



About Drue & Laura Warner

Updated 4-20-24

BRIEF BIO

Drue is the Lead Pastor of Good News Church in Sugar Hill, GA, which he and his wife, Laura, and a core team planted in April, 2021. Previously, Drue was a pastor on staff at Perimeter Church (Johns Creek, GA) for almost 20 years, and before that, Drue worked in the Christian Education department for the PCA's denominational headquarters.

Drue was born in Belzoni, MS, grew up in Delray Beach, FL, moved to Atlanta in 1993, and has lived in Sugar Hill, GA for the past 22 years.

Drue & Laura have been married for 23 years. They have two children. Grace is a senior at Berry College (Rome, GA) and Micah is an 11th grade student at Artios Academy (Sugar Hill, GA).

Drue is a networker, relationally wired guy with a God-given passion for mission and outreach. His volunteer and leadership experiences include serving as a mentor in their local public elementary school for 15 years, starting All Pro Dad chapters in all five of the schools in their school cluster, giving leadership to Dads On Tap (a quarterly gathering of dads for connection, encouragement, and equipping), giving leadership to the afterschool Good News Club at their local public elementary school, serving as President of their neighborhood's HOA, President of the Sugar Hill Elementary PTA, and serving on the advisory boards for their local public elementary, middle, and high schools.

Drue is a 1993 graduate of the University of Florida (B.A., Economics) and 2017 Metro Atlanta Seminary (Masters, Divinity), has been ordained in the PCA (www.pcanet.org) and is currently ordained in the APC (www.apc.church), has had books and articles written about their neighborhood ministry, and has been in full-time ministry for 25+ years.

IN DEPTH BIO

In August 2004, Drue & Laura purchased a home in Sugar Hill, GA in the Lenox Park neighborhood. Drue & Laura have two children. Grace (age 19) is a senior at Berry College on

scholarship academically, as well as, in the Chick-fil-A Winshape Leadership Program. Grace enjoys creative arts, sewing, spending time with her friends, and working at the North Gwinnett Cooperative (when she's home during the summer). Micah (age 16) is an 11th grader at Artios Academy (Sugar Hill), enjoys spending time with his friends, creating stuff on his 3D printer, building stuff with Legos, and working at Hobby Lobby (Cumming).

In these last 22 years, Drue & Laura have been tilling soil, planting seeds, watering, fertilizing, and watching God do a work that is far beyond anything that they could have ever imagined, and all of this has become the seeds planted for what has become Good News Church GA. Drue & Laura's neighborhood ministry story was featured in the book, *"Field Guide to Neighborhood Outreach"* by Group Publishing.

About Laura

From 1995 – 2004, Laura served on staff at Perimeter Church as the Global Outreach, Mobilization Director. Prior to serving at Perimeter, Laura served on staff in Global Missions at First Baptist Atlanta from 1991 – 1995. In addition to Laura's years on church staff, she served on the Executive Board for the Fellowship of Short-Term Missions and developed the Standards of Excellence for Short Term Missions (guidelines that churches began to implement for how they send and receive short term missionaries). After getting married, moving to Sugar Hill in 2004, and starting a family, Laura's ministry became much more focused on their Lenox Park neighborhood, the Sugar Hill community, Sugar Hill Elementary School, and PathProject.org (after school Bible Club / tutoring in the Peachtree Village mobile home community). Laura currently serves on staff at Good News Church GA in a part-time capacity as the Coordinator for Children's Ministry, Hospitality, and Outreach.

About Drue

Life Motto: *"I try to live life in such a way that uptight Christians doubt my salvation and non-Christians ask questions."* - Steve Brown

Life Verse: *"But my life is worth nothing to me unless I use it for finishing the work assigned me by the Lord Jesus - the work of telling others the Good News about the wonderful grace of God."* - Acts 20:24

Spiritual Gifts: Hospitality, Mercy, Evangelism, Encouragement, and Pastoring / Teaching.

Personality:

- Drue is extroverted and people oriented. On the DISC profile, Drue is primarily an "I" (Influencer, Inspirational) and secondarily an "S" (Stable, Steady). On the Myers-Briggs, Drue is an ESFJ.
- Laura is extroverted and people oriented. On the DISC profile, Laura is primarily an "I" (Influencer, Inspirational) and secondarily a "D" (Director, Driver). On the Myers-Briggs, Laura is an ENFP.

Experience:

Drue's ministry experience began in 1999 by serving on staff at the PCA (Presbyterian Church in America) denomination headquarters (Lawrenceville, GA). In 1998, Drue became a member of Perimeter Church and was mentored and disciplined by several godly men, but the man who had the greatest impact on Drue was Tim Neet. Tim and his wife, Vicki, are also the ones who introduced Drue and Laura to each other (and the rest is history)!

In 2001, while trying to discern God's overall call on his life, Drue heard of Perimeter Church's vision to launch a new Community Outreach ministry, and immediately thought, *"If I could do anything in ministry, that's what I would want to do!"* Drue didn't mention this desire to anyone, but three weeks later, Drue received a phone call (unexpected and out of the blue) asking if he would be interested in coming on staff to help launch the Community Outreach ministry. That began Drue's vocational, full-time focus in pastoral ministry.

Vocational Ministry Experience

While on staff at Perimeter Church, coordinated and launched "Compassion in Action," a church-wide serving weekend that mobilized nearly 2,000 people in serving, gave leadership to Unite! Gwinnett, launched and gave leadership to Perimeter Church's "Live, Work & Play" ministry of missional living, launched and gave leadership to Perimeter Church's "Connect Groups" ministry, served as Perimeter Church's Area Pastor for Suwanee, Sugar Hill, Buford, Cumming, giving leadership and shepherding 85 Elders, 15 Deacons, and 550 member households, and developed and taught Perimeter Church's "Discover U" 4 week course on how to discover and live out the unique design and S.H.A.P.E. that God has given each person. Drue also served regularly as Worship Pastor for the Perimeter Church Saturday evening worship services. In 2017, Drue was ordained as a PCA Teaching Elder.

Personal Ministry Experience

In Drue's personal ministry, he has served as a mentor at Sugar Hill Elementary and Lanier Middle School and gave leadership to establishing the Lanier cluster-wide "Half Hour Hero" mentoring program (2007 - Present). Drue & Laura served as co-PTA Presidents at Sugar Hill Elementary (2017-2018), where Drue launched and gave leadership to AllProDad.com chapters at Sugar Hill Elementary (2010) and eventually, all five schools in the Lanier cluster. Additionally, Drue has volunteered and given leadership as the All Pro Dad Atlanta Regional Team Captain (2013 - Present). In 2012, Drue was recognized as the All Pro Dad / Family First "Volunteer of the Year" by Tony Dungy (NFL Hall of Fame Coach), and in 2020, Drue was recognized as the Lanier Schools Cluster "Volunteer of the Year."

In addition to All Pro Dad, Drue serves and gives leadership to the "Good News (Bible) Club" after school ministry at Sugar Hill Elementary. In their neighborhood, Drue has served as Lenox Park HOA President in 2014 and 2020-2021. In 2008, Drue & Laura started and continue to give leadership to the Lenox Park Welcome Committee. Through their ministry of delivering welcome baskets and hosting coffee socials in their home, they estimate that they have

welcomed and met more 100+ new neighbors as they have moved into their community (many of whom they've been able to develop relationship in personal ministry).

Personal discipleship has also been a major part of Drue's personal ministry. In addition to discipling fourth and fifth grade boys through Perimeter Church, Drue's started a neighborhood men's group that met around a fire pit for 15 years, which really became the seeds planted that would grow into Good News Church GA. Drue saw God do a great work in that men's ministry over the years and estimates that he has had the opportunity to disciple 30 or more men and has seen God rescue at least 7 marriages that otherwise would likely have ended in divorce.

We've been encouraged in ministry by so many people along the way, including the following comments. *"I don't know anyone or any community that is better positioned for church planting than you in Sugar Hill."* - Jeff Norris (Lead Pastor at Perimeter Church). *"I appreciate you – and the encouragement you give to others – not just by the words you say, but also by observing your life and the way that you live. You are a true testament of a believer!"* - Cheryl Flanagan (staff associate at Perimeter Church).

We're also thankful for Micah's humor. In 2020, when we started this church planting journey, we had just told our kids that God had called us to help start a new church, and we asked them, *"What is something you're fearful of right now?"* Micah answered, *"I'm fearful in starting a new church in which the only ones that would be there are our family and seven cats!"* By God's grace, each week when we gather for worship, there are about a hundred people, a few dogs, and zero cats!