



First Baptist Church

Weber City, Virginia

FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Church Family:

A discernible wave of excitement and energy is sweeping across the First Baptist family that can only be attributed to the power and presence of God. At this time we are preparing to express that commitment and passion by giving sacrificially to ensure the future growth of First Baptist Church.

Sacrifice is neither a word we use very often nor a concept we understand well. Its clearest expression is seen in the Cross of Jesus, the sacrifice of God's own Son for the forgiveness of our sinfulness and the restoration of our relationship with God.

For centuries, God's people have sought to offer sacrifices to the Almighty that were worthy gifts of love and gratitude to him. The Bible counsels that ten percent, the "first fruits" of our labor, should be given to God through His church. Many people give ten percent of their gross earnings to God even before they regard it as money in the bank. Jill and I have tithed in this manner and we have personally watched as God has faithfully met our needs even in difficult times.

Tithing is a way to acknowledge that Jesus is Lord of our lives and that everything that we possess

actually belongs to God, who has made us the temporary stewards or caretakers of His creation. And yet, our tithes are not really sacrificial gifts. Tithes are the minimum that is expected of us as fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ.

In addition to the ten percent tithe, the Bible also teaches us the joy of giving sacrificially to special offerings and special times for the building of God's Kingdom. These are temporary times of giving because that is the nature of sacrificial giving. By definition, sacrifice means something that we cannot do on a permanent basis. If we could give like this on a permanent basis it would not be sacrificial giving. Seasons of need arise in a congregation that call for sacrifice.

This is such a time, and the **Touching Tomorrow Today** Campaign is such a cause. As you well know, ministry needs are changing and we are not equipped to face those demands over the next twenty five to fifty years. Without the facilities to meet these needs, First Baptist Church will be unable to grow and minister in the twenty first century. We are not just talking

about bricks and mortar, but about ministry demands, about reaching people for Christ, and watching them grow into mature disciples.

We cannot all give equal gifts, but we can make an equal sacrifice! Your giving will be as personal and private as the tithes and offerings you are currently giving to the First Baptist Church.

Together we can make a phenomenal difference not only in our community but our region! I really believe that God has planned for First Baptist Weber City to play a prominent role in His Kingdom's growth. There are lots of people here who share this unique vision with me. I want you to join us and be a vital part of what God is doing in the life of First Baptist Church.

To God be glory, honor, and praise!

Johnny Kendrick, Pastor

We should offer sacrifices to the Almighty that are worthy gifts of love and gratitude.

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IMPORTANT DATES:

- April 10—Prayer Walks Begin
- April 15—Advance Gifts Meetings
- May 1—Celebration and Commitment Sunday
- May 15—Victory Sunday

“TOUCHING TOMORROW TODAY” EXCITEMENT BUILDING

Sunday, April 10, will be the beginning of a very important time in our “Touching Tomorrow Today” campaign.

Our campaign leaders will announce the financial goals for this stewardship campaign. In recent weeks, over one hundred and six members of our church have been involved in meetings

and planning in anticipation of the beginning of this very important communication phase.

Our financial goals will be challenging but achievable. Our church is asked to prayerfully consider each member’s participation through a commitment over three years to make this goal a reality.

Plan to be in attendance as we join together to face the challenge and opportunity before our church.

May we unite in prayer to know God’s will and faithfully express His purpose for First Baptist!

A TIME TO CELEBRATE

A special luncheon is being planned for May 1, 2005, immediately following the Celebration/Commitment Service. We are making special arrangements to accommodate every person for this unique time.

This time of fellowship promises to be an exciting event in the life of our church. It will be the

culmination of a time of prayer and commitment. Every person who attends our church and Sunday school is invited to attend.

Our meal will be catered by Wright’s and we will have a special menu for younger children.

If you already have previous plans, please make every effort to reschedule, so you can attend this

exciting day as we celebrate God’s blessings upon our church. This is a once in a lifetime event for our church. We want everyone to be here.

Personal invitations are being mailed and the Reservations Organization will be calling to confirm each household’s reservation.

HOW CAN I HELP?

Our Touching Tomorrow Today campaign will be the greatest spiritual test for many of us. It will test our faith, our hope and our love. Some may be asking, “How do I decide what God wants me to give?” Here are six questions to ask yourself.

1. Will I give based on REASON or REVELATION? Is my gift just what I think I can afford or is it what God wants to give through me?
2. Does this amount really stretch my faith?

2 Corinthians 9:8

3. Does it show I value my hope of eternal reward more than material things on earth? 1 Timothy 6:17-19
4. Will this amount demonstrate how much I love Christ and his church family? 2 Corinthians 9:7
5. Does this amount represent a genuine sacrifice? 2 Samuel 24:22
6. Does this amount express the level of thanksgiving I have for

how First Baptist Church Weber City has blessed my life and family? Psalm 54:6

If you will prayerfully ask these questions, you’ll be able to arrive at a specific amount to give. The amount will almost always be larger than the first number that popped into your mind since it will be a step of faith.

Your pledge will be as personal and private as your regular offerings. No one will contact you directly about what you plan to give.

Campaign Goals
to be announced
Sunday, April 10

May 1, 2005,
following the
Commitment
Service is our
Celebration
Luncheon

“Will the
amount I give
demonstrate
how much I
love Christ
and his church
family?”

MEET THE LEADERSHIP TEAM

Already many of you are serving in the Touching Tomorrow Today campaign. There are over one hundred people serving in various work groups and more will be needed. Be ready to say “yes” if you are asked to serve.

Our Leadership Team is coordinating all the functions of the Touching Tomorrow Today campaign. They have served along with our Pastor to prepare for this exciting time of challenge and opportunity. Included in the Leadership Team are:

Steve Adkins and Larry Snapp, Campaign Directors. Steve and Larry have general supervision for directing our campaign. They keep in close contact with other campaign leaders to assist with the smooth operation of many activities of our Touching Tomorrow Today campaign.

Connie Adkins is serving as our Facilitator. She is responsible for administering all the activities that are planned, coordinating activities with the church office and keeping all the teams on schedule.

Harold Snodgrass and Jan Stokes are Communications Coordinators. They have the task of communicating effectively every aspect of our Touching Tomorrow Today campaign.

Sammie Jo Baker and Danise Snodgrass are our Prayer Coordinators. They are responsible for providing the spiritual foundation upon which the entire campaign rests. This group has provided prayer support for our Leadership Team and our entire church.

Nina Brickey is our Celebration Event Coordinator. Nina and her team are planning and coordinating all the details of our church-wide Celebration Luncheon. Don't miss this time of fellowship and thanksgiving for God's blessings upon our church.

Liz Snapp and Anita Greer are our Reservations Coordinators. They have been enlisting a team of volunteers to contact every household by phone to receive reservations to the Celebration Event. This group will also assist the Celebration Team to serve as hosts and hostesses for this special gathering.

Bruce and Anita Adkins and Jeff and Jane Sutton are our Advance Gift Coordinators. They will be assisting in securing advance support for the program. Some of our church leaders will have an opportunity to register their support prior to

our Commitment/Celebration Sunday, on May 1.

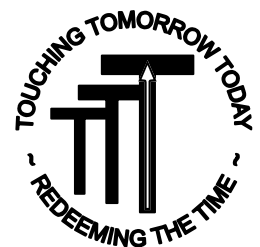
Christine Phillips, Assistance Coordinator. Christine has enlisted a group to assist anyone who is unable to register their commitment at the Celebration/Commitment Service. This group will serve as couriers.

Glenda Clemons and Jim Rogers, will serve as our Follow-Up Coordinators. They will be responsible for monitoring the campaign results for the three-year giving period. They will also provide new members an opportunity to participate in the Touching Tomorrow Today campaign.

Carla Collins, Mailing Coordinator. Carla and her team are known as the “Fold, Stuff and Seal Brigade”. They are responsible for mailing all of our communication pieces. This team works to achieve the mailing deadlines so our people can receive timely communications about the Touching Tomorrow Today campaign.

Many of you are assisting these leaders to fulfill these responsibilities. We are blessed to have such dedicated people to direct our program activities.

The things we do today will change the lives of those who come tomorrow. May we be faithful to do what God has charged us to do.

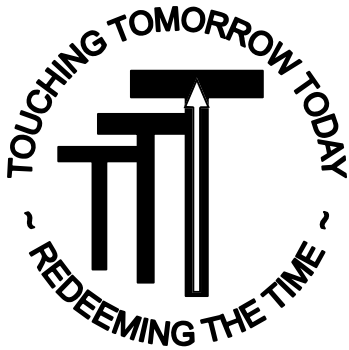


FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

P. O. Box 2155
Weber City, VA 24290
Phone: 276-386-7247
Fax: 276-386-2393
E-mail: fbcwebercity@earthlink.net

NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
GATE CITY, VIRGINIA 24251
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PRAYER WALKS

Throughout the month of April there will be an actual size outline of the new facility on the site where it will be built.

Each Youth and Adult Sunday School class will participate in an "internal prayer walk" on a scheduled Sunday in April. During this time we will have three stations set up with a member of the prayer team and a member of the

building committee at each location to give you an idea of the types of ministries that will be available in the new facility. We will pray for those specific ministries and answer any questions you may have about the building. Special times for tours will be available after church for those who do not attend Sunday School or for parents to take their

children on the prayer walk.

We want everyone to have the opportunity to share in this experience.

Special prayer requests have been made by the staff concerning our future ministries at First Baptist.

Please join us in this effort to help all of us better understand how we can reach people for Christ through this facility.

