



GIVE

Inspire Disciples Engage the World



The people rejoiced, for they had given whole-heartedly to the Lord. 1 Chronicles 29:9

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



FROM THE PASTOR



My dear friends,

God has many characteristics. God is loving, forgiving, merciful, just, compassionate, and so much more. And, beneath every one of God's characteristics is an even more foundational attribute. God is generous. God is generous with love. God is generous with forgiveness. And so on.

As God's children, created in God's image, we feel the greatest pleasure when we also express God's most fundamental characteristic. God made us in generosity, for generosity.

This publication walks us through many of the wonderful First Pres ministries. Sharing towards such exciting and transformational activities is a

joy. We can do so much more together than we can independently.

There is another, and perhaps even greater, product of our being generous with the church. We grow. Generosity is nourishment for the soul, nurture for spiritual growth.

I pray that as you turn the final page of this brochure, you will be inspired to a growing generosity and ever faithful partnership with God.

Peace and all good things,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Karl Travis". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Hitting a High Note

A Look at the State of Music & Arts at FPC

Music has always been an integral part of First Presbyterian Church. It is one of the few programs that touches all ages.

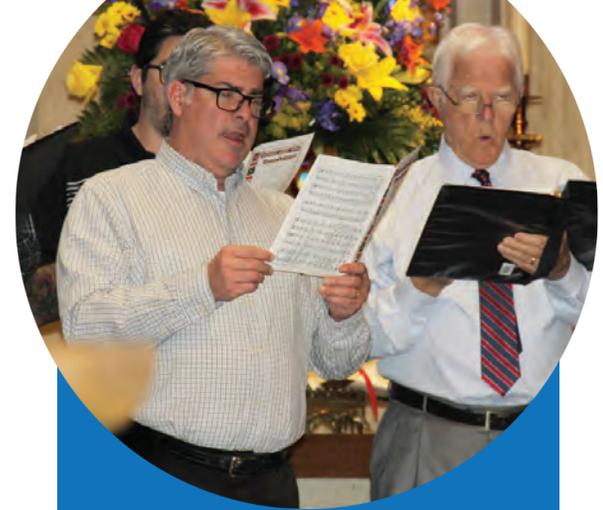
Becca Sawyer leads The Carol Choir (Kindergarten through 2nd Grade) and Choristers Bells (3rd to 5th Grade), both instrumental in developing children's appreciation for music. Laura Collins directs the Choristers (3rd to 5th Grade), which emphasizes the reading of music and the development of singing voices. These choirs engage an average of **25 children** each week.

Many children continue their musical journey through Messengers Youth Choir (6th to 12th Grade) and Trinity Ringers (Middle School Bell Choir), led by Laura and Becca, respectively. These

groups engage an average of **20 youth** each week.

The Chancel Choir sings weekly in the 11 a.m. service, directed by the Rev. Dr. Michael Waschewski. Weekly rehearsals produce dynamic and engaging music. This talented group has grown from **24 last fall to 42 today!** The Fellowship Choir sings twice a month at the 9 a.m. service and has also experienced significant growth, with a **current membership of 46**. How fortunate FPC is to have these choirs and the leadership to sustain them!

All of this comes at a cost. Take a look at the chart to the right. The state of music at FPC is strong and would not be possible without your support of the church. Your 2018 pledge can help continue this effort!



Annual Music Ministry Costs

(Not Including 3 Staff Positions)

| | |
|----------|---|
| \$4,600 | New Anthems; average cost of each anthem is \$100 |
| \$20,000 | Hired Musicians |
| \$7,000 | Organ Maintenance |
| \$1,500 | Tuning of 8 Pianos |

INSPIRING DISCIPLES

Inspiring Young Disciples to Make a Difference



“What can I do to make a difference?”

It is a timeless question which spans all ages, borders, and demographics. Perhaps now more than ever, we seek to join others in satisfying our collective hunger to somehow make this confusing world a better place. For Christians it also extends to, “What can I do to make manifest how much I feel God’s abundant blessings?”

Our church’s programs, supported by your gifts and pledges, provide a wide range of platforms reflecting this desire to make a difference through sharing God’s blessings.

While summer may be a time for vacation and leisure, it is a time when over **300 church youth, adults, and adult sponsors** participate both locally and at various camps and retreats.

This summer alone, our children had the chance to learn and serve through Vacation Bible School, Eco Camp, KidQuake, Mission on the Move, Music and Art Camps, and more. Off campus, our youth traveled to Austin College, Mo Ranch, and Arkansas for fellowship and outreach.

Through these many experiences, FPC’s youngest were able to explore what roles God may have for them as they pursue their spiritual journeys. Your ongoing generosity makes this possible!

INSPIRING DISCIPLES



HIS & HERS MINISTRIES

New Program! Men's Ministry

2017 introduced a revival of programs for men at FPC. In January, **77 men** attended the first Men's Retreat that provided a forum for men to gather and examine building better relationships. On the heels of the retreat's huge success, monthly men's breakfasts began in April. An average of **70 men** come to FPC at 7 a.m. on the third Thursday to meet in table groups to continue talking about communication, relationship building, and other topics important to their lives.

"We shared successes, disappointments, hilarity, and tragedy. We did not try and solve the world's problems - or even our own - but we did explore the value of building relationships and having good friends." -- Leland Clemons

Presbyterian Women (PW) is a well-established ministry for all women at FPC. Women may join at any time. Currently, **320+ women** are active in 15 "circles" - small groups that meet at least monthly. In addition, the monthly Tuesday Together event gathers women for lunch and a program. PW focuses on Bible study, building friendships, working with FPC programs, and doing good in the world.

"Some of my closest friendships have been made through PW. I have truly been nurtured by the people I've met in each circle. The Bible study has enriched my understanding of God and our purpose in God's world." -- Sally Parmalee

INSPIRING DISCIPLES

725+

Volunteers annually for worship and music services and activities

180+

Volunteers annually for education and covenant groups

800+

Volunteers annually for mission and outreach ministries

BY THE NUMBERS

Inspiring Disciples

Whether by helping to make weekly ministries happen through coordinating and teaching, or participating in what the church offers, our members are very involved! Take a look at some statistics of engagement with some of the church's "inspiring" ministries.

INSPIRING DISCIPLES

700

Average attendance at weekly worship services

400

Average number of adults involved in 14 adult Church School classes and other studies and groups each week

265

Number of worship services per year offered at First Presbyterian

88

Number of members in FPC's two adult vocal choirs

70

Average number of performances by adult choirs annually

109

Number of youth and sponsors who've participated in Youth Sunday

222

Average number of children and youth in Sunday and Wednesday programming



First Presbyterian Church
EARLY EDUCATION CENTER
Where young minds grow.

“Our children receive such love, kindness, and encouragement from the teachers and staff at the EEC. It is evident that the love of Christ is at the center of it all, from heartfelt morning greetings, to chapel time, to the devotion from each and every staff member.” --Rebecca Gleason



Learn How to Get Your Shovel Back

No, this quote is not about a Habitat build; rather it's about building critical thinking and inter-personal skills in the young leaders of tomorrow at the Early Education Center (EEC) of FPC.

This licensed (National Association for the Education of Young Children) day school and full-time childcare program uses a curriculum teaching conscious discipline, empathy, responsibility, assertive language, and more.

Education is based on weekly themes and occurs through child-led examination, play, and teacher instruction. A weekly chapel experience and special music education is also incorporated.

Your pledge dollars help provide amazing resources and continuing education available to EEC staff, as well as playground items. It all enriches the experience of children. What an amazing investment in the future!

- 65** Enrolled in Day School (18 months to PreK)
- 95** Enrolled in Full-Time Care from 7:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. (6 weeks to PreK)
- 25** Children of the 160 enrolled are FPC families

ENGAGING THE WORLD

And A Child Shall Lead Them

FPC's mission to "engage the world" does not only apply to adults. The involvement of FPC children and youth in many outreach efforts is impressive! Three are highlighted here.

Your 2018 gifts will help make these and many other opportunities possible by subsidizing costs of activities, purchasing necessary equipment, and maintaining facility spaces that can be made available for activities to take place on the FPC campus.



KIDS AGAINST HUNGER

Youth in grades 9-12 and their families fight hunger by packing an average of **25,000 meals** at this annual event! The meals help feed those who are hungry all around the world. At the event, youth learn about world hunger and efforts like this to fight the epidemic.



MISSION ON THE MOVE

For a week during the summer, **35 children** in grades 4-8 participate in this day camp that allows them to serve in the Fort Worth community. They work at organizations like the Presbyterian Night Shelter, as well as FPC's Community Crossroads. They learn firsthand what it's like for the less fortunate in Fort Worth. It's a truly memorable experience!



URBAN GAPS VISITING GROUPS

Youth, college, and other organizations from the state and region bring their young people to FPC to participate in mission trips centered around our urban community. Lodged in the FPC gym, these groups go out to serve at various local organizations. So far in 2017, First Presbyterian Church has hosted **46 individuals**.

Homeless Connect

For the last six years, FPC has hosted Homeless Connect, a program sponsored by Fort Worth with the purpose to connect the city's homeless residents with social services and the support they need to move off the streets. In 2018, the leadership of this event will transfer to FPC with the city continuing as a partner.

In 2017, Homeless Connect included:

- 70+** vendors and services from North Texas
- 450+** homeless attendees
- 100+** pairs of glasses prescribed, made and fitted
- 200+** hair cuts provided

One person was hired for a full-time job, **32** completed a class in food service licensing that was offered on site, and the resolution of legal issues with two judges took place for **dozens of guests**.

It takes over **200 FPC volunteers** and our quality facilities to make this impressive outreach event happen. Will you help this important outreach continue through your generous gifts in 2018?



ENGAGING THE WORLD

Light & Life to All He Brings

New Program! Solar Under the Sun

Did you know that nearly 25% of the world – 1.2 billion people – still lack electricity? And 2.5 billion people cook with wood, charcoal, crop waste, inefficient stoves, and open fires in poorly ventilated spaces.

FPC is joining Solar Under The Sun (SUTS) to help the world harness the power of the sun by bringing solar energy to enhance quality of life and reduce dependence on non-renewable resources.

SUTS began after Haiti's 2010 earthquake when power grid instability and post-earthquake infrastructure damage caused cholera outbreaks and other lingering illnesses. Partnering with Living Waters for the World, SUTS installed solar energy systems to power water purification systems to prevent future outbreaks. Because solar power is an abundant source of clean, low cost energy, SUTS has expanded rapidly and globally.



The small systems can power:

- lights at an orphanage
- a clinic refrigerator for meds
- nebulizers for children with asthma
- a micro-business like a barbershop, tailor, or computer cafe

Eight FPC volunteers recently trained at SUTS' solar school in leadership, partnership development, site and needs assessments, and system installation. We will work together with a global community that needs help to install a solar power system and develop a long term, covenant partnership. Your pledges make this possible!

ENGAGING THE WORLD

BY THE NUMBERS

Engaging the World

Here is a snapshot of how many serve and are served through FPC mission and outreach efforts. How do you engage the world?

90+ Youth and Families packed almost 25,000 meals for Kids Against Hunger

25+ Youth and sponsors participated in the Youth Mission Trip in Mobile, AL

300 Volunteer hours served at First HAND at Community Crossroads each month

80+ Number of houses FPC members have built with Trinity Habitat for Humanity.

839 Number of Sack Lunches distributed monthly at First HAND

300 Salt and Light Dental Clinic patients treated annually

630 Number of families who receive groceries each month at First HAND

640 Packets of diapers distributed by Formula and Diapers Ministry in 2017 to date.

ENGAGING THE WORLD

Engaging the World at

Community Crossroads is First Presbyterian Church's mission outreach center in Fort Worth's Hemphill neighborhood. Located at 1516 Hemphill, the building houses four mission ministries that are made possible through the generosity of the members of FPC.



Salt & Light Dental Clinic Formula and Diapers

This ministry provides free dental services for people experiencing homelessness. Services are offered 2-3 times a month and are staffed by a local dentist, FPC's dental assistant, and volunteers.

Once a month, our neighbors are invited to come and enjoy coffee and conversation with other parents. Diapers are provided for children under 3 and formula for children under age 1. Items are donated by FPC members.

More Dental Clinic Statistics:

6 volunteers offer their time and assistance each time the dental clinic opens.

More FAD Statistics:

6 volunteers work 40 hours a month.

On average, 72 children served each month.

Worship on Wednesdays

Every Wednesday, Worship on Wednesdays (WOW) offers worship at 5:30 p.m., followed by a community meal at 6 p.m. and classes for all ages from 6:30-7:30 p.m.

More WOW Statistics:

An average of 82 people attend Worship on Wednesdays each week.

WOW is also missional. For example, participants make **100 gifts** for the Downtown Rehab Center nursing home a few times a year.

First HAND Ministry

First HAND is the food and clothing outreach ministry helping our neighbors through Hospitality, Advocacy, Nurture, and Dignity. Each week, our neighbors receive groceries, a sack lunch (Mondays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays), and clothing and shoes.

More First HAND Statistics:

Every 2 bags of groceries given costs (retail) \$65

It costs \$200/week for coffee, juice, and other refreshments for clients.

Getting Personal *Stories of Community Crossroads' Impact*

The programs of Community Crossroads mentioned on the previous page are designed not only to help our neighbors with immediate needs but also to show them hope, love and an environment where they can look to a brighter future through faith. Some come for First HAND or FAD and learn about WOW. When they come to WOW, they experience the caring of the volunteers and the love of God through worship. There are many wonderful stories from these programs, but two stories have led to membership in FPC.

Donald started his journey to FPC through First Hand and then WOW. The

volunteers at WOW talked with him during the many months he struggled with addiction and homelessness. Their care and concern and the call of God through the worship service compelled Donald to abandon his addiction and work towards having his own place to live. He began attending AA, working, helping others, and attending church and Bible studies. Donald joined FPC in 2016 and is an active member and a blessing to others.

Cindy began bringing her six delightful daughters to WOW at Community Crossroads a decade ago. The environment has given Cindy and her family



a warm and comforting place to learn about God through worship and study. Cindy is an active member of the adult class and a very willing volunteer, helping on many projects that make or assemble items for FPC mission programs. Her

involvement in so many aspects of the WOW program led Cindy to join FPC in 2017.

The welcoming and nurturing atmosphere at Community Crossroads is a blessing to so many of those who participate in its programs. **David**, a frequent attendee at WOW, says that Wednesday nights are like going home to visit family and friends for an enjoyable meal and fellowship. He says he looks forward to hearing the reassuring message of God's love for us during worship. It is a highlight of his week.



Envisioning the Future of Community Crossroads

COMMUNITY CROSSROADS

Six years ago, when First Pres bought and renovated an aging storefront on Hemphill Street, who could have known the difference we would make or the lives which would be changed forever?

Our ministries moved into the reconditioned building with energy and hope. The **First HAND food ministry**, with its walk-in refrigerator and freezer, was suddenly able to distribute fresh meat and produce along with staple dry goods to the thousands of hungry families it serves. The **clothing pantry** could spread out, extending its inventory of gently used garments in order to better serve its clients. Our **dental clinic** grew into its new space and has, in these last two years, doubled the patients it serves. People who otherwise would receive no dental care now receive free dental care. **Worship on Wednesdays (WOW)** offers a full evening meal, worship service, and age-appropriate Bible instruction for a wonderfully eclectic gathering of neighborhood and transient participants. **Formula and Diapers (FAD)** came later, now serving life-giving aid to hundreds of mothers and their babies.

Community Crossroads has for years changed and improved lives, and not only those who have been served. It changes the lives of those who serve there, too,

Continued on next page...

faithful First Pres disciples who give thousands of hours and their energy, and their compassion. Serving those in need helps us to better see our own need and our shared humanity.

The time has come to build upon our faithful success. We have learned much about need and how to humanely meet it, and our physical structure needs adaptation in order for us to grow our ministries. WOW is uncomfortably crowded, both at the dinner hour and especially for children's Bible classes.

Our Community Crossroads ministries are a wonderful paradox. They meet basic human need and they are also cutting edge – faithful disciples learning continually how best to help

others in ways which build lasting relationships and foster lasting transformation.

We have committed to the Hemphill neighborhood that we will be there for decades. This commitment has brought trust and shared partnership.

Now is the time to demonstrate and deepen our commitment by broadening our ministries and enhancing our building.

Our 10% increase in pledging, or more, will go directly to growing Community Crossroads.

Together, we will illustrate Gospel and change lives, especially our own.



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THE BUDGET

In 2016, the last year for which we have final numbers, our pledges and non-pledged gifts totaled \$2,878,310.

Together, we can raise this figure 10% or more, which would boost our giving to the mission and ministry budget to at least **\$3,166,141**.

Reaching this inspiring goal will not only support and grow our programs, but will also enlarge our presence and outreach at Community Crossroads for years to come.

HOW WILL YOU GIVE?

YOUR PLEDGE

You will receive a pledge card like the one shown here in a separate mailing. After prayerfully considering your pledge to the church, there are two ways to submit it:

1. Visit FPCFW.ORG/GIVE and complete the secure form.
OR
2. Turn in a completed pledge card to the church office or bring it to worship on **COMMITMENT SUNDAY, OCTOBER 29**. Extra cards will be provided that day if needed.

GIVE
Inspire Disciples Engage the World

The people rejoiced, for they had given whole-heartedly to the Lord.
1 Chronicles 29:9

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
PLEDGE CARD

You may submit your pledge at worship on October 29, online at WWW.FPCFW.ORG/GIVE, or in the church office. Want to change your pledge later? Just call the office at 817.335.1231.

Please print.
Because pledging brings joy and includes me/us in the church's ministry, in 2018 I/we will strive to give an annual total of \$ _____

Name: _____
Address: _____
Email: _____

Pledge will be paid:
 Weekly
 Bi-Weekly
 Monthly
 Quarterly
 Annually

I wish to receive offering envelopes:
 Weekly
 Monthly
 Quarterly

YES! I am increasing my pledge this year.
 This pledge is a joint commitment for our household.

Office Use Only:
Fam# _____
Payment rec'd with pledge card:
\$ _____ Ck# _____
Dated _____

| | | |
|---|---|--|
| OCT 22 Celebrate FPC ministries and mission at 9 and 11 a.m. worship. | OCT 23 Pledge cards arrive in your mailbox this week. | OCT 29 Commitment Sunday. We offer our pledges as an act of worship. |
|---|---|--|

HOW WILL YOU GIVE?

HOW WILL YOU RESPOND?

For your convenience, this chart shows various pledge amounts and how much each would increase given an 8, 10, or 12 percent increase in 2018.

In 2017, if your pledge was...

...in 2018, you might increase by

8%

10%

12%

| | | | |
|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| \$500 | \$540 | \$550 | \$560 |
| \$750 | \$810 | \$825 | \$840 |
| \$1,000 | \$1,080 | \$1,100 | \$1,120 |
| \$1,500 | \$1,620 | \$1,650 | \$1,680 |
| \$2,000 | \$2,160 | \$2,200 | \$2,240 |
| \$2,500 | \$2,700 | \$2,750 | \$2,800 |
| \$3,000 | \$3,240 | \$3,300 | \$3,360 |
| \$3,500 | \$3,780 | \$3,850 | \$3,920 |
| \$4,000 | \$4,320 | \$4,400 | \$4,480 |
| \$5,000 | \$5,400 | \$5,500 | \$5,600 |
| \$6,000 | \$6,480 | \$6,600 | \$6,720 |
| \$7,500 | \$8,100 | \$8,250 | \$8,400 |
| \$9,000 | \$9,720 | \$9,900 | \$10,080 |
| \$10,500 | \$11,340 | \$11,550 | \$11,760 |
| \$12,000 | \$12,960 | \$13,200 | \$13,440 |
| \$13,500 | \$14,580 | \$14,850 | \$15,120 |
| \$15,000 | \$16,200 | \$16,500 | \$16,800 |
| \$17,500 | \$18,900 | \$19,250 | \$19,600 |
| \$20,000 | \$21,600 | \$22,000 | \$22,400 |
| \$22,500 | \$24,300 | \$24,750 | \$25,200 |
| \$25,000 | \$27,000 | \$27,500 | \$28,000 |
| \$30,000 | \$32,400 | \$33,000 | \$33,600 |

HOW WILL YOU GIVE?



Just imagine... the difference we can make together in 2018.

Just imagine... your spiritual growth. When trusting God, we become more generous.

Now is the time to demonstrate and deepen our commitment by broadening our ministries and enhancing our Community Crossroads building. **Our 10% increase in pledging, or more, will go directly to growing Community Crossroads.** Together, we will illustrate Gospel and change lives, especially our own.

Let us join together in increasing our pledges 10% or more for the mission and ministry of First Pres in the coming year.



HOW WILL YOU GIVE?



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
1000 Penn Street
Fort Worth, TX 76102

