



This profile is a comprehensive overview of the membership and operations of the First Baptist Church of Gainesville, Florida. This document shares our history, our passion, and our commitment as a community of faith as we search for our next Senior Pastor.

# 2023 CHURCH PROFILE

First Baptist Church, Gainesville, Florida

2023 Church Profile - First Baptist Church, Gainesville, Florida

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## ***A Letter from the Senior Pastor Search Committee***

After three years of dedicated service, Pastor Eric Spivey announced to the Church in March 2022 that he had been called to be the Senior Pastor at Vestavia Hills Baptist Church, Birmingham, Alabama, effective April 10, 2022. Church leaders immediately began the processes to provide the congregation with the tools needed to properly conduct a search for a new Senior Pastor. We were elected as the Search Committee by the Church and began preparing for a comprehensive search.

The members involved in this search represent the hope for the future of the entire congregation and have made a covenant to

*...trust and expect that God is with us and will guide us in all matters as they related to discerning God's will in our search for a new Pastor. Above all, we will strive to become indifferent to all but God's will.*

We are confident our search and selection process will lead us to our next Senior Pastor, who will continue to make First Baptist Church a growing and thriving church in the Gainesville area.

History shows that our Church and the community we serve have had a long and strong relationship. We have remained a pillar of strong faith and ministry for over 150 years in the Gainesville community. We have many missions and ministries with talented leadership and committed fellowship. Our music ranges from traditional to contemporary. Our pastors are committed to the evangelism of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

It is with true humility and determined commitment we ask the Church Body to continue to pray for God's leadership in finding a new Senior Pastor for First Baptist Church. We know God has already chosen someone and we look forward to discovering and embracing that person as a part of our Church, our families, our community, and our future.

In Prayer,  
*Senior Pastor Search Committee*  
*May 2023*

## Our Story

First Baptist Church, Gainesville, was established in 1870 with 14 members. At the time, Florida's population was only 188,000 and Gainesville was a frontier town. Not surprisingly, the church's first years were challenging. Without a place to worship, services were held in "house worship" or at the First Presbyterian Church<sup>1</sup>.

By 1875 the church had grown enough to afford to construct its first house of worship, a one-room, wooden framed building located near the town square (see the photo of the 1875 church building<sup>2</sup>). In 1921, a larger building was needed, and the church built a brick building nearby and moved there. By the early 1920s additional space was needed and the church moved a few blocks west on University Avenue into a spacious brick building that would be its "home" for the next 86 years. Over time, the sanctuary was enlarged, and additional Sunday school classrooms were built. Later still, another building was added.



*First Baptist Church, 1875*



*First Baptist Church, 2023*

In 2006, a development company offered a significant sum to purchase the church's five acres, the largest plot of land in downtown Gainesville. Pastor Fairless immediately led the church through a time of discernment, and, after praying for God's leadership and engaging in lengthy discussions, the church voted to sell its downtown property and move to a fast-growing area west of I-75. Income from the sale of the downtown property was enough to cover most of the cost of relocation to NW 39<sup>th</sup> Avenue, where the current facility is located on 23 acres<sup>3</sup>. The church is now debt free. The developmental timeline of our church is shown in Figure 1 .

Sunday School has been a mainstay for all ages. Bible Study attendance exceeded 1,000 from the 1950s into the 1970s.

While the way the church has elected deacons has changed over time, the church continues to look to the Board of Deacons for leadership in ministry and church business. Women have served as deacons since 1987. In 1998 the first female was vice-

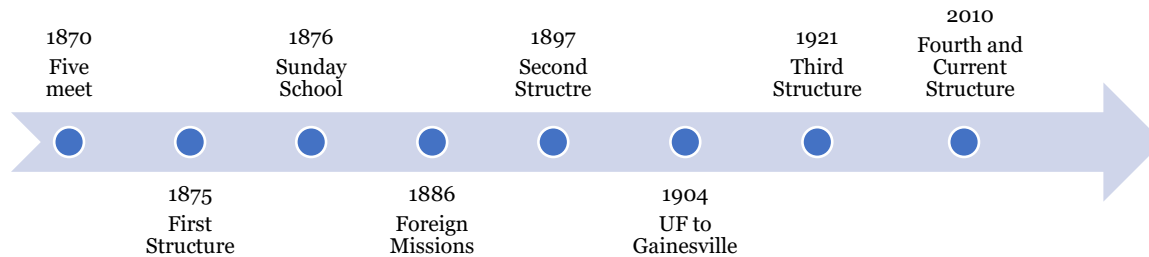
<sup>1</sup> Osborn, G.C. (1970). *The First Baptist Church-Gainesville, Florida 1870-1970: A history*. Storter Printing Co.: Gainesville, FL.

<sup>2</sup> Weaver, C.D. (2000). *Every town needs a downtown church* (p. 13). Southern Baptist Historical Society: Brentwood, TN .

<sup>3</sup> Adams, C.D. (2023). Photo of current First Baptist Church Gainesville with a rainbow. Unpublished.

chair of the deacons and in the same year the first African American female deacon was elected.

*Figure 1. The Developmental Timeline of First Baptist Church, 1870-Present*



First Baptist Church jointly supports the Southern Baptist Convention and the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship. We are a part of the Florida Baptist Convention, the Florida Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, and the North Central Florida Baptist Association. Our history demonstrates the church's desire to be ecumenical by working cooperatively with other churches and faith groups in Gainesville.

In 1904, when the University of Florida was established in Gainesville, FBC began a student ministry. With the university's growth, the GI Bill and coeducation in 1947, our church provided a strong ministry to students that lasted into the 1990s. Many UF students attending FBC went on to become ministers and missionaries. Other ministries have included a Hearing-Impaired Ministry, sponsorship of a Boy Scout troop, and hosting an Adult Learning Center for internationals.

Though some members resisted integration, FBC accepted black guests and, later, members relatively early during our country's painful move toward racial equality. Because UF attracts students and faculty from all over the world, we currently enjoy members from many different nationalities.

At one time there were 10 groups (Circles) in the Women's Missionary Union (WMU). For a number of reasons, this has dwindled to one. The Helen Masters Circle dropped the word Helen and became the Masters Mission Group with the inclusion of men. It has maintained its original purpose of mission education, support, and involvement. Senior citizens have been a large segment of the congregation for many years. In 1963 the first senior citizen ministry was organized for fellowship and inspiration. First called XYZ (Xtra Years of Zest), it later became Young at Heart. This ministry has been suspended since the move to our current location.

Our church has always maintained a strong commitment to missions, as evidenced by the establishment of six mission Baptist churches. These include Eastside, Southside, Parkview, Forest Park, Westside and Tower Road. Westside Baptist Church has become the largest Baptist church in Gainesville. A Chinese church worshiped in our building for several years. They later become independent and relocated to their own facility. Currently we are giving physical, spiritual and financial support to the strongly interracial Greater Faith Baptist Fellowship and Thrive Life Church. We have always been, and remain, committed to the support of national and international missions.

## Who We Are

### **Our Mission:**

*Following Jesus and living God's love together.*

### **What We Believe**

**“First”** reminds us that the first and most important thing about our identity is our faith in Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord. Romans 10:13 says that *“Whosoever calls upon the name of the Lord will be saved.”* We believe that the basis for church membership is a personal profession of faith in Christ. That’s the first thing that is required of every member of First Baptist Church!

**“Baptist”** means that we hold to many of the historic teachings of the Baptist denomination, which is a part of the wider fellowship of the Christian church throughout the world. While baptism by immersion is certainly a distinctive part of who we are, we also believe in the authority of the Bible as God’s word to us, the right and responsibility of each person to respond freely to God, the power of each local church to follow the leadership of Christ as it sees fit, and the principle of free exercise of religion in a free state.

**“Church”** means that we do the things that we believe the Bible teaches all churches should do. We worship, we serve, we learn, we witness, and we grow in relationship to one another and to God.

- ***We worship***, which is the unique privilege of the church. God is praised in all we do.
- ***We grow in faith*** which happens as we study the Bible, pray, and serve together.
- ***We strengthen relationships*** among friends, within families, across generations.
- ***We tell the good news*** about Jesus and his love - it is changing our lives!
- ***We share God's love*** in practical ways - in our community and our world (literally.)

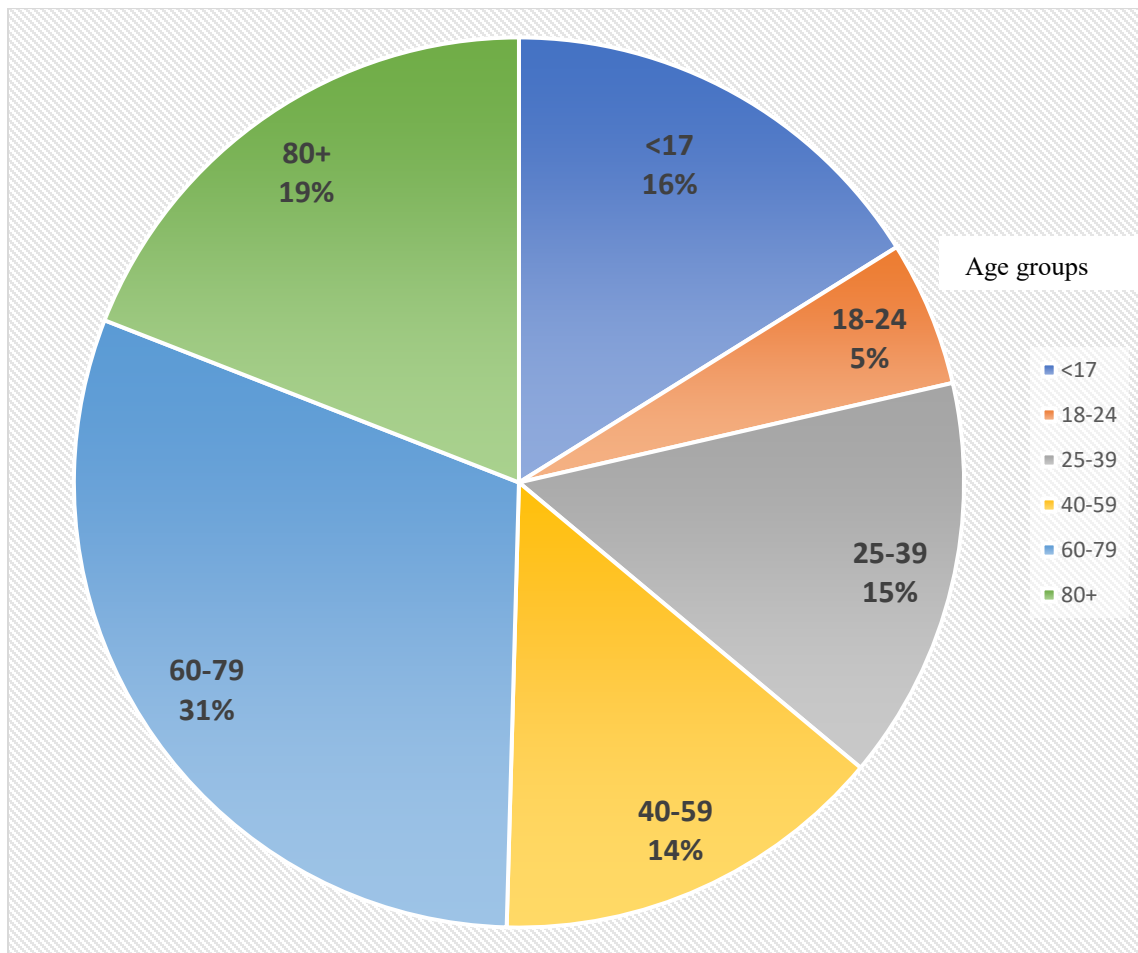
First Baptist partners with the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship and Florida Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, as well as the Southern Baptist Convention and Florida Baptist Convention and North Central Florida Baptist Association for the purposes of missions, education, and helping/healing ministries throughout our state and the world. First Baptist Church serves 467 families. Table 1 shows the numbers of members registered for Bible Study by age group, and Figure 2 presents the percentages in chart form. Senior adults ages 60-80+ are the largest segment of our congregation and Bible Study registration, and are a vital part of church life, providing leadership, service, and financial support.

*Table 1. Church Members Registered for Bible Study by Age Group (N = 341)*

Age Group	Total
<17	55
18-24	18
25-39	50
40-59	49
60-79	104
80+	65

*Note. Bible Study is held in Discipleship Classes at First Baptist Church. Figure 4 (p. 18) shows the average weekly in-person Discipleship Class attendance from 2017 through Quarter 1, 2023*

*Figure 2. Bible Study Registrants by Percentage in each Age Group (N = 341)*





## Who We Are Seeking

The departure of Pastor Eric Spivey after three years of service to our church presented an opportunity to revisit our purpose, mission, and values, and to gauge our congregation's perspectives on the future of our church and its next leader. On January 29, 2023, the Pastor Search Committee called together the members to share their perspectives on the church and their expectations for the next pastor. Church members were invited to participate and divided into eleven groups. The questions were:

### *Opening questions*

- What brought you to First Baptist Church?
- When did it become the church for you?
- Why have you stayed?
- What makes First Baptist Church unique?

### *Search-Focused questions*

- What is good about First Baptist Church that I want to keep and build upon going forward?
- What is one ministry priority I would like our new pastor to emphasize?
- What sermon characteristics are important to me?
- What personal traits would I like to see in our new pastor?
- Can you name one significant opportunity our church will have over the next five years?
- What is one significant challenge our church will face over the next five years?
- Should the mission statement be changed?

The conversations took place in focus groups of 5-7 members each. Volunteers in each group recorded their groups' responses in writing. The results reveal that the members believe that First Baptist Church is ready to move forward with a pastor who will lead the church to transform, adapt, and grow with a diverse, inclusive membership that continues its traditions of leadership equity for all members. Member responses yielded three focus areas that will be important for our next pastor to address. These are shown in Table 2.

*Table 2. Focus Areas for Our Next Pastor to Address*

Focus Area	Description
<b>Growth</b>	Build a diverse, inclusive congregation with new members of all ages, with a focus on families with children
<b>Belonging</b>	Establish an inclusive environment where all are welcome
	Ensure that leadership roles remain open to all members
<b>Outreach and Expansion</b>	Connect with the membership and the growing community to increase the scope of ministry

The final analysis and aggregation of the response results yielded a set of characteristics that guide the search for our next pastor. Table 3 presents the desired characteristics that emerged from these conversations.

*Table 3. Desired Characteristics of the Next Pastor of First Baptist Church*

<b>Characteristic</b>	<b>Description</b>
Multigenerational Communicator	Speaks clearly, meaningfully, and understandably to all age groups
Inclusivity	Encourages and actively seeks diverse members
	Establishes and sustains an inclusive environment
	Leadership roles are open to all members
	Ensures that all are welcome to First Baptist Church
Leadership	Experienced
	Male or Female
	Demonstrated Success as a Leader
	Establishes an environment of care, concern, and respect for all
Commitment	Honesty
	Integrity and trustworthiness
	Stability - Long-term commitment
Teaches and Preaches from the Bible	Connects biblical teachings to modern daily life
	Engaging orator
Advances the Church's Mission	Knows and enables the church to meet its mission
	Connects the membership to their role in advancing the church's mission
Leads with Vision for the Future of FBC	Has a clear vision for FBC
	Strategically plans for the future of FBC
Commitment to Revitalize and Grow the Church	Identifies and operationalizes opportunities to expand membership, especially young families, children, and youth

## Member Spotlight: Members Speak about What First Baptist Church Means to Them

Click on the photos to view the members' videos. They range from 19 seconds to two minutes in length.



*Jo Ann Parham,  
member for 12 years*

*I've been to ten Baptist churches, and this is the only one that has encouraged women to participate fully...I encourage a pastor to come here and lead us. – Jo Ann Parham (0:29)*

*I love First Baptist Church so much because of the youth and the youth leader and all of my peers who go here as well. I feel like it is a real family. – Lukas Langenburg (0:46)*



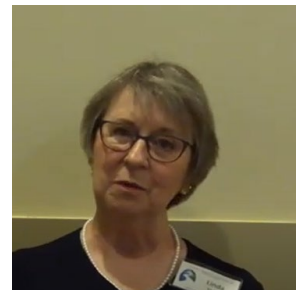
*Lukas Langenburg,  
member for 2 years*



*Bobby Bennett, member for  
more than 60 years*

*I love First Baptist Church...it's friendly, they welcome everyone, and they allow members to be fully involved in the church. That is a real blessing. – Bobby Bennett (1:15)*

*The people in this church never met a stranger. FBC is an all-inclusive church, and everyone is welcome.  
– Linda Stott (2:01)*



*Linda Stott, member  
for seven years*



*Olivia King, member  
for 11 years*

*First Baptist Church means family to me. Love and kindness met me at the door. – Olivia King (0:19)*

## The Community We Serve

### ***Areas of Ministry and Missions***

FBC has an active Missions Committee whose purpose is to plan mission activities that involve and educate the membership about mission needs and opportunities. To further our mission *to follow Jesus and live God's love together and share God's grace with the world*, our missions focus local missions within the Gainesville community and across the world.

Local mission involvement includes:

- [\*\*Family Promise\*\*](#) - homeless family care
- [\*\*Greater Faith Baptist Church\*\*](#) – we support their neighborhood events
- [\*\*House of Hope Gainesville\*\*](#) - encourages and guides Christian ex-offenders, both male and female, to serve and grow in the Lord as they are productively assimilated into society
- [\*\*Gainesville Community Ministries\*\*](#) – provides help and hope to families and individuals in crisis
- [\*\*Florida Baptist Children's Home\*\*](#) – provides Christ-centered services to vulnerable children and struggling families
- [\*\*One More Child - Single Moms\*\*](#) – bringing hope to single moms and their children
- [\*\*Prayer Shawl Ministry\*\*](#) - Compassion and the love of knitting/crocheting have been combined into a prayerful ministry and spiritual practice which reaches out to those in need of comfort and solace, as well as in celebration and joy
- **SIRA** - unwed mothers
- [\*\*Ronald McDonald House Gainesville\*\*](#) – keeping families close to their children during difficult times

Our mission involvement outside of our community includes:

- [\*\*Amani Sasa\*\*](#) – Uganda
- [\*\*Camp Hands of Joy\*\*](#) (for hearing impaired children in the Dominican Republic)
- **Projects for Haiti** (training of Haitian teachers)
- **Manos de Dios** – Church in Dominican Republic, hearing impaired)
- **Haiti Youth Leadership camps**
- **Map International** (repacking medical supplies)
- [\*\*Faithworks\*\*](#) (sort & shelve food pantry collections)
- **Wycliffe Bible Translators** - Graves family serving in Mexico
- **Gideons**
- **Youth mission trips**
- [\*\*Nigeria Faithful Works\*\*](#) (network that provides sustainable solutions that address practical needs of Nigerian people)
- [\*\*Cultivate Abundance\*\*](#)
- [\*\*CBF and SBC missions\*\*](#)

### ***Missions at Work in the Gainesville Community***



Each year First Baptist Church members participate in a bed race to support Family Promise. This is a photo of our 2023 first place youth group winners.

*Pictured, left to right: Tyjah Edwards, Lukas Langenburg, Elijah Edwards, Olivia King (Youth Coordinator), Reed Pickard, and Malik Edwards*

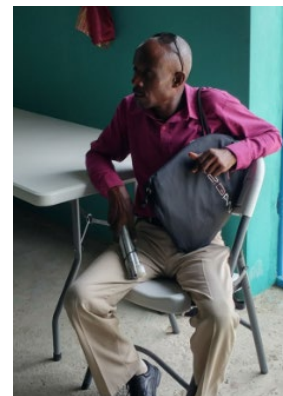
### ***Missions at Work in Haiti***



*Pictured, left to right: Missions Pastor Brenda Cohen, Emilise*

This photo is of our Missions Pastor Brenda Cohen in Cap Haitian, Haiti with Emilise, who began as interpreter and is now a key player in the Kominite Pwofesè Ayisyen (Organization of Haitian Teachers), a major part of **Projects for Haiti (P4H)**. The organization has grown from a just a few with a passion to over 30 who carry professional development for teachers around the island. In the beginning the annual conference was American led; as a result of our mission work, it now is an established event fully led by the Haitian teachers.

Though Missions Pastor Cohen traveled to Haiti to work with teachers, she was able to deliver portions of a French language Braille Bible to this gentleman. It took a full year from the initial request from Pastor Isaac Albert to delivery.



*Braille Bible recipient*

### *Missions at Work in Haiti, continued*



*Josney*

This is Josney, who was homeless before he was taken in by Street Hearts (a ministry that cares for abandoned boys as young as 3). Josney was all but adopted by Jennifer (another teacher Missions Pastor Cohen met through P4H) and is just this year graduating college so that he can become a teacher. I am happy that I have been able to help with his support and encourage him along the way

### **Outreach**

Churchwide community outreach is accomplished through various seasonal family activities such as Vacation Bible School, Easter Family Fun Day, Trunk or Treat, Splash Bash, Family Days, and Parent's Night Out.



*2023 Easter Family Fun Day*

The primary purpose of these activities is to engage those in our community in Christ-centered activities that allow our members to interact with the community (both church and unchurched). We also conduct Prayer Walks in neighborhoods near FBC to distribute information about our church with invitations to current upcoming community activities.



*2022 Vacation Bible School*

COVID affected community outreach and attendance. Online worship and Wednesday Zoom meetings enabled us to continue Bible Studies and fellowship. In addition,



*Parents' Night Out*

CARE groups were established throughout the congregation to reach out to sacred partners. Small groups remained in contact with each other.



*Family Day at Dave and Busters*

## About Gainesville, Florida

Gainesville is located in north central Florida and has a metropolitan population of 273,080 in 2022 (see the complete demographic profile in Appendix 1). While you may find a few native Sabal palm trees, its landscape is largely pines and oaks, azaleas, crepe myrtles and camellias. Gainesville offers a small-town atmosphere with some big city benefits.

The Gainesville metropolitan area was ranked as the [No. 1 place to live in Alachua County](#) in the 2023 Niche ratings, and number 37 of 228 best cities to live in America. The [2023 Forbes listing](#) of best places to live in Florida ranks Gainesville #2 just behind Tampa. Not only is Gainesville the home the University of Florida, of one of the nation's top universities, it is also the perfect location for a growing economy in the north central



*Entrance to the University of Florida, the corner of 13<sup>th</sup> Street and University Avenue*

Florida area. If you have visited the state of Florida (which over 20,000,000 people do each year), then you have probably travelled through Gainesville on your way to the theme parks or beaches while taking the Interstate 75 corridor down the state. With this central location, this once small and rural town has become a key target and home for the University of Florida's Innovation Square, home of [UF Innovate](#), and large organizations such as [Exactech](#), [Infotech](#), and [352 Media](#). [Progress Park in Alachua, Florida](#), just eight miles from our church property, is a productive setting for

bioscience and technology companies.

The Gainesville area and north central Florida are served by one regional and three international airports. [Gainesville Regional Airport](#) connects the Gainesville community with the world with daily direct flights to Atlanta, Charlotte, and Dallas. Three major cities with international airports are within a two-and-one-half-hour drive from the church. The [Jacksonville International Airport](#) is 89 miles from First Baptist Church, the [Orlando International Airport](#) is 126 miles from the church, and the [Tampa International Airport](#) is 143 miles away.



*Gainesville Regional Airport*

Gainesville is home to the [University of Florida](#), a major research institution with 55,781 students enrolled as of 2021, as well as to Santa Fe College. The strong academic presence of the University of Florida has resulted in an excellent public school system

along with highly regarded private schools. The outstanding athletic programs of the university offer a large variety of events to enjoy throughout the year.

The [Museum of Natural History](#) (including a [Butterfly Rainforest](#)), the [Harn Museum of Art](#), and the [Curtis M. Phillips Center for the Performing Arts](#) on the university campus offer educational and cultural opportunities. The Cade Museum offers many educational opportunities for all ages. The Hippodrome State Theatre in downtown Gainesville offers a variety of performances throughout the year. Two large art festivals in spring and fall attract artists and visitors from across the southeastern United States.

Only 70 miles from the Atlantic beaches and 60 miles from the Gulf coast and surrounded by rivers and springs, Gainesville is ideally located for those who enjoy all the attractions of water. The [San Felasco Hammock Preserve](#), [Paynes Prairie State Preserve](#), [Gainesville-Hawthorne State Trail](#) and [Archer Braid Trail](#) offer excellent hiking and biking opportunities. All the attractions of Orlando are only two hours away. Most provide incentives to Florida residents.

Exceptional medical care is offered through [UF Health](#) (Shands Hospital), and [North Florida Regional Medical Center](#). Gainesville is also the center for the [North Florida/South Georgia Veterans Health System](#).

### ***How the Community Sees Us***

Generally, First Baptist Church is viewed as the flagship Baptist Church in Gainesville and as one of the two progressive Baptist churches in town. In the past, it has commanded great respect because of its 152-year history, its establishment of eight missions and churches, and its ministry to college students.

After the move from downtown Gainesville in 2010, many considered the church “too far out of town” and, therefore, chose to attend other churches or no church at all. The church has never lost its reputation as a warm and caring community. The fully-paid-for new facilities made it possible to focus on additional programs and ministries. In addition, First Baptist has continued to emphasize local, state, and international missions and to grow those programs. There is wide member participation in local community events where a Christian presence is visible and appreciated. Bible Study for all ages is currently strong, fully staffed, and supported by the ministerial staff.

To understand how our community currently perceives our church, we interviewed former members, current members who seldom attend, and nonmembers who sometimes attend. We also spoke with sacred partners and current members who regularly attend. Table 4 presents the four questions and the common responses we received.



*Table 4. How the Community Sees Us*

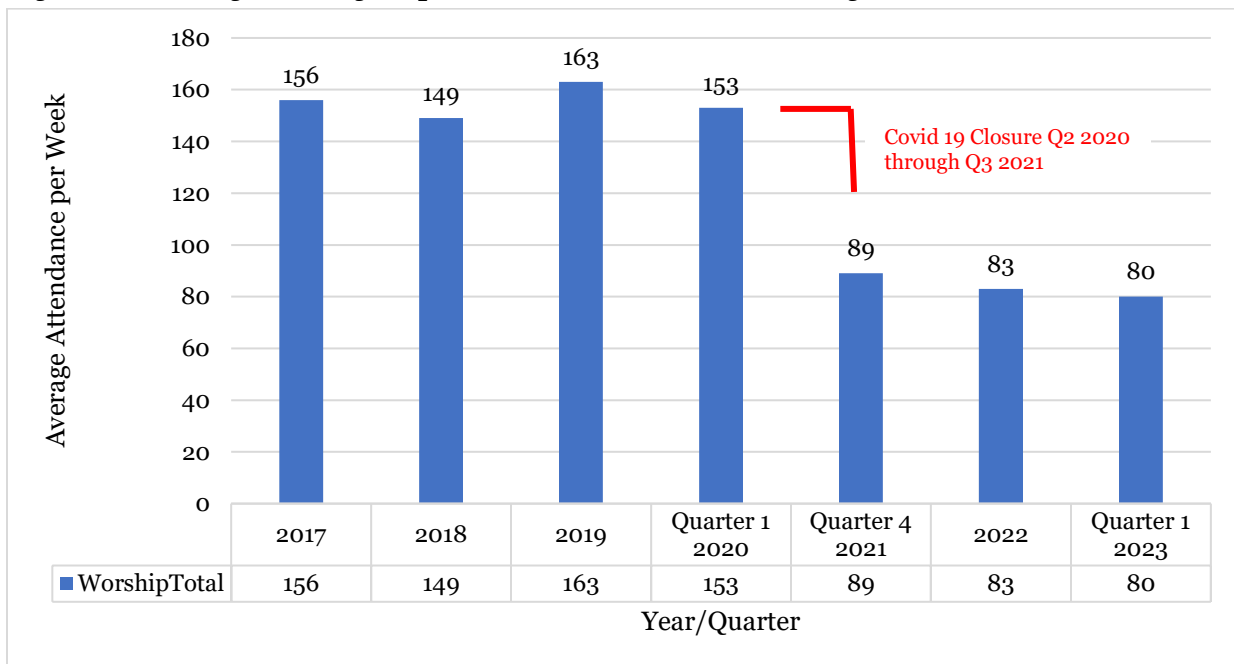
Question	Responses
What's the first thing you think of when hear First Baptist Church?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Friendly and welcoming church</li> <li>• Outstanding adult music program</li> <li>• Bible-based messages</li> <li>• A loving congregation</li> </ul>
What positive ideas come to mind when you hear First Baptist Church?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The sermons</li> <li>• Outstanding Bible Study options</li> <li>• The church has moved to where the people are</li> <li>• The fellowship and the connection of people to each other whether they know each other or not</li> <li>• The church takes seriously its command to go into all the world and preach the gospel</li> <li>• I always feel like I'm invited to a celebration!</li> <li>• All sacred partners are free to express their thoughts even though their thinking is different, and others may disagree</li> <li>• There is a unity of spirit in the church, a major strength in all age groups</li> </ul>
What negative ideas come to mind when you hear First Baptist Church?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Additional activities that would appeal to the neighborhood</li> <li>• We need a technology staff member to keep the website updated</li> </ul>
Any change that would encourage people to want to be a part of our community?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bible study available to moms with nursery availability</li> <li>• Greater variety of sanctuary music choices</li> <li>• Increase visibility in the community</li> </ul>

## Within the Church

### Worship

First Baptist Church offers in person and living room (on-line) worship service on Sunday morning following the Discipleship Group classes. The prelude begins at 10:15am and service begins at 10:30am. The average weekly worship attendance from 2017-Quarter 1 2023 is presented in Figure 3. Average weekly attendance dropped between Quarter 1 2020 when the church closed for the pandemic and its reopening in Quarter 4 2021. Worship was conducted online during the closure period and worship services remain livestreamed today. The church did not keep records of online attendance during the closure period, nor are attendance records kept today of online worshippers. These figures represent those who attend worship services in person. In-person service attendance has remained consistent since the church reopened, and online attendance likely raises the number of total attendees.

Figure 3. Average weekly in-person attendance 2017 through Quarter 1, 2023



The prayers of invocation, responsive readings in the Call to Worship, Scripture reading and the offertory prayer of thanksgiving are delivered by members of the congregation or our guests.

Our pastor’s sermon ties the message from the scripture to daily life and gives the hearer a spiritual application to our daily life with a challenge to rise to the biblical message. Average Sunday attendance for 2021 was 89 and 2022 was 82.

Christmas Eve candlelight service attendance in 2021 was 132 and in 2022 was 114. Easter morning sunrise service in both the Prayer Garden and sanctuary was not counted in 2021 (it was a parking lot event) and in 2022 it was 156.

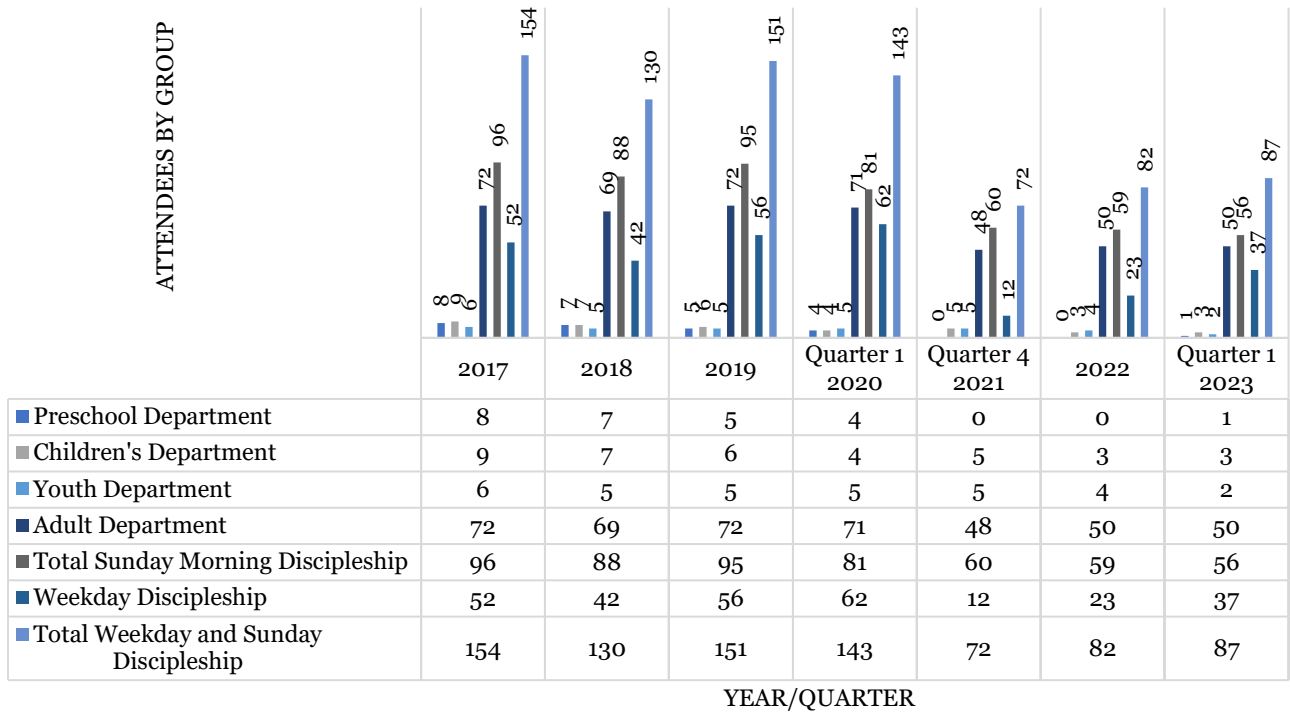
### Music

Worship music blends traditional hymns, choral anthems and contemporary songs supported by the Sanctuary choir, instrumental solos, or groups, and grand piano. Our [Casavant pipe organ](#), built in 1975, was relocated to our current campus in 2010.

### Discipleship Groups

Our Sunday morning Bible study program endeavors to meet the needs of all age groups. Classes begin at 9:15am. Groups may choose the Connections lectionary-based study, Formations or a group choice book study. Average attendance in Quarter 4 2021 was 60, and in 2022 it was 59. Some discipleship and bible study groups meet Monday through Thursday, and weekday attendance for those groups averaged 25 in Quarter 4 2021 and 23 in 2022.

Figure 4. Average weekly in-person Discipleship Class attendance 2017 through Quarter 1, 2023



Note. No in-person services were held from Quarter 2 2020 through Quarter 3 2021 because of the pandemic.

## ***Education Department***

On Sunday mornings, immediately following the Bible Study hour, our children gather in the sanctuary to worship with the entire church family. After the opening of the service, they and their leaders are dismissed to go to the children's area for their own special time together with Children's Ministry Coordinator, Brandi Bell.

### **Preschool**

We provide a loving and safe environment where our preschool children (birth to 5 years) can play, learn and thrive in God's love. Our staff is all background checked and trained in safety measures for the protection of your preschooler. The staff is made up of volunteers and paid staff. Our curriculum is Orange First Look. First Look combines child development and theology to create a comprehensive preschool ministry curriculum and strategy for every phase of a kid's life so that they grow up understanding God made them. We teach them that God loves them, and Jesus wants to be their friend forever.

### **Children**

Our children's group comprises Kindergarten to 5th Grade. This group is led by Brandi Bell, Children's Ministry Coordinator, and assisted by volunteers. Our program is designed to guide our children grow spiritually and to flourish in a healthy and safe environment in every way at First Baptist Church.

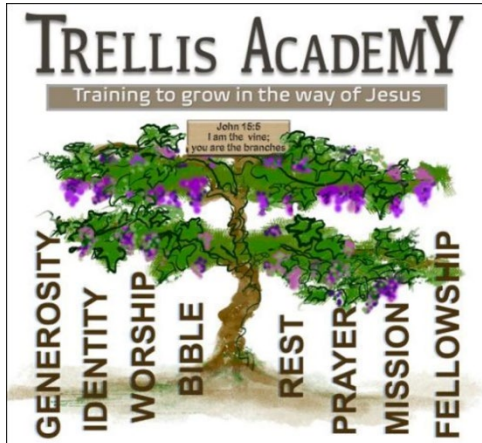
Sundays are when the children delve deeply into God's Word. Our children's curriculum is Orange 252 Kids, which combines child development and theology to create a comprehensive children's ministry curriculum and strategy for every phase of a child's life, and focuses on making wiser choices, building stronger relationships, and developing a deeper faith. Our children and preschool ministries are located in the educational wing of the church.

### **Youth**

The FBCG Youth ( 6th-12th grades) environment is designed for students to be relaxed and open. Sunday mornings are led by Ms. Olivia King. Our curriculum is Orange XP3. Each element of our curriculum and strategy is made with pre-teens and teenagers in mind, including small group experiences that make abstract lessons concrete, a teaching style specifically designed to hold their attention, and teaching videos shot more like VLOGS than classroom videos. Our youth are committed to using the three keys of growing disciples: our Head, Heart, and Hands.

Attendance has diminished in our children's programs since the COVID19 pandemic closures. Average weekly youth attendance (ages 11-17) is 6-10 students; average weekly children's attendance (ages 5-11) is 4-6 students; there has been no preschool attendance.

## Wednesday Evening Trellis Academy



*Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me. John 15:4*

In 2020 a group of sacred partners under the guidance of former pastor Eric Spivey, developed The Trellis, based on John 15:1-17. The eight spiritual practices are shown in the image included here. The goal of the Trellis Academy was to grow our lives with Jesus, identify where each one is in their walk with Jesus and identify the next steps to grow that personal relationship.

Each week we are invited to learn more about the Trellis and its practices, and how to grow individually. Starting at 5:30pm a light dinner is provided, and studies begin at 6:15-7:15pm. Average attendance in 2021 was 12, and in 2022 it was 17. Current offerings are a Bible Study, and a Spiritual Formation study using Marjorie Thompson's book *Soul Feast: An Invitation to the Christian Spiritual Life*.

## Boards, Committees and Teams

First Baptist Church has established various Boards, Committees and Teams in order to carry out the governance and mission of our church. The purpose, duties and responsibilities of the Boards and Committees are described in detail in the Bylaws of the church and the respective Policies and Procedures of the Boards and Committees.

### Boards

There are 3 Boards established by the Bylaws – Board of Deacons, Board of Trustees and Endowment Board. All Board members are elected by the church. All Boards have developed specific policies and procedures that have been approved by the church. The Board of Deacons have the following purpose, duties and responsibilities:

- Be servants of the Church
- Proclaim the Gospel to believers and non-believers
- Disciple new Christians
- Minister to and care for individual Church members and members of the community
- Lead the Church in its fellowship, worship, witness, ministries and spiritual growth
- Lead the Church as it serves as Christ's expression in the community
- Manage the business matters of the Corporation and the Church
- Facilitate and participate in an on-going evaluation of the Senior Pastor
- Promote harmony among church members and between church members and church staff

The Board of Trustees has the following purpose, duties and responsibilities:

- Responsible for handling legal, fiscal, business and other corporate matters
- Duties and responsibilities shall be limited to those imposed by law and as delegated by the Church and Deacons
- Contribute to the confidence and respect of the Church membership of all ages in financial matters affecting the Church
- Cooperate with appropriate committees concerned with budgeted commitments in the securing and use of funds.

The Endowment Board has the following purpose, duties and responsibilities:

- Establish a Church Endowment Program
- Publicize the Endowment Program and proactively pursuing planned gifts of an enduring nature
- Establish policies and procedures for the investment of assets and the disbursement of proceeds
- Contribute to the confidence and respect of the Church membership of all ages in financial matters affecting the Church
- Cooperate with the Board of Trustees and any appropriate committees concerned with the securing and use of Church Endowment Accounts
- Manage the Church Endowment Program
- Select an appropriate financial organization(s) to recommend, invest and service the financial assets placed in its care

## **Committees**

Our church has established 6 Standing Committees and may form Ad-Hoc Committees as needed. The Church elects all members of Standing and Ad-Hoc Committees. Most committees have developed Policies and Procedures that have been approved by the Church. The Standing Committees and their respective functions are:

### **Committee on Committees**

- Recommend to the Deacons and the Church a chair and members of each Standing Committee
- Coordinate the orientation of the committees
- Evaluate the purpose, function and needs of all Standing Committees

### **Building and Grounds**

- Maintain an inventory of buildings, equipment and materials
- Establish a maintenance schedule for buildings, grounds and equipment
- Determine the need for and recommending the acquisition of new equipment
- Supervise the renovation of existing buildings as necessary

### **Finance**

- Coordinate the development of the Church operating budget and recommending that budget for adoption by the Deacons and the Church
- Oversee and monitor the receipt, preservation and disbursement of monies or things of value paid or given to the Church

- Make regular reports to the Deacons and Church on income and expenditures
- Assure that bills for goods and services are paid promptly and that funds are dispersed for denominational causes in accordance with the approved budget and as receipts are received
- Develop and monitor adherence to policies and procedures
- Coordinate with the Stewardship Committee, Personnel Committee and the Board of Trustees on financial matters

### **Missions**

- Educate the Church about mission tasks
- Involve the Church and individuals in specific mission activities
- Plan and implement mission offerings

### **Personnel**

- Assist the Church in matters related to employed personnel administration, evaluation and management following guidelines provided in the Personnel Section of the Church Policies and Procedures Manual
- Serve as liaison between the Church and its employees in conjunction with the Senior Pastor

### **Stewardship**

- Help Church members grow as Christian stewards by developing an understanding of and a commitment to biblical teachings of stewardship
- Regularly highlighting stewardship opportunities both within and outside of the Church

### **Teams**

Teams are not defined in the Bylaws. They can be formed to meet the specific needs of the church and function on a more informal basis. Examples might include Hospitality Team, Music & Worship Team, etc.

## FBC Gainesville Personnel

### *Pastoral Staff*



Interim Senior Pastor **Dr. Ray Johnson** began serving as the church's interim on July 10, 2022. He came to us upon his retirement as the coordinator of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of Florida and the Caribbean Islands, where he served for fifteen years. Dr. Johnson pastored churches in Miami, FL, and York, SC. Prior to that he and his wife served for six years in the Philippine Islands, where Dr. Johnson was a professor of Old Testament studies and Hebrew at the Philippine Baptist Theological Seminary. Dr. Johnson has been married to his wife, Nena, for forty-five years and they are the parents of Matt (a musician in Miami) and Holly (a chaplain at Lakeland Regional Health).



**Mrs. Brenda Cohen** serves as Missions and Discipleship Pastor. Almost eleven years ago, Dick and Brenda Cohen became sacred partners with First Baptist Church by joining our membership. They were married in May 1999 and together have 5 children and 8 grandchildren. From the beginning, Brenda has had a heart for missions, volunteering in Haiti, Dominican Republic and other countries. Brenda completed her Master of Arts in Christian Ministry from McAfee School of Theology in December, 2021. Brenda began serving as our Missions Pastor on January 1, 2020. Discipleship was added to her title in 2022. She plans to be ordained in the near

future. Her dream for our mission efforts are just beginning to take form and seeds are beginning to be sown. As she puts it “the picture is just developing.”



**Dr. Marshall Haning** is Associate Professor and Area Head of Music Education at the University of Florida, where he teaches undergraduate and graduate courses in choral music education, research methods, and other related topics, and is also Chair of the Symposia on Assessment in Music Education. He holds degrees from Case Western Reserve University, the University of Cincinnati's College-Conservatory of Music, and Kent State University. Dr. Haning is well-published in scholarly journals. He is a frequent presenter at state, national, and international music education conferences and has served as a choral clinician and adjudicator across the United States as well as in Africa, Australia, and Europe. Dr. Haning has worked as a

church music and worship director at the Church in Silver Lake (Silver Lake, OH), Hay Street United Methodist Church (Fayetteville, NC), and Westlake United Methodist Church (Westlake, OH), as well as the First Baptist Church of Gainesville (Gainesville, FL).



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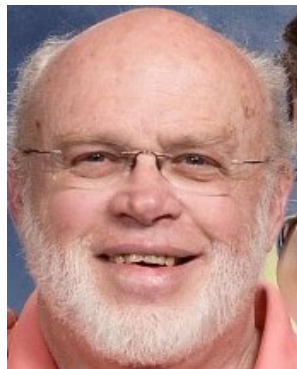
## ***Administrative Staff***



**Elizabeth Byrd**  
Office Manager & Bookkeeper

Elizabeth has served 15 years at First Baptist and runs the office and day to day operations in publications, printing, ordering – anything that needs to be done. She also handles all the financial aspects of the church with donations, paying bills and staff.

**Mike Smith**, Facilities Manager and Custodial Supervisor  
Mike has served 11 years at First Baptist and oversees all the facility maintenance issues and staff and volunteers who help take care of the property. He coordinates with everyone to make sure the facilities are ready for any activity.



**Bob Gerner**, Custodian  
Bob has served 7 years at First Baptist and takes care of the day-to-day cleaning of the indoor facilities and helps out with special occasions.

**Grace Brodbeck**, Organist / Accompanist  
Grace has served 8 years at First Baptist as our organist/pianist but has recently stepped into the additional role of accompanist for choir practices and performances.



*Administrative staff, continued*



**Jada Getsay, Receptionist**

Jada has served almost 1 year at First Baptist and helps run the office by answering the phone and door, making photocopies, preparing the Homebound mailings and Pastoral birthday cards – and anything else that is needed.

**Olivia King, Youth Coordinator & Technology Associate**

Olivia has served almost 3 years at First Baptist and runs the Youth program, having Discipleship Groups and activities for the Youth. She also oversees our Technology program, enabling live streaming of the Worship Service and audio in the sanctuary.



**Brandi Bell, Children's Ministry Coordinator**

Brandi has served almost 3 years in this position at First Baptist and is responsible for coordinating the Children's Sunday Morning Bible Study and Worship time. She reaches out to parents and children to keep them involved. She also is in charge of Vacation Bible School.

## Fiscal Support and Operations

First Baptist Church is supported financially by its members. Figure 5 presents the church’s annual total giving numbers from 2017 through the first quarter of 2023. Figure 6 shows the numbers of givers by age group, and Figure 7 shows the amount given by age group from 2017-2022.

Annual giving was little changed during the pandemic closure period from Quarter 2 2020 through Quarter 3 2021. Figures 6 and 7 confirm that our members ages 60-80+ give the largest amounts.

Figures 8 and 9 present the figures for the church’s operation fund budget to actual numbers for the month’s ended December 31, 2021 and December 31, 2022. Figures 10 and 11 present the church’s Endowment Fund and SBF Fund reports for May 2023.

*Figure 5. Total Giving by Year 2017-Quarter 1, 2023*

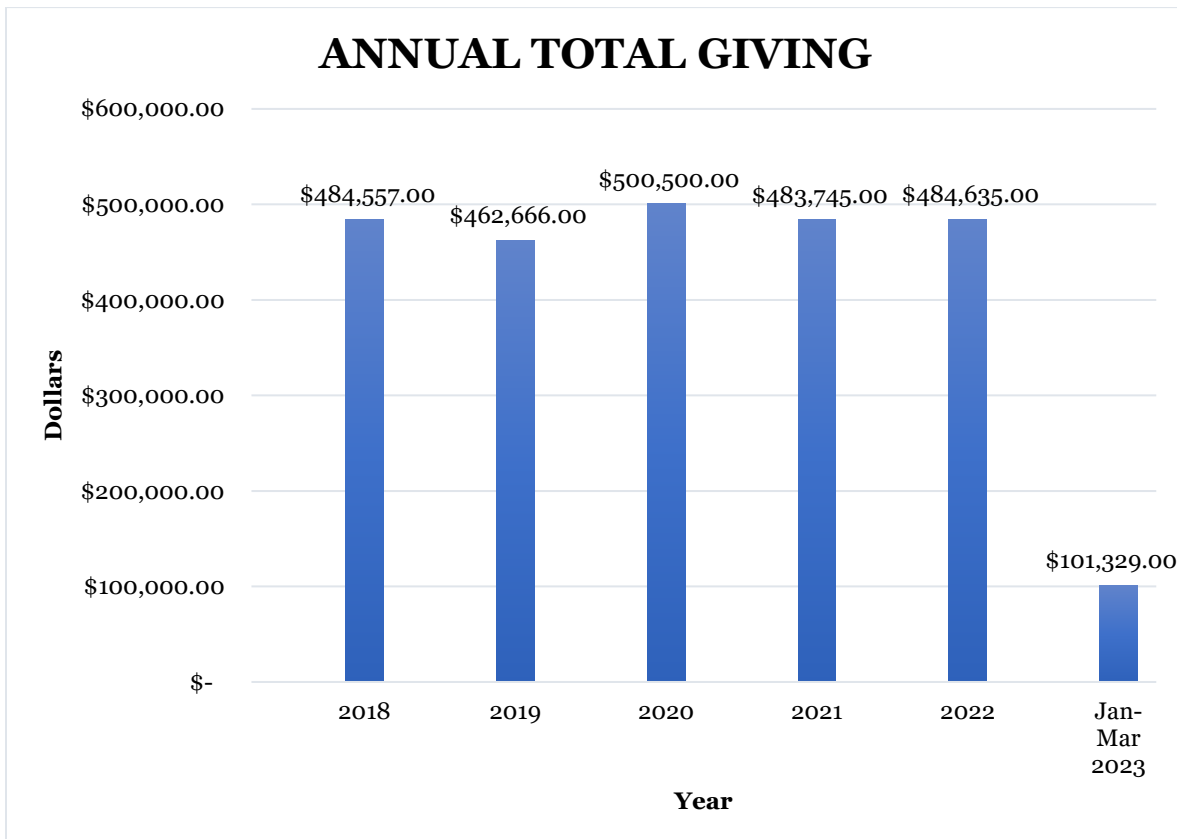


Figure 6. Number of Givers by Age Group 2017-2022

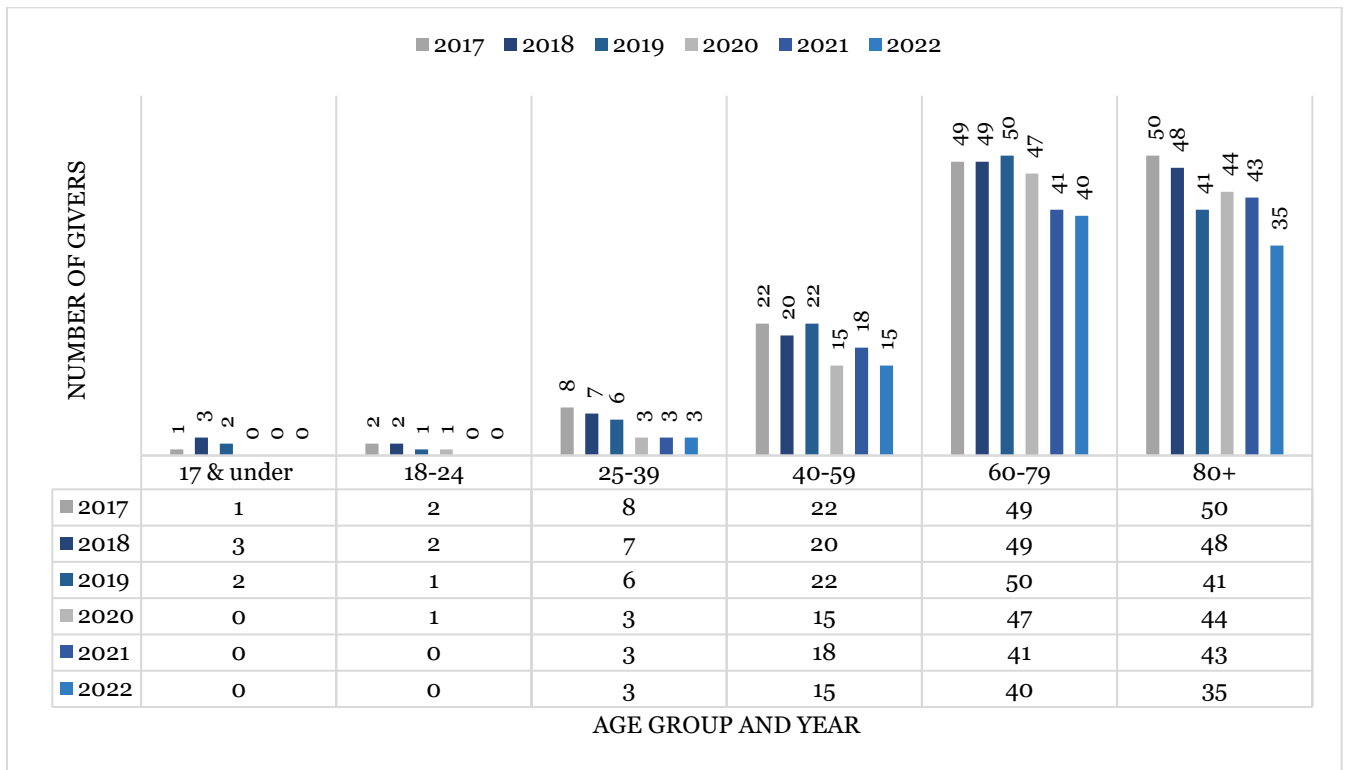


Figure 7. Total Given by Age Group 2017-2022

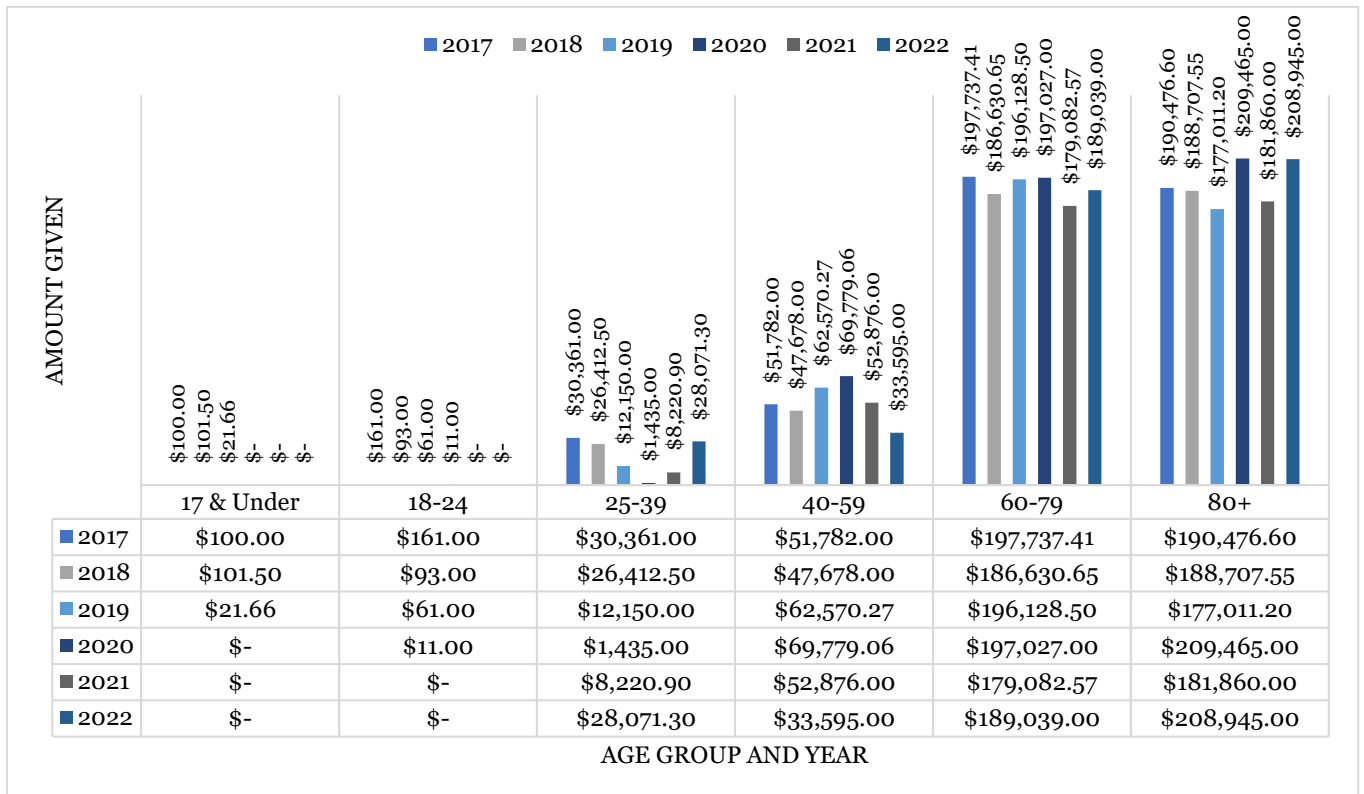


Figure 8. Operation Fund Budget to Actual for the Month Ended December 31, 2021

	12/31/2020	12/31/2021	MONTHLY	YTD'20	YTD'21	YTD'21	2021 YEARLY
	ACTUAL	ACTUAL	BUDGET	ACTUAL	ACTUAL	BUDGET	BUDGET
<b>REVENUE:</b>							
OPERATING BUDGET	\$ 63,725.39	\$ 52,080.40	\$ 44,006.92	\$ 500,500.11	\$ 483,745.48	\$ 528,083.00	\$ 528,083.00
MISCELLANEOUS INCOME	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
INTEREST & DISCOUNTS	\$ 3.26	\$ 22.25	\$ -	\$ 90.06	\$ 91.36	\$ -	\$ -
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>\$ 63,728.65</b>	<b>\$ 52,102.65</b>	<b>\$ 44,006.92</b>	<b>\$ 500,590.17</b>	<b>\$ 483,836.84</b>	<b>\$ 528,083.00</b>	<b>\$ 528,083.00</b>
<b>EXPENSES:</b>							
WORLD MISSIONS	\$ 1,927.00	\$ 1,927.00	\$ 1,927.00	\$ 23,124.00	\$ 23,124.00	\$ 23,124.00	\$ 23,124.00
PASTORAL MINISTRIES	\$ 266.10	\$ 143.51	\$ 145.83	\$ 1,266.74	\$ 1,319.91	\$ 1,750.00	\$ 1,750.00
PROGRAM MINISTRIES	\$ 3,618.61	\$ 3,703.47	\$ 1,666.67	\$ 21,341.57	\$ 12,933.91	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 20,000.00
SUPPORT MINISTRIES	\$ 3,597.14	\$ 5,355.34	\$ 3,579.17	\$ 36,667.75	\$ 43,356.10	\$ 42,950.00	\$ 42,950.00
BUILDING & GROUNDS	\$ 6,118.14	\$ 6,015.28	\$ 4,958.33	\$ 52,876.60	\$ 49,197.85	\$ 59,500.00	\$ 59,500.00
LIABILITY & PROPERTY INSURANCE EXPENSE	\$ 2,272.59	\$ 2,339.50	\$ 2,333.33	\$ 27,698.52	\$ 28,467.24	\$ 28,000.00	\$ 28,000.00
MINISTERIAL STAFF	\$ 16,202.02	\$ 11,823.20	\$ 14,698.67	\$ 180,210.02	\$ 116,641.34	\$ 176,384.00	\$ 176,384.00
ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF	\$ 3,354.43	\$ 3,421.60	\$ 3,425.75	\$ 40,234.16	\$ 41,027.41	\$ 41,109.00	\$ 41,109.00
CUSTODIAL STAFF	\$ 3,604.28	\$ 3,731.48	\$ 4,075.50	\$ 42,009.24	\$ 44,424.33	\$ 48,906.00	\$ 48,906.00
PROGRAM STAFF	\$ 3,796.66	\$ 5,126.92	\$ 6,180.42	\$ 42,034.39	\$ 62,132.65	\$ 74,165.00	\$ 74,165.00
STAFF SUPPORT ITEMS	\$ 1,071.24	\$ 808.98	\$ 1,016.25	\$ 8,290.95	\$ 9,116.36	\$ 12,195.00	\$ 12,195.00
BANK FEES (Realm Vanco Online Donations)	\$ 34.10	\$ 163.32	\$ -	\$ 2,062.37	\$ 1,652.68	\$ -	\$ -
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$ 45,862.31</b>	<b>\$ 44,559.60</b>	<b>\$ 44,006.92</b>	<b>\$ 477,816.31</b>	<b>\$ 433,393.78</b>	<b>\$ 528,083.00</b>	<b>\$ 528,083.00</b>
<b>Revenue Over (Under) Expenses before Other Revenue and Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 17,866.34</b>	<b>\$ 7,543.05</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 22,773.86</b>	<b>\$ 50,443.06</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>
Other Revenue and Expenses (Wed. Night, Etc.)							
Revenue	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,631.50	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Expenses	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,178.68	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Net Other Revenue and Expenses	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,452.82	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
<b>Total Revenue Over (Under) Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 17,866.34</b>	<b>\$ 7,543.05</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 24,226.68</b>	<b>\$ 50,443.06</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>
<b>Available Cash</b>		12/31/2018	12/31/2019	12/31/2020	12/31/2021		
(from Available Cash Report as of the end of this month)		\$ 19,830.08	\$ 721.95	\$ 24,948.63	\$ 75,391.69		

Figure 9. Operation Fund Budget to Actual for the Month Ended December 31, 2022

	12/31/2021 ACTUAL	12/31/2022 ACTUAL	MONTHLY BUDGET	YTD'21 ACTUAL	YTD'22 ACTUAL	YTD'22 BUDGET	2022 YEARLY BUDGET
<b>REVENUE:</b>							
OPERATING BUDGET	\$ 52,080.40	\$ 61,868.10	\$ 44,293.42	\$ 483,745.48	\$ 484,634.46	\$ 531,521.00	\$ 531,521.00
MISCELLANEOUS INCOME	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
INTEREST & DISCOUNTS	\$ 22.25	\$ 27.95	\$ -	\$ 91.36	\$ 360.27	\$ -	\$ -
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>\$ 52,102.65</b>	<b>\$ 61,896.05</b>	<b>\$ 44,293.42</b>	<b>\$ 483,836.84</b>	<b>\$ 484,994.73</b>	<b>\$ 531,521.00</b>	<b>\$ 531,521.00</b>
<b>EXPENSES:</b>							
WORLD MISSIONS	\$ 1,927.00	\$ 1,927.00	\$ 1,927.00	\$ 23,124.00	\$ 23,124.00	\$ 23,124.00	\$ 23,124.00
PASTORAL MINISTRIES	\$ 143.51	\$ 310.28	\$ 154.17	\$ 1,319.91	\$ 2,109.13	\$ 1,850.00	\$ 1,850.00
PROGRAM MINISTRIES	\$ 3,703.47	\$ 1,710.89	\$ 1,583.33	\$ 12,933.91	\$ 13,767.84	\$ 19,000.00	\$ 19,000.00
SUPPORT MINISTRIES	\$ 5,355.34	\$ 3,607.97	\$ 3,862.50	\$ 43,356.10	\$ 31,642.53	\$ 46,350.00	\$ 46,350.00
BUILDING & GROUNDS	\$ 6,015.28	\$ 4,581.86	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 49,197.85	\$ 70,400.85	\$ 60,000.00	\$ 60,000.00
LIABILITY & PROPERTY INSURANCE EXPENSE	\$ 2,339.50	\$ 2,054.14	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 28,467.24	\$ 25,959.45	\$ 30,000.00	\$ 30,000.00
MINISTERIAL STAFF	\$ 11,823.20	\$ 4,583.50	\$ 13,296.08	\$ 116,641.34	\$ 80,387.08	\$ 159,553.00	\$ 159,553.00
ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF	\$ 3,421.60	\$ 4,318.70	\$ 3,514.08	\$ 41,027.41	\$ 47,020.58	\$ 42,169.00	\$ 42,169.00
CUSTODIAL STAFF	\$ 3,731.48	\$ 3,930.22	\$ 4,325.42	\$ 44,424.33	\$ 47,739.50	\$ 51,905.00	\$ 51,905.00
PROGRAM STAFF	\$ 5,126.92	\$ 3,911.00	\$ 7,048.25	\$ 62,132.65	\$ 61,155.34	\$ 84,579.00	\$ 84,579.00
STAFF SUPPORT ITEMS	\$ 808.98	\$ 1,129.81	\$ 1,082.58	\$ 9,116.36	\$ 12,274.17	\$ 12,991.00	\$ 12,991.00
BANK FEES (Realm Vanco Online Donations)	\$ 163.32	\$ 110.08	\$ -	\$ 1,652.68	\$ 1,337.85	\$ -	\$ -
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$ 44,559.60</b>	<b>\$ 32,175.45</b>	<b>\$ 44,293.42</b>	<b>\$ 433,393.78</b>	<b>\$ 416,918.32</b>	<b>\$ 531,521.00</b>	<b>\$ 531,521.00</b>
<b>Revenue Over (Under) Expenses before Other Revenue and Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 7,543.05</b>	<b>\$ 29,720.60</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 50,443.06</b>	<b>\$ 68,076.41</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>
<b>Other Revenue and Expenses (Wed. Night, Etc.)</b>							
Revenue	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,021.00	\$ -	\$ -
Expenses	\$ -	\$ 324.42	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,350.28	\$ -	\$ -
Net Other Revenue and Expenses	\$ -	\$ (324.42)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ (329.28)	\$ -	\$ -
<b>Total Revenue Over (Under) Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 7,543.05</b>	<b>\$ 29,396.18</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 50,443.06</b>	<b>\$ 67,747.13</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>
<b>Available Cash</b>		12/31/2019	12/31/2020	12/31/2021	12/31/2022		
<b>(from Available Cash Report as of the end of this month)</b>		<b>\$ 721.95</b>	<b>\$ 24,948.63</b>	<b>\$ 23,135.69</b>	<b>\$ 90,882.82</b>		
				<b>Rejoice Offering Reserve</b>			
				<b>\$ 52,256.00</b>			

Figure 10. Endowment Fund Report, April 30, 2023

<b>SBC Endowment Fund</b>	<b>General Fund</b>	<b>Reserve for Replacement</b>	<b>Children &amp; Youth</b>	<b>Special Local Missions</b>	<b>Account Balance</b>
Balance March 31, 2023	\$245,525.36	\$10,094.18	\$112,717.99	\$110,157.09	\$478,494.62
Deposits	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Interest/Realized Gains	\$541.49	\$22.26	\$248.59	\$242.94	\$1,055.28
Withdrawals	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Balance April 30, 2023	\$246,066.85	\$10,116.44	\$112,966.58	\$110,400.03	\$479,549.90
<b>Market Value</b>					<b>\$533,143.95</b>

**Earnings**

Available Earnings 3/31/2023	\$35,236.07	\$2,594.18	\$16,508.99	\$9,666.14	\$64,005.38
Earnings - April 2023	\$541.49	\$22.26	\$248.59	\$242.94	\$1,055.28
Expenditures - April 2023	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Available Earnings 4/30/2023	\$35,777.56	\$2,616.44	\$16,757.58	\$9,909.08	\$65,060.66
Expenditures to Date 4/30/2023	\$13,500.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$13,500.00
<b>TOTAL Earnings to Date 4/30/2023</b>	<b>\$49,277.56</b>	<b>\$2,616.44</b>	<b>\$16,757.58</b>	<b>\$9,909.08</b>	<b>\$78,560.66</b>

## Church Facilities

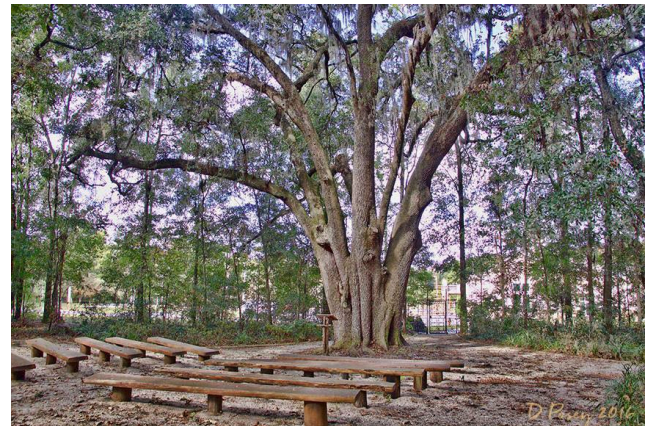
Our campus covers 23 acres and includes the following facilities.



*First Baptist Church Sanctuary*

Our **sanctuary** seats up to 450 worshippers. In the architectural design tradition of great churches across the world, the windows and ceiling sweep upward toward heaven. The pews are comfortably upholstered and are arranged gradually upward from the pulpit and stage so that all worshippers have an unobstructed view. The stage holds a grand piano and our Casavant organ, and the choir loft is directly behind the pulpit. Directly above the stage is the window to the baptismal pool.

Our **Prayer Garden** is an outdoor worship area with benches for seating under an ancient Live Oak tree. The Garden offers members the opportunity to pray in the comfort of north-central Florida's beautiful natural bounty. The Prayer Garden also serves as the location for special outdoor services



*Prayer Garden*



*Prayer Room*

We also have an indoor **Prayer Room** for those who wish to find a quiet indoor space to seek solace and comfort in prayer.

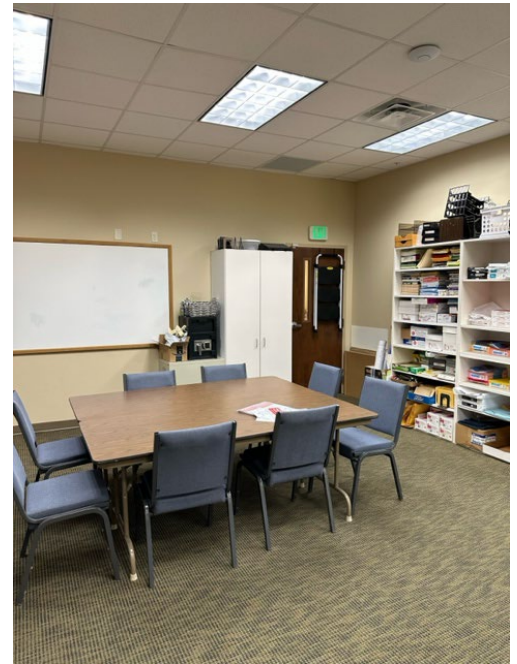




*Office Suite Reception Area*

The Office Suite **Reception Area** is located just outside the entrance to the office suite. Here the pastor meets with families and individuals who come to the church in need of pastoral care.

The **Office Suite contains** 5 staff offices & 2 cubicles, a meeting space with kitchenette, and houses historical and other important records for the church.



*Office Meeting Space with Kitchenette  
(Kitchenette not pictured)*



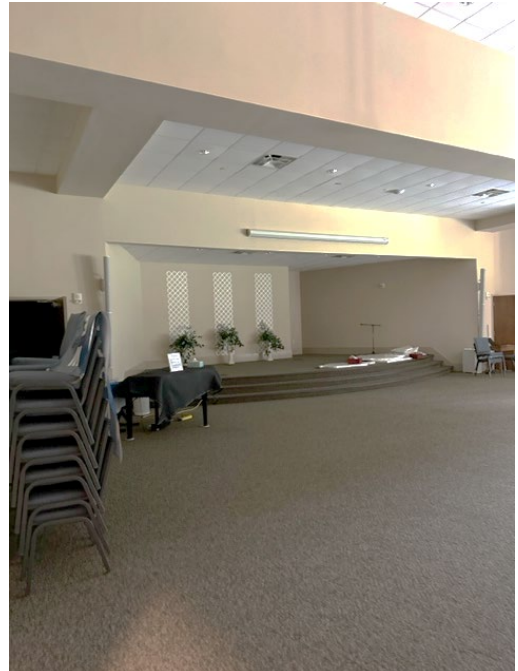
*Office Space where some of the church's historical records are kept*



The **Gathering Area-Hospitality Center** is located as you enter the church, and is the space where congregants gather for pre- and post-service fellowship and coffee, water, juice, and light snacks.

*Gathering Area-Hospitality Center*

Our **Fellowship Hall** seats 250 people, and serves as the space for church meetings, meals, group discipleship study, and events.



*Fellowship Hall, stage area*



*Fellowship Hall with table setup*

The **Fellowship Hall** space also features an adjoining commercial kitchen and outdoor patio, a stage with rear access, and a full AV/soundboard setup with retractable projector screen.

Our **Education Facilities** include 12 classrooms in adult education hall, 5 classrooms for children and youth ministries, a nursery, separate rooms for infants, creepers, and preschool age children, a kitchenette in the children and youth ministries area, and a full Outdoor Playground



*Playground*



*Children's room*



*Children's Hall*



*Children's Education Wing  
Waiting Area*

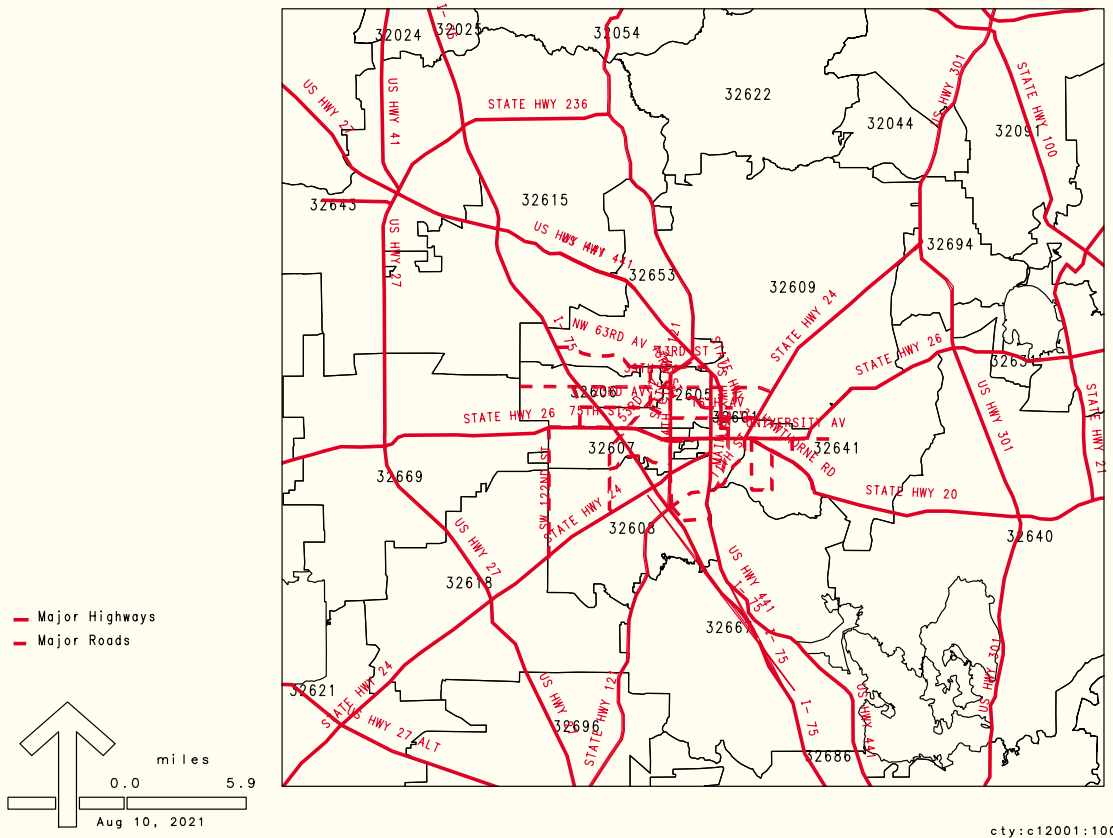
**People and Place - pp. 36 and 38**

**Community Issues - pp. 37 and 39**

**Faces of Diversity - pp. 36 and 38**

**Faith Preferences - pp. 37 and 40**

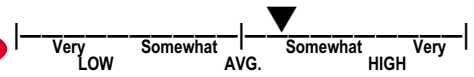
**Study Area with Zip Codes**



**People and Place**

**P1 PROJECTED POPULATION DENSITY**

**SOMEWHAT HIGH**



**P2 PROJECTED POPULATION CHANGE**

**LOW GROWTH**



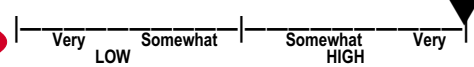
**P3 POPULATION DISTRIBUTION**

**HIGHLY DISPERSED**



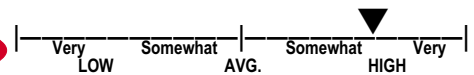
**P4 DIVERSITY**

**EXTREMELY HIGH**



**P5 AREA DYNAMIC LEVEL**

**VERY HIGH**



**Faces of Diversity**

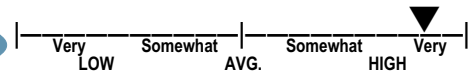
**D1 U.S. LIFESTYLES GROUP**

**YOUNG AND COMING**



**D2 NON-ANGLO POPULATION**

**VERY HIGH**



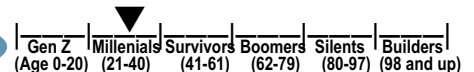
**D3 FASTEST RACIAL/ETHNIC GROWTH**

**HISPANICS/LATINOS**



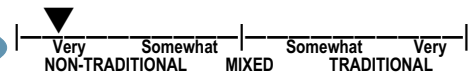
**D4 GENERATION**

**MILLENIALS**



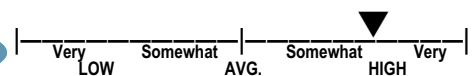
**D5 FAMILY STRUCTURE**

**VERY NON-TRADITIONAL**



**D6 EDUCATION**

**VERY HIGH**



**Community Issues**

**C1 PRIMARY CONCERNS**

**HOPES & DREAMS**



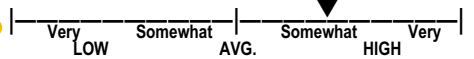
**C2 RISC LEVEL (Stress Conditions)**

**AVERAGE**



**C3 POTENTIAL RESISTANCE TO CHANGE**

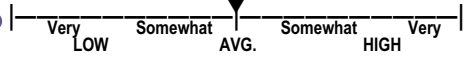
**SOMEWHAT HIGH**



**Faith Preferences**

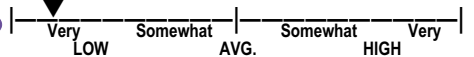
**F1 FAITH RECEPTIVITY**

**AVERAGE**



**F2 FINANCIAL SUPPORT POTENTIAL**

**VERY LOW**



**F3 CHURCH STYLE**

**SOMEWHAT TRADITIONAL**



**F4 CHURCH PROGRAM PREFERENCE**

**RECREATION**



**F5 HAVE A RELIGIOUS PREFERENCE**

**AVERAGE**



**People and Place Detail**

**P1: How many people live in the defined study area?**

Currently, there are 273,080 persons residing in the defined study area. This represents an increase of 55,126 or 25.3% since 2000. During the same period of time, the U.S. as a whole grew by 18.8%. (see MAP page 4)

Population History & Projection	2000 Census	2010 Census	2022 Update	2027 Projection
Study Area	217,954	247,336	273,080	283,130

**P2: Is the population in this area projected to grow?**

Yes, between 2022 and 2027, the population is projected to increase by 3.7% or 10,050 additional persons. During the same period, the U.S. population is projected to grow by 3.2%. (see MAP page 4)

Population Change	Actual Change From 2000 to 2010	Actual Change From 2010 to 2022	PROJECTED Change From 2022 to 2027
Study Area	13%	10%	4%
U.S. AVERAGE	10%	8%	3%

**P3: How spread out is the population in the study area?**

In the study area, the top three quarters of the population resides in approximately 100% of the geographical area. In the U.S. as a whole and in the average community, the top 75% of the population resides in just 25% of the populated geographical area. In comparison, the study area population is *highly dispersed* within the overall area.

**P4: What is the overall level of diversity in the area?**

Based upon the number of different lifestyle and racial/ethnic groups in the area, the overall diversity in the study area can be described as *extremely high*. See D1 and D2 below.

**P5: How dynamic is the study area?**

As the population density and overall diversity in an area increase, the environment becomes more complex and challenging. Given these factors, the study area dynamic level can be described as *very high*.

**Faces of Diversity Detail**

**D1: How much lifestyle diversity is represented?**

The lifestyle diversity in the area is *extremely high* with a considerable 45 of the 50 U.S. Lifestyles segments represented. Of the six major segment groupings, the largest is referred to as *Young and Coming* which accounts for 40.4% of the households in the area. The top individual segment is *University Life* representing 22.4% of all households. (see MAP pages 13 and 14)

Households By U.S. Lifestyles Group	Affluent Families	Middle American Families	Young and Coming	Rural Families	Senior Life	Ethnic & Urban Diversity
Study Area	12%	18%	40%	13%	5%	11%
U.S. AVERAGE	15%	31%	15%	13%	7%	18%

**D2 & D3: How do racial or ethnic groups contribute to diversity in this area?**

Based upon the total number of different groups present, the racial/ethnic diversity in the area is *extremely high*. Among individual groups, *Anglos* represent 59.3% of the population and all other racial/ethnic groups make up 40.7% which is about the same as the national average of 41%. The largest of these groups, *African-Americans*, accounts for 19.9% of the total population. *Hispanics/Latinos* are projected to be the fastest growing group increasing by 15.0% between 2022 and 2027. (see MAP pages 4 and 7)

Population By Race/Ethnicity	Anglo	African-American	Hispanic	Asian	Native Am. and Other
Study Area	59%	20%	11%	6%	3%
U.S. AVERAGE	59%	12%	19%	6%	3%

**D4: What are the major generational groups represented?**

The most significant group in terms of numbers and comparison to national averages is *Millennials* (age 21 to 40) who make up 35.2% of the total population in the area compared to 26.4% of the U.S. population as a whole. (see MAP page 4)

Population By Generation	Gen Z 0 to 20	Millennials 21 to 40	Survivors 41 to 61	Boomers 62 to 79	Silents 80 to 97	Builders 98 & up
Study Area	26%	35%	20%	15%	3%	< 1%
U.S. AVERAGE	26%	26%	26%	17%	4%	< 1%

## Faces of Diversity Detail (cont.)

### D5: Overall, how traditional are the family structures?

The area can be described as *very non-traditional* due to the below average presence of married persons and two-parent families. (see MAP page 6)

Population By Marital Status (15 and older)	Single (never married)	Divorced or Widowed	Married
Study Area	47%	15%	38%
U.S. AVERAGE	34%	17%	50%

### D6: How educated are the adults?

Based upon the number of years completed and college enrollment, the overall education level in the area is *very high*. While 93.3% of the population aged 25 and over have graduated from high school as compared to the national average of 88.5%, college graduates account for 44.7% of those over 25 in the area versus 32.9% in the U.S. (see MAP page 8)

Households with Children by Marital Status	Single Mothers	Single Fathers	Married Couples
Study Area	31%	8%	60%
U.S. AVERAGE	25%	8%	66%

Adult Population By Education Completed	Less than High School	High School	Some College	College Graduate	Post Graduate
Study Area	7%	20%	28%	23%	22%
U.S. AVERAGE	12%	27%	29%	20%	13%

## Community Issues Detail

### C1: Which household concerns are unusually high in the area?

Concerns which are likely to exceed the national average include: *Achieving Educational Objectives, Finding Life Direction, Satisfying Job/Career, Adequate Food, Finding Companionship and Employment Opportunities*. As an overall category, concerns related to *Hopes & Dreams* are the most significant based upon the total number of households and comparison to national averages. (see MAP page 16)

Households By Primary Concerns Group	The Basics	Family Problems	Community Problems	Hopes and Dreams	Spiritual/Personal
Study Area	24%	11%	16%	31%	16%
U.S. AVERAGE	24%	11%	16%	30%	15%

### C2: What is the overall community stress level in the area?

Conditions which can contribute to placing an area at risk (particularly, the children) are at an overall *average* level. This is evidenced by noting that on the whole the area is about average in the characteristics known to contribute to community problems such as households below poverty line, adults without a high school diploma, households with a single mother and unusually high concern about issues such as community problems, family problems, and/or basic necessities such as food, housing and jobs. (see MAP pages 5, 6, 8, 9 and 16)

Regionally Indexed Stress Conditions (RISC)	Households Below Poverty (\$15,000)	Households with Children: Single Mothers	Adult Pop.: High School Dropouts	Primary Concerns: The Basics	Primary Concerns: Family Problems	Primary Concerns: Community Problems
Study Area	15%	31%	7%	24%	11%	16%
U.S. AVERAGE	9%	25%	12%	24%	11%	16%

### C3: How much overall resistance to change is likely in the area?

Based upon the assumption that as a group of people become older and more diverse the potential for resistance to change becomes more significant, the area's potential resistance is likely to be *somewhat high*. (see MAP pages 4-5, 13-14)

Population By Age and Diversity	Average Age	Overall Lifestyle and Racial/Ethnic Diversity
Study Area	37.6	10
U.S. AVERAGE	40.0	5



**Faith Preferences Detail**

**F1: What is the likely faith receptivity?**

Overall, the likely faith involvement level and preference for historic Christian religious affiliations is *about average* when compared to national averages. (see MAP page 15)

Households By Faith Involvement Level	Not Involved	Somewhat Involved	Strongly Involved
Study Area	36%	31%	33%
U.S. AVERAGE	35%	30%	35%

**F2: What is the likely giving potential in the area?**

Based upon the average household income of \$84,059 per year and the likely contribution behavior in the area, the overall religious giving potential can be described as *very low*. (see MAP page 4 and 17)

Households By Religious Giving Potential	Average Annual Household Income	Households Contributing More Than \$500 per Year to Churches
Study Area	\$84,059	27%
U.S. AVERAGE	\$103,625	31%

**F3: Do households prefer an overall church style which is more traditional or contemporary?**

Based upon likely worship, music and architectural style preferences in the area, the overall church style preference can be described as *somewhat traditional*. (see COMPASS pages 3 and 4)

Households By Church Styles Preferences	Worship: Traditional	Music: Traditional	Architecture: Traditional	Worship: Contemporary	Music: Contemporary	Architecture: Contemporary
Study Area	21%	24%	26%	24%	20%	16%
U.S. AVERAGE	20%	24%	27%	26%	20%	16%

**F4: Which general church programs or services are most likely to be preferred in the area?**

Church program preferences which are likely to exceed the national average include: *Cultural Programs (Music, Art, etc.)*, *Sports and/or Camping Programs*, *Parent Training Programs* and *Adult Theological Discussion Groups*. As an overall category, programs related to *Recreation* are the most significant based upon total number of households and comparison to national averages. (see COMPASS page 2)

Households By Church Program Preference Category	Spiritual Development	Personal Development	Community/Social Services	Recreation
Study Area	25%	10%	19%	40%
U.S. AVERAGE	25%	10%	20%	38%

**F5: How likely are people to have some religious preference?**

In the study area, 85.2% of the households are likely to express a preference for some particular religious tradition or affiliation, about the same as the national average of 85.1%. (see MAP page 15)

Households By Religious Preference	No Preference	Non-"Historic Christian" Groups	"Historic Christian" Groups
Study Area	15%	8%	77%
U.S. AVERAGE	15%	8%	77%