze Scripture plaques that reflect a focus on prayer.





“write them on the doorframes of your house”

THE ROAD TO EMMAUS

Down by the Bush Pond on the southeast side of the campus, there is the Mike Arnold Fitness trail, which runs around the pond and provides a wonderful jogging trail for students, faculty, and staff alike. Over the years, an addition to the loop has been added, increasing this trail beyond the original path, back through a wooded area of the campus. This new addition was recently named the Road to Emmaus Walking Trail.

At the beginning of the trail is a plaque with a story of the two disciples that walked with the risen Christ in Luke 24:13-35. As people walk down the road, they are encouraged to reflect on the message of the Gospel and the salvation found through Jesus. They are also encouraged to use the time along the road as an opportunity to pray and commune with God.



BOYLES PRAYER ARBOR

On the southeast corner of the campus is DBU's Global Village, a designated area for ministry among international students, as well as a training center for global missions. In the midst of this village stands the Moon International Center, and outside of its front entrance is the Boyles Prayer Arbor. This beautiful space is surrounded by flowers and ivy, as bronze plaques with Scripture verses are placed throughout the area.

The arbor was dedicated in 2005 in honor of Ann Boyles, who for many years served as the director of the Intensive English Program at DBU and continually demonstrated a love for the Lord and international students.



GASTON CHAPEL

In 1990, Gaston Avenue Baptist Church sold its existing church building to move to a new location. The church, under the leadership of their pastor Rev. Ed Bowles, whose son Ron Bowles currently serves as dean of the DBU College of Fine Arts, and Noble Hurley, a deacon at the church, decided to donate the pews and the pulpit from the old building to DBU, and, with this donation, DBU established the Gaston Chapel. Located in the Collins Learning Center, this sacred space has been used for various special events and ceremonies, including prayer times and some wedding services. Most often, this is the location of the winter and summer faculty and staff chapels where the University community gathers together for a time of worship to sing praises to God and hear testimonies of God's faithfulness in the lives of the members of the DBU family.

At the front of the chapel stands the Gaston Avenue pulpit, which served as a platform for the proclamation of God's word through the years. Displayed on the pulpit so only the speaker could see are the words, "Sir, we would see Jesus." These words were taken from John 12:21, as a group of Greeks approached Philip, asking to see Jesus. The phrase is seen in many pulpits, especially in England, reminding the preacher that when they proclaim the Word of God, the congregation does not need to hear sophisticated oratory or fantastic and moving stories, rather they just need to see Jesus and His Gospel proclaimed. Visitors who stand in the pulpit in the sanctuary of Pilgrim Chapel see these same words.



THE MIRACLE BELL

In October of 2007, Dr. Gary Cook visited his doctor for an annual physical and discovered that he had leukemia. After much prayer and six months of treatment, in the spring of 2008, he was declared to be in remission, a miracle from the Lord. To mark the fifth anniversary of this healing, in 2013 Dr. Blair Blackburn and his wife, Michelle, donated to DBU the Dr. Cook Miracle Bell, which hangs in the gazebo overlooking Bush Pond on the DBU campus.

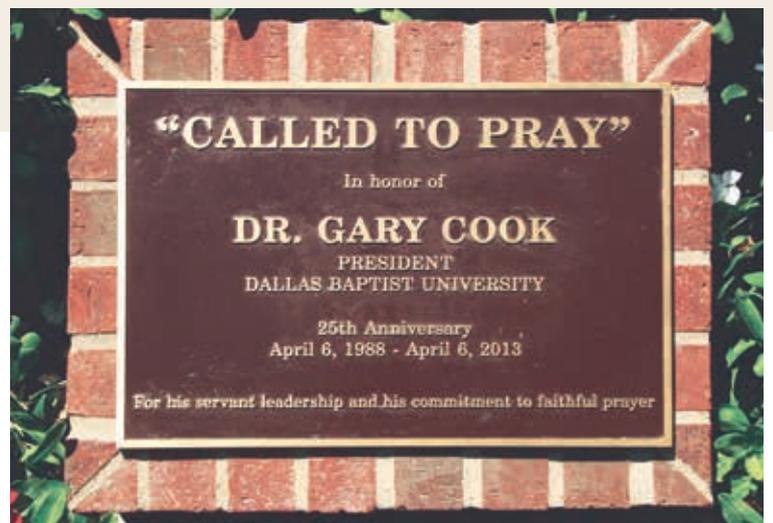
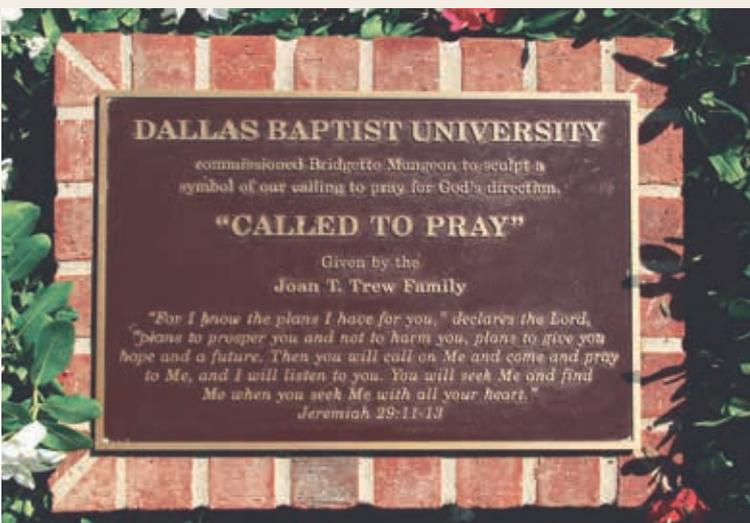
The plaque for the bell states, "When asking God for a healing miracle, when thanking God for a healing miracle, ring the bell. Pray for healing, pray for restoration, give thanks to the Lord."

"write them on the doorframes of your house"

CALLED TO PRAY

For Dr. Gary Cook's 25th anniversary as president of DBU, the trustees dedicated a new statue on campus, thanks to the generosity of Joan Trew. This statue sits in the midst of a small prayer garden in front of the Mahler Student Center and is a reminder of the need to turn all of our lives over to the Lord in

prayer. The statue depicts a young man, poring over Scripture and deep in prayer, seeking God's guidance. His Bible is open to Jeremiah 29:11-13, DBU's theme verse and a wonderful passage expressing the confidence that can be found in life when we seek the Lord with all of our heart.





THE ELLIS PRAYER GARDEN

Across the DBU campus, there are several prayer gardens. These are locations designated for quiet prayer and reflective meditation. Surrounded by flowers and sometimes water features, these special sacred spaces allow visitors to take a break from the chaos of the day, enjoy the beauty of God's creation and sit and wait patiently for the direction of the Lord.

The largest of the prayer gardens on campus is the Lou Morton Ellis Prayer Garden, which stands between the Mahler Student Center and Pilgrim Chapel. It has two koi ponds, connected by a 40-foot waterfall. Beautiful flowers and plants surround the water, and a cross sits at the top, making this garden one of the most peaceful locations on the DBU campus. Students use this space daily for their prayer time, quiet reflection or Bible study.