

THE JOY OF SERVING

By **Caroline Bass**
BETA Intern

This year, I have had the joy of serving as the Student Ministry BETA Intern at Dawson, working primarily with middle school girls. Serving in this ministry has been a true blessing during my final year of Divinity School at Beeson, and I am grateful for the ways God has used this experience to shape both my calling and my faith.

Through the residency, I have grown in many practical and formative ways. I have developed my preaching and teaching skills, learned how to communicate God's Word clearly to students, and gained hands-on experience in ministry. The BETA Intern program itself has provided additional opportunities for growth, offering a thoughtful structure that has allowed me to develop my teaching and learn alongside my peers. The mentorship, accountability, and shared learning of the BETA Intern program has been incredibly helpful as I continue to discern God's call on my life.

I am especially grateful for the members of Dawson who have welcomed me so warmly and encouraged me throughout this season. I have been deeply blessed by the prayers, kindness, and support of this congregation. I am also thankful for the investment by Dawson's staff, who have faithfully walked alongside me, encouraged my growth in Christ, and guided me in ministry with wisdom and care.



One of the highlights of this year was helping to lead our Girls Retreat alongside Associate Minister to Students, Aubrey Meredith, and Maya Richardson, our Student Ministry Assistant. During that weekend, the young women of Dawson engaged deeply with God's Word, prayed earnestly, laughed abundantly, and loved one another well. It was a beautiful picture of the body of Christ at work and a joyful reminder of the life God is cultivating within this ministry.

When I began the BETA Internship, I expected that the greatest impact of this experience would be my investment in Dawson's middle school girls.

Instead, I have discovered that the greater impact has been on me. Their love for Jesus and their sincere desire to know Him more deeply have challenged and encouraged me to pursue Christ with greater faithfulness. Their joy, curiosity, and thoughtful questions have been a profound gift and one of the greatest blessings of this year.

Dawson's Vision is: "To be found faithful as God's people." I want to encourage the church with this truth: your children are living that mission. They are faithfully following the Lord and sharing His love in their schools, on their sports teams, and with their friends. It has been an honor to witness their faith taking root and growing.

I have learned how to communicate God's Word more clearly and how to apply the theology of the classroom to real life in the church. But the most impactful part of my time at Dawson has been being loved by the Student Ministry. And to my middle schoolers, remember to not let anyone look down on you because you are young, but continue to set an example for the believers at Dawson.

I have been deeply blessed by the prayers, kindness, and support of this congregation.



Caroline Bass is from Vestavia Hills and a Samford University graduate, currently completing her Master of Divinity at Beeson Divinity School. Caroline has a deep heart for serving the local church and for Jewish-Christian relations.