



You're Invited

Celebrate Filling The Void's 20th anniversary at a casual come-as-you-are event on Tuesday, Sept. 17.

We'll treat you to dessert and lots of stories from 7-8:30 p.m. at City Church in Tulsa, 5124 S. Peoria Ave.

RSVP

Call or Text
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They call me pastor

By Kelly Swan

A funny thing used to happen in the early days of Filling The Void. People on the streets mistook me for a pastor at one of Tulsa's downtown churches who appeared on TV.

At first, I corrected them. Then, I just played along. Then, I became a pastor myself when the church I attend "licensed" me to ministry on Jan. 2, 2005.

That license is more than a piece of paper. It validated our approach to serving – affording respect, building rapport and relating to others in a way that allows them to candidly discuss matters of life.

Coming to grips with who you're meant to be isn't always a quick, clear, clean process. Despite my noticeable passion for Filling The Void, I've wrestled with reluctance at times.



Everyone loves a smile & a sack lunch.

Maybe it's the weight of the calling. Maybe it's the emotional toll of what we see. Or maybe it's the dog bite I endured on June 24 at one of our outreaches when I let my guard down for a split second.

On the flip side, there's the pride of welcoming first-time volunteers and watching how well our teams in every city demonstrate Christ's love and acceptance to others.

And then there's the stark realization that I prayed to do this even more as Filling The Void grew and expanded. In fact, I specifically prayed I could do it full-time by age 50.

Oh, be careful how you pray. During the pandemic, my business career concluded in a 2021 corporate merger. My final day with that company... *was on the week of my 49th birthday.*

Still, it's taken me almost three years to mostly get comfortable in my new skin and to truly surrender to the reality that those whom we serve know me and need me as their "pastor."

That, of course, is equal parts honor, privilege and responsibility. I'll share more about my own journey at the Sept. 17 event in Tulsa that's highlighted on the left side of this page.

We'll celebrate 20 years, 300,000 meals and the powerful impact our volunteers and donors are making. Please come and allow us to say "thank you" in-person for all you do!

August 2024

We Feed. The Soul.®

www.fillingthevoid.com