

**First Presbyterian Church of Jackson**  
***STEWARDSHIP – A WAY OF LIVING***

**2018 Narrative Budget**

Our Long Range Planning Committee is currently involved in the process of looking at the future directions of the mission of our church. A number of years ago we had a similar meeting. Following that meeting, a planning retreat was held to discuss the results of the meeting and develop long range goals and action steps. The following vision statement was created and approved by the session:

*“First Presbyterian Church will be committed to enabling our members to experience in their lives and share with the world the loving and life changing presence of the Triune God. We will create **Spiritual Growth** opportunities and foster an environment that helps our church family understand, accept, and experience God’s unconditional love for each of us, and His offer for an individual relationship with Him that He extends to each of us.”*

Our Narrative Budget is guided by this vision statement, and by the goals and action steps which were identified by our congregation. A full copy of the Long Range Plan and Goals is available on our church

website, and printed copies of the document are available in the church office.

### ***What is a Narrative Budget?***

A *budget* is a tool that helps the leaders of our church plan for the mission of the church, and be faithful in their stewardship of the church's resources. A *narrative budget* is a document that explains the budget of the church in a way that uses words instead of numbers. It transforms a line item of money and expenses into a living picture of the mission of the congregation. A narrative budget focuses less on the numbers, and more on what the numbers accomplish. The numbers you see in the line item budget tell only a small portion of the story of the mission of this wonderful congregation. Take the time to read through the Narrative Budget below, and learn a bit more about who we are, and what Jesus Christ is doing through the work, witness, and service of First Presbyterian Church....

### **Benevolences      \$62,691**

*"...Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these, you did it to me."* (Matthew 25:40). One online dictionary defines "benevolence" as *"the inclination or tendency to help or do good to others."* That is a good summary of what the benevolent portion of our budget is all about. One of the many organizations supported by our church through our benevolent giving is RIFA (Regional Interfaith Association). Programs such as RIFA's Soup Kitchen, Snack Backpack program, and local aid to transients could not be accomplished without the support of area churches like ours. We minister to women in our community through several specific

programs, such as the Care Center, WRAP, Women of Hope, and the Dream Center. Children receive our help through programs such as CASA, Youth Town, the Boys and Girls Club, the Carl Perkins Center, and others. THIRTY-ONE local organizations are directly supported through our benevolent budget, as well as several overseas missionaries and ministries. This item also supports the benevolent ministries of our Presbytery. Lives are directly impacted, and in some cases saved, because of the gifts we are able to give. This year we are supporting mission partners in Asia, Peru, and many other areas of the world. Our goal for this ministry is to continue to support the work of these organizations, and to expand the scope of our giving as God leads us.

### **Christian Education: \$48,328**

Our Congregational survey established Christian Education as one of the two highest priorities in the ministry of FPC. Our Long Range Plan states that Christian Education will be considered an essential element of every member's life and spiritual growth. The congregation's educational needs will be continuously assessed, and classes and activities will be developed to meet those needs. Through CE, our children, youth, and adults will learn the Gospel story, and learn how to develop a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

Although we've been doing the ministry of CE for years here, this is a whole new day for CE at our church. From Rotation Sunday School, to Youth programs, VBS, retreats and conferences, to Pinecrest and NaCoMe and Family Camp, to our small group ministry, to Parenting Classes, to a newly refurbished nursery, to our Launch Pad and BLAST programs for children, Christian Education is a priority in our church. The ministry of four of our staff people at the church is specifically focused upon Christian Education. Christian Education is the experience of learning who we are in Christ, and how we live in Christ ... together.

### **Worship and Music: \$37,527**

Our Long Range Plan recognizes that Worship is central to the life of our church, and affirms that we will build on the strength of our current worship service, while being open to developing non-traditional and creative approaches to worship. We want our worship to be warm and inviting to fill our sanctuary with enthusiastic worshipers, remembering that Christ's primary call was to the un-churched and outcasts.

Worship is the heart of the church. It is where we most visibly encounter God as a congregation. When we come together and worship for the purpose of celebrating a baptism, or wedding, or funeral, we give witness to our *whole* life in Christ, both as individuals and as a community of faith. Whether we are celebrating communion on Christmas Eve, extinguishing the candles on Maundy Thursday, rejoicing in our Risen Lord on Easter morn, or gathering for any other service, our worship makes possible a powerful encounter with our Risen Lord. This is where the branches encounter the vine, and personal transformation is made possible.

### **Membership: \$4,200**

The goal of our Membership ministry is to create an environment where every member is so enthusiastic about the church's message and mission that they are compelled to share it with potential new members and everyone they meet. Ten years ago, very few of us would have thought that our church, or any church, would need a web page on the internet, and yet today, our church has one of the premiere web pages of any church you will find anywhere, and we have added a staff person to facilitate this ministry. Currently we are redesigning our website, and have added the ability of livestream our worship services. Several of our newer members have indicated that their first encounter with our congregation was through our website. First impressions are important, and it is vital that we have a web ministry that is attractive, informative, and up to date.

Of course, our membership ministry also uses some older and time tested methods of welcoming visitors and new members into the fellowship and ministry of FPC. We have committed members who follow up with each person and family who visits our congregation, sharing with them information about our church and working to make them feel welcome here. This ministry also sponsors Inquirer's classes, funds advertising, and generally does everything possible to make visitors and new members feel welcome and encounter the life changing presence of Jesus Christ in and through this congregation. This ministry helps us remember our role as ambassadors of Jesus Christ.

### **Congregational Care: \$2,145**

Caring for the members of the congregation is the primary task of the Congregational Care ministry of the church. This ministry cares for the members of our congregation through the Cornerstone Group events, a new baby ministry, ministry to our college students, the development of our pictorial directory, and perhaps most importantly, visitation and care for our homebound members. The ministry also created the prayer time in the chapel before worship each Sunday, and placed prayer boxes around the church. This ministry is expressed through different groups in the church which help our members experience and share the love of Jesus Christ in diverse and powerful ways.

### **Finance and Stewardship: \$5,600**

This ministry challenges God's people to a faithful stewardship, and oversees the resources of the church to insure that all that we have, and all that we are, is being used wisely and appropriately in the service and ministry of Jesus Christ. In joyful response to God's love and grace, and as Disciples of Christ, stewardship is practiced with time, skill and money through the mission and ministry that support and nurture opportunities to encounter the life-changing presence of Christ. Stewardship is rooted in the

gospel and giving is a direct response to the generosity and love God gives to us. Our joyful response is to extend God's word within the community through our mission and ministry.

The Long Range Plan identifies two goals of our Stewardship ministry: First, Stewardship actions and planning will be an intentional, year-round activity. And second, Stewardship will focus on 3 primary areas: the sharing of Time, Skill, and Money (Time, Talent, and Treasure). The financial talents of many of our members are being used to develop a fully funded budget that meets the mission, message, and program needs of our church. Accountability is also important, and this item funds our annual audit.

A wonderful example of faithful stewardship is estate planning. Estate planning is one of the ways God's people can generously touch the ministry of this congregation for generations. If you would like to make a special gift or donation, please contact John White, or Vicki Pope, in the church office.

**Discipleship: \$1,900**

Spiritual Growth was the second major priority identified by our congregational survey. The goal of this ministry area is to create spiritual growth opportunities and foster an environment that helps our church family understand, accept, and experience God's unconditional love and His offer for an individual relationship with Christ. This goal will be achieved through the development of Bible Studies, the distribution of devotional booklets, and "real life" opportunities, such as Christian mentoring and spiritual growth retreats.

Spiritual growth is where the rubber meets the road in our Christian journey. Many ministries are important, but the fostering of one's commitment to discipleship must always be a priority. FPC is committed to enabling this growth, so that we who are the branches will always remain connected to Christ, who is the eternal Vine.

**Fellowship and Wednesday Night Programs: \$21,059**

The primary focus for the Fellowship Ministry is to enhance the congregation's sense of community by providing intergenerational opportunities for fun and fellowship in the life of the church. A congregation that plays together stays together! This ministry coordinates Breakfast with Santa, our big Easter egg hunt, and our Funny Bones Festival. Cookouts and hayrides, ice cream socials, youth basketball, Family Camp at NaCoMe, and ball game outings are a few more of the ways that we seek to fulfill God's calling for us to be a relational people. Dietrich Bonhoeffer reminds us that we are created for "life together." The ministry of fellowship enables that togetherness to happen.

This ministry also includes our wonderful Wednesday Night Programs which includes a delicious dinner at 5:15 followed by activities for all our children, youth, and college students, as well as a small group Bible study.

**Service: \$4,600**

The vision of our Ministry of Service is to enable us to become a community where all members participate actively in joyful and loving service to God's people, both within and outside our church, as an active expression of the love we are commanded to have for all God's children. The goal is to achieve 100% participation of our active membership in at least one service opportunity during 2018.

The Service ministry provides places for the congregation to roll up its sleeves and put into action the faith that it proclaims. Through opportunities such as Room in the Inn, ECO Friendly Church, and intergenerational mission trips, the congregation is given practical ways to serve others. Other examples of the many service opportunities include the Helping Hands and Threads of Love programs, Meals on Wheels, and the RIFA Soup Kitchen.

Do you really want to make a difference? Take part in our church's participation in the Snack Backpack program. Imagine a child who qualifies for free lunch during the school week, but goes home to an empty pantry every weekend. The Snack Backpack program provides food for children

who might not otherwise have any food. It is all part of the service ministry of our congregation.

**Personnel: \$476,901**

The Ministry of Personnel oversees the staff of the church. The staff of the church is given the privilege of helping to give physical expression to the presence and ministry and leadership of Jesus Christ within the church. FPC employs 23 part time and full time persons, and that doesn't count the playschool staff! It is through the ministry of these committed persons that our congregation and community encounter the life changing presence of Jesus Christ in the most *personal* of ways.

Without these committed individuals, there would be no choir, no youth or children's leadership, no sermon on Sunday morning, no dinner on Wednesday evening. Without these people, there would be no bulletin, no newsletter, no website, no e-mail notifications of deaths or births in the congregation. There would be no confirmation leadership or pastoral visits in the hospital or in homes. Without our staff, the inside of our buildings would quickly become filthy, and our beautiful grounds would soon be ugly and unkempt. We are fortunate to have such a gifted and committed staff, and the ministry of personnel oversees their leadership.

God often works most visibly through people. The staff of our church seeks to encounter the life changing presence of Jesus Christ, and to share that presence with our congregation and community in ways that make a powerful Christian difference.

**Property, Office, and other expenses: \$195,010**

The facility and property of First Presbyterian Church is widely recognized as one of the most beautiful and historic properties in West Tennessee. The maintenance of this property is a true ministry, but keeping the physical plant of the church operating efficiently is a full time and expensive job. Our long term plan addresses this tremendous blessing and responsibility with these

words: "We will fund and implement a long term maintenance and energy conservation plan that allows us to enjoy the beauty and uniqueness of our buildings and grounds, while minimizing the challenges of their management." From the Carillon to the heating and air conditioning units to the upkeep of the church grounds, we work hard to maintain the integrity of our facilities while operating as good and faithful stewards of the facility with which we have been blessed.

**Conclusion**

As you can see by reading this booklet, the ministry of First Presbyterian Church is a complex, joyful celebration of the gifts and talents God has given this congregation! Because of your gifts, we are impacting lives, and making a unique and positive difference in this community and beyond. It is a privilege for each of us to have a part in the ministry of this church, and it is important for all of us to have a part in this ministry. God has graciously given us so much ... may we gratefully give in response.

John White, or any member of the Stewardship Committee, would be glad to talk with you if you have questions, concerns, or suggestions. Thank you for your commitment to the work of Jesus Christ in this wonderful congregation of God's People!