




GENERATIONS
GENERATIONS
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GOD'S WORK, OUR HANDS.

of faith



FIRSTBAPTIST
CEDARTOWN



FOR THE
promise
**IS FOR YOU, AND
FOR YOUR CHILDREN,
AND FOR ALL WHO
ARE FAR OFF, AS MANY
AS THE LORD OUR GOD
WILL CALL.**

Acts 2:39 (CSB)

GENERATIONS OF FAITH

The Generations of Faith vision begins from the desire to see the next generation reached with the gospel of Jesus Christ. Building on our rich history and faithfulness of past members, our desire is to see First Baptist Church be everything God intends for it to become. The generosity and sacrifices of the past generation serve as an example for us. Like those before us, our aim is to build toward a future that sees the next generation embrace Christ, grow in His Word, and change the world with the good news of Jesus. Deuteronomy reminds us, “These words that I am giving you today are to be in your heart. Repeat them to your children. Talk about them when you sit in your house and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. Bind them as a sign on your hand and let them be a symbol on your forehead. Write them on the doorposts of your house and on your city gates”

Already, God is moving in incredible ways throughout our church and community. This day offers us an incredible opportunity to better position our church for Gospel work that will lead to life change. The “Generations of Faith” vision will allow our church to continue faithfully sharing and showing the love of Christ for many years to come.

Pastor Chris

GO, THEREFORE,

*and make disciples,
of all nations,*

**BAPTIZING THEM IN THE
NAME OF THE FATHER AND
OF THE SON AND OF
HOLY SPIRIT.**

Matthew 28:19 (CSB)

our mission

Expand God's Kingdom by leading people to Embrace Christ, Grow in the Word, and Change the World with the Gospel.



OUR HISTORY

The First Baptist Church was constituted in 1835 in a rented building that also served as a schoolhouse.

In 1850 the church began to hold Sunday services every week and soon erected a church in a two acre oak grove on Main Street.

The church, in its present location, was dedicated in a weeklong celebration in June 1956.

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HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

CAMPAIGN OVERVIEW

The Generations of Faith campaign is a year long stewardship initiative that will serve to provide resources for capital improvements in all ministry areas including sanctuary, Family Life Center, Student/Children's areas and to provide a deeper understanding and commitment of biblical stewardship among members of First Baptist Church.

YOUR OPPORTUNITY

You have an opportunity to make a pledge commitment over and above your regular tithes. Commitment cards are available to help you do so. These commitments may be fulfilled over the course of the next year, or you may give on commitment Sunday, May 22, 2022 during a special time of prayer and commitment.

KEY DATES

Kickoff Sunday, May 15, 2022
Fellowship Meal

Commitment Sunday May 22, 2022

End Date June 4, 2023





Commit

**YOUR ACTIVITIES TO
THE LORD, AND YOUR
PLANS WILL BE ESTABLISHED.**

Proverbs 16:3

CAMPAIGN OVERVIEW

**“GENERATIONS OF FAITH,
God's Work our Hands”**

1. To raise funds for current renovations and future capital projects.
2. To cultivate a culture of generosity and faithful stewardship among the membership of FBC to support Kingdom growth for generations to come.

**Phase 1: Renovate Sanctuary/Hallways/Conference Room/
Technology Upgrades \$750-\$800k**

Phase 2: Exterior Renovations/ AC-Heat/ Electrical \$250-\$350K

- **Paint Exterior**
- **Exterior Signage**
 - **Parking Lot**
 - **Landscaping**

**Phase 3: Family Life Center/ Student Ministry Renovation/
Children's Space \$100k**

Phase 4: Christian School \$200k

Goal Amount? \$1,000,000

Giving Options:

**One Year Pledge
One time gift
Memorial Gift
Annuity Gift**

WHATEVER YOU DO,
do it from the heart,
**AS SOMETHING DONE FOR
THE LORD AND NOT FOR PEOPLE.**

Colossians 3:23

YOUR OPPORTUNITY

THE POINT IS THIS: THE PERSON WHO SOWS SPARINGLY WILL ALSO REAP SPARINGLY,
and the person who sows generously will also reap generously.

EACH PERSON SHOULD DO AS HE HAS DECIDED IN HIS HEART— NOT RELUCTANTLY OR OUT OF COMPULSION, SINCE GOD LOVES A CHEERFUL GIVER.

2 Corinthians 9:6-15 (CSB)

Goal Amount \$1,000,000

Giving Options:

One Year Pledge Commitment

**One time gift
Memorial Gift
Annuity Gift**

Example:

\$20 x 52 weeks = \$1040

\$100 x 12 months = \$1200

Our sacrifice will go a long way to support ministry for generations to come.



DEVOTIONAL &

Prayer Guide

**“From everyone who has been given much,
much will be demanded.**

*And from the one trusted with much,
much more will be expected.”*

Luke 12:48

DAY 1

We all have things we are good at because we all have been blessed with gifts. Katie is great at taking care of others. It comes naturally to her, almost instinctively, to react and reach out to someone in need or to make others feel comfortable and welcome. Jamie is a natural leader. He is great at building relationships with others, finding their strengths, and guiding them to succeed and grow. Although we acknowledge these gifts now, it has taken time to fully understand the meaning and purpose of those gifts and how to expend those gifts according to His will so that He may be glorified. We all have a sense of what our gifts are and know what brings us joy. It brings Katie joy to know those around her feel valued and welcome. It brings Jamie joy to see people succeed and grow. It is through those joys and victories that our gifts are revealed to us.

The fact we call them “gifts,” means they were given to us and are meant to be shared with others. The Good Lord has trusted us with the gifts! It is our job as Christians and members of our church to cultivate them and to use them to further God’s Kingdom. When something brings you joy, don’t you want to spread that joy to others?

Deep down, we all know our gifts. Giving to the church does not just mean financially, but cheerfully through our blessings and talents. You may be great with babies or enjoy working with the younger generation. Serving meals, baking, or crafting baskets for those in need may bring you joy. You know what those gifts are and what brings you joy, so don’t wait to be asked to work in the nursery or to serve others. Volunteer! Luke 12:48 says, “much is expected.” God trusted YOU with the gift, so use it!

Lord, we come to you with joyful hearts. We come to you seeking understanding of what you have blessed us with. God give us the wisdom to find and use the gifts you have blessed us with. Help us to commit ourselves to expend our gifts, according to Your will so that You may be glorified.

Jamie and Katie Abrams

A CHEERFUL *giver* DAY 2

7 **Each one must give as he has decided in his heart**, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. 8 And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work.

2 Corinthians 9:7-8

We all love to give in some form or fashion because we like to see others happy. It is so precious to see my grandchildren's eyes of excitement when they have colored a picture for me, found a special rock shaped like a heart to give to me, or bought me some special gift. It thrills my soul! As children and as adults, when we have bought a birthday present or a wedding shower gift for someone, we wait in anticipation of seeing the recipient's reaction when they open our gift. Imagine how God feels when we get excited about giving to Him!

In these verses, Paul is encouraging the believers in Corinth to give generously to those in need, with "cheerful hearts", and not grudgingly or out of a sense of duty. He also reminds them that, in turn, they will be beyond blessed.

Why is God concerned about how we feel when we give of our resources? He is more concerned about the motives of our hearts than our actions. God loves a "cheerful giver" because He is "a cheerful giver." He is not asking us to do anything that He does not do every day for us. Our gifts to Him do not make Him richer; they make us richer spiritually because of the realization that everything that we have is His, and that we are giving because we love Him and want to give. When we give cheerfully, eagerly, and generously, we are following His example.

God rejoices in our integrity and generosity. It brings Him glory. When God's people are generous, churches get built; truth gets taught; grace gets shown; supplies are provided; and people get saved. Love and grace are experienced in phenomenal ways! How awesome is that?

The world around us takes notice of the hearts and actions of God's people. Allow your joy to be expressed through your generosity. Maybe that means making a commitment to being faithful in tithing; giving beyond with special offerings; leaving a bigger tip at a restaurant; giving a ride to a doctor's appointment for someone in need; "paying it forward" at the McDonald's drive through window; or something as simple, but meaningful, as offering a kind

word, a sweet smile, or a sincere hug. In return, we will receive such blessings just from the act of giving from our hearts. I call these blessings “God winks.”

When we give from our hearts, God gets the glory and honor that He so well deserves. In return, we are blessed supernaturally from heaven in many unique ways. May we always remember that **God's grace** takes whatever we give, and increases the blessings. Oh, what **joy** should fill our hearts!

Our greatest desire should be one day to hear those precious words... **“Well done, good and faithful servant.”** (Matthew 25:23)

“TRUST AND OBEY”, and WATCH GOD WORK!

Heavenly Father, Enlarge our hearts. Open our eyes to the needs of others. Show us how to be more faithful through our giving. Help us to give without expectation of earthly rewards, knowing that You will reward us in heaven. Let us never forget that You have already rewarded us with Your presence and have given us the greatest and most sacrificial gift: Your Son, Jesus Christ. Related verses: Deuteronomy 15:10; Matthew 6:21; Luke 6:38; Proverbs 22:9

Kathy Carr

“It is good to praise you,

Lord,

**to sing praises to God Most High.
It is good to tell of your love in the
morning and of your loyalty at night.”**

Psalm 92: 1-4

DAY 3

In today's world, it is easy to get distracted from the Lord. We have social media that distracts us as well as the news, politics, and everyday sin that the world has made into normality. With all of the distractions and overall busyness in people's lives, sometimes we forget to stop and take a second to look around and see all of the wonderful blessings He provides. However, He still loves and cares for every single person, no matter what.

So shouldn't we repay His grace in some way? Yes!!! The Lord our God is gracious enough to bless us every day, so why don't we thank Him for it. There are multiple ways to thank Him, such as going to church, bringing a tithe, and even just praying to the Lord. Yet, there are more ways to do those things. We can “sing praise to God Most High” whenever we notice God in our lives and even when we can't. We can have a quiet time or maybe even a Bible study outside of the church where we can praise Him by being able to “tell of [His] love....and [His] loyalty.”

We should take into account every day what the Lord is doing in our lives and the love that He showed us when He sent his only son, Jesus, to die on the cross.

Dear Lord, let us see Your goodness and grace in our everyday lives, and thank You for giving us Your unending love so that we can have eternal life. Let us find a way to praise You, whether that be in the church or outside. In Jesus' name, Amen.

John Alvin Kelley

“Give, and you will receive.”

You will be given much. Pressed down, shaken together, and running over, it will spill into your lap. The way you give to others is the way God will give to you.”

Luke 6:38

DAY 4

This passage explains to us a principle of faithful giving. Primarily, it describes how our generosity toward others is measured by God. Everyone at some point in their life has heard the phrase “Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.” This scripture is a perfect example by reminding us that our giving directly impacts our relationships with others and to God. When you give to others out of the right heart, the scripture tells us that the Lord will also give to you and bless you.

In my life, giving my tithes and offerings has always been important. My parents were super helpful in teaching me that giving from my earnings to the Lord is a way we worship. I have learned that giving to the church helps others by the collaboration of all the members. It is very encouraging to know that I am part of something so important as helping the church expand the Kingdom of God. There has never been a time in my life when God did not provide everything I needed and most of the things I ever wanted.

When you give to the local church, you’re not only doing it to receive something in return, but you’re doing it to prolong the ministry of that church, and ultimately through those resources, see souls saved for Jesus! When you give faithfully out of the right heart to God, He will bless you beyond measure.

The lesson of learning to give generously to the Lord’s work is one that I will pass on to my children one day. Would you join me in taking up the challenge to give faithfully to the Lord’s work and see how God blesses your life?

Dear God, help us remember that everything we have comes from You, and encourage us daily to be more generous and giving from the resources You have blessed us with. In Jesus Name, Amen.

Christopher Moses

Do You Love God?

DAY 5

We usually give to what or whom we love. Giving is not a financial matter; it is a heart matter. When we get our hearts right, our giving will be right.

To be a good steward means that we recognize God's ownership of all that we are and have. It is of prime importance that members of the local church set aside time, energy, talents, personality and money for the Lord's work.

What does the Bible say about giving? Leviticus 27:30 tells us that, "All the tithe...is the Lord's." In Matthew 22:21 Jesus said, "Therefore render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God things that are God's." That means pay your taxes and give God the tithe. In Malachi 3:8 God says, "Will a man rob God? Yet you robbed Me! But you say, 'In what way have we robbed You?' In tithe and offerings." Is there punishment for disobedience? In Malachi 3:9 God says, "You are under a curse...because you are robbing Me."

Where do we give the tithe? The answer is Malachi 3:10: "Bring all the tithes into the storehouse." The "storehouse" is our local church.

1 Corinthians 16:20 tells us when to give: "On the first day of the week."

Heavenly Father, I want to be faithful to You in every way. I want to show You my love and to be obedient to Your command by giving of my tithe and offerings, regularly, proportionately, systematically and cheerfully. Thank you for Your grace and mercy. In the name of Jesus Christ, my Lord and Savior. Amen.

Ron Ray

“Give from what you have.

If you want to give, your gift will be accepted. It will be judged by what you have, not by what you do not have.”

2 Corinthians 8:11-12

DAY 6

“JUST DO IT”

Nike’s advertising agencies coined this phrase in 1988, and it became a slogan which has lasted over 30 years. It was a powerful tool which pushed many “want-a-be athletes” to get out there, instead of talking about getting out there.

My mom missed her chance to cash in on this idea 10 years earlier. I was a first year teacher living with my parents in 1975. I decided to “change up my room” (as we said in the day, which meant painting it and rearranging the furniture). I spent several days drawing detailed sketches and choosing/changing colors. After all, I had just completed many classes in college on “how to plan”! One day Mom casually said, “Why don’t you just get started with it instead of planning it?” That comment stuck with me, as I remember thinking, how simple; maybe she’s right! Could my **precious time and energy be used in a more productive way?**

GOD TELLS US THIS DAILY! We feel the gentle tug at our hearts to give more, and if we can, we should **just do it**. We possibly have more TIME to give, also.time to help with missions, time to invite friends, time to pray for our pastor and our church.

Dear Heavenly Father, help me to LISTEN to your whispers; help me to give more of what I have. Please accept my gifts of money and time to use for your plans for First Baptist Church.

A gift opens the way and ushers the giver into the presence of the great. Proverbs 18:16

Honor the Lord with your wealth, with the first fruits of all your crops. Proverbs 3:9

21 Many are the plans in a person’s heart, but it is the LORD’s purpose that prevails. Proverbs 19:21

Patty Rogers

“Give and it shall be given unto you.

A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over. You will receive in the same measure you give.”

Luke:6:38

DAY 7

Mother always said, “divide what you have with others, and what you have left will multiply so you can give again.” She divided and shared everything she had to give. She believed what Jesus taught his disciples in Luke:6:38: “Give and it shall be given unto you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over. You will receive in the same measure you give.” We never went without!

Daddy was the same way. He gave of what he had, his time and ability and anything else he had. We were poor and didn’t have much, but Daddy always saved some for church. He must have read what Paul said in 2 Corinthians 9:7, for when he put a dime in my hand on Sunday morning, I was a “cheerful giver”! Putting that dime in the offering plate made me so happy. I saw my daddy do it, so I wanted to do what he did.

Mother and Daddy taught me by example. They told me about Jesus. They carried me to church and taught me to give however little it was!

Let us remember to teach our children to give also. Young mothers and daddies, show your children how to share and give like you do. Set an example for them with your own lives as part of their growing into young Christians! God will so richly bless you for leading them in the right way.

Heavenly Father, let us be willing to thank You in every way we can for Your indescribable gift to us, Your son Jesus! In His holy name we pray. Amen

Claire Statham

GENERATIONS GENERATIONS **GENERATIONS**

GOD'S WORK, OUR HANDS. *of faith*

As chairman of the Stewardship Committee, I have been blessed with members who are truly devoted to the continued growth of First Baptist Church. They have brought unique talents and perspectives to the stewardship campaign, and I have benefited greatly from their knowledge and love for our church. Thank you to Janice Anderson, Kellie Blackmon, Frank Burgess, Jr., Kathy Carr, Carol Casey, Mike Isbell, Don Skaggs, and Claire Statham for your help and friendship. Further, a special thank you to our pastor, Dr. Chris Moses, for creating a plan and vision to continue the mission of First Baptist Church for generations to come. My hope and that of the committee is that each of you will prayerfully and generously give of your resources to further God's plan: "We are at our best when we are giving. In fact, we are most like God when we are giving" (Max Lucado).

Dale Tuck