

A few of the many resources on Stewardship and Finances found in the church library:

382.024 Ramsey, Dave.
The Total Money Makeover: A Proven Plan for Financial Fitness.

332.024 Jandl, Al.
The Storehouse Principle: A Revolutionary God Idea for Creating Extraordinary Financial Stability.

248.6 Burkett, Larry.
Giving and Tithing: Includes Serving and Stewardship.

248.6 Bellisi, Denny and Leesa. The Kingdom Assignment.

248.4 White, Jerry.
The Power of Commitment.
(Chapter entitled "Commitment, Materialism, and Success.")

IMPACT: A Stewardship Newsletter (USPS 547-380)

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stew·ard·ship {noun}

- 1: the office, duties, and obligations of a steward
- 2: the conducting, supervising, or managing of something; especially : the careful and responsible management of something entrusted to one's care

IMPACT

A Stewardship Newsletter



CHAPEL CHOIR *by Meredith Killam*

When asked to write an article about Chapel Choir Tour for the Stewardship newsletter, I thought to myself, "How will I ever express to my audience how drastically my life has been changed after my four years of Chapel Choir?" Immediately I began to reminisce about the once-in-a-lifetime opportunities I experienced because of the graciousness of the First Baptist Church family. I remember being informed of this generosity every year around the time of the first tour payment deadline. Mr. Morrison always made sure we understood that the majority of the Music Ministry budget was allotted to subsidize the tour's cost. He thought it was important to treat us like adults and explain what an amazing gift was being given to each of us.

My desire is to express appreciation for the Chapel Choir experience that lives in the hearts of every member, past and present. On choir tour we learned the value of hard work, we learned to appreciate and enjoy the beautiful sites and wonders in the world, and we learned the importance of praising God through music and ministry to others.

Hard work and determination are qualities I further developed during my Chapel Choir years. The guidelines for tour eligibility require that a member not miss more than three practices without a valid excuse. This is a good lesson in accountability and commitment. Mr. Morrison expected our best, and we learned to give it. The hours spent in preparation for performances can be quite arduous. The end result, however, validated the work.

If it were not for Choir Tour, I would not have been able to experience as much of the world as I have. Not only have I seen many of God's awe-inspiring natural wonders such as Yosemite National Park, Niagara Falls, and the

Grand Canyon, but I have also seen what God does through people. Who could visit the Louvre in Paris and not have an appreciation for the talents that God has given those artists? Who could walk on the shores of Normandy and not be struck with a feeling of reverence and respect for those brave men who died for our freedom? God has His hand in every aspect of the world around us, and I feel blessed that I was able to see Him in so many unique ways during my tours.

Sometimes it is disheartening to see the state of our society. On tour, I was always encouraged with a new hope for the world because of the sense of community our worship would bring to our audiences. When we sang in public places like Pier 39 in San Francisco and The Old Post Office in D. C. or cathedrals like Notre Dame in Paris, countless people stopped to enjoy the music and ended up worshipping with us. Their attentiveness, compliments, and questions helped me to see that God's kingdom of believers is larger than I realized. We had opportunities to sing for and minister to homeless people in missions and the elderly in retirement centers. Each concert we performed touched the hearts of people from all walks of life, and I believe it is important for young people to step outside of their comfort zones and reach out to God's people. Choir Tour gives FBC students the chance to do this.

Thanks to the generosity and stewardship of the members of First Baptist Church, the memories are everlasting, the friendships are deep, and most importantly, the lives of the choir members and the audiences are forever touched. The life lessons learned through my experience as a member of Chapel Choir made me and my peers better people, but more importantly, God was glorified in the process.

PASTOR'S PERSPECTIVE

by Barry Howard

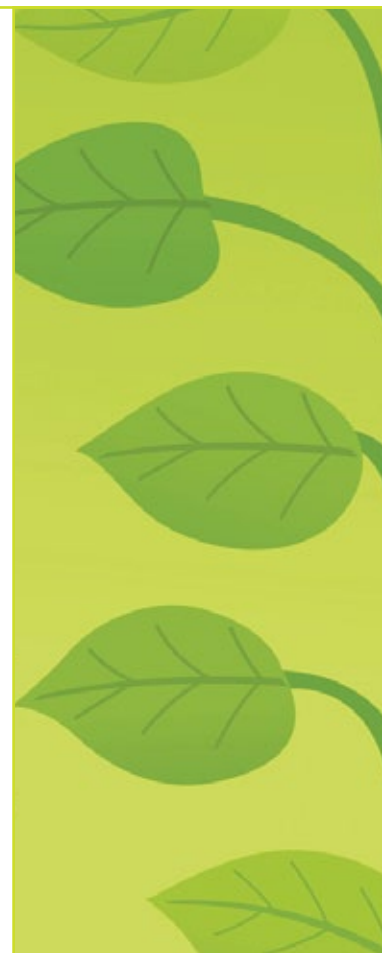
In a Baptist church, when you say fellowship, people typically think food. And when you say stewardship, people automatically think money. However, just as food may provide a venue that promotes fellowship, so money is one of many areas where we exercise principles of Christian stewardship.

Stewardship is about how we manage all of the resources God places in our care. When we present our tithes and offerings to the work of the Lord, we are pledging to manage our entire portfolio of resources and opportunities in a way that honors the Lord. And as a congregation, we aim to appropriate and invest the tithes and offerings of our church family in a way that maximizes our impact in missions and ministries.

At First Baptist, our Stewardship Education Team is working creatively to keep holistic Christian Stewardship in the forefront of our minds as we grow together in faith and friendship. The articles and information included in this inaugural edition of Impact will help you to understand how our contributions translate into ministry investment.

The Bible says that, "The Lord loves a cheerful giver" (II Corinthians 9:7). I believe an informed giver becomes a more cheerful and more faithful giver.

One way that we grow spiritually is to prioritize and manage our resources more effectively. I count it a joy to grow alongside you in effective Christian stewardship.



PIZZA

by Barbara Burks



Pizza, Cokes, and T-shirts—that's about the extent of what a Student Ministry budget needs to cover, right? Maybe so if you're a youth ministry simply looking to plump up your students and have them all match on high attendance day. We are not that youth ministry here at First Baptist Church of Pensacola, although we have been known to serve pizza and sodas and do provide matching t-shirts at our main events. The financial support from our church membership has allowed a generous budget to help us pursue our vision of John 7:38 for all students who enter our doors: "Whoever believes in me," as the Scripture has said, "Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water."

A ministry catering to the needs of teenagers includes expenses such as student transportation; literature for Sunday Bible study as well as supplementing various small group book studies spread out through the year; special speakers at Disciple Now, Fall Retreat, or Senior Breakfast, among other things; worship leaders, registration fees for camps and lodgings; transportation for speakers and worship bands; mission trip expenses; summer interns; and other unique,

singular adventures. From time to time we must replace equipment much as the other ministries in our church require. We try very hard to be good stewards of the allotted resources at our disposal, keeping in mind that money and events do not buy or replace a Christ-like attitude and lifestyle, nor do they make Him famous in the manner that glorifies Him best. But we are proud that what is earmarked for our students is used for evangelism, discipleship, worship, fellowship and prayer. (Supplemental scholarships for those kids who cannot always pay the full amount for a retreat or a camp are also generously donated by church members who see the need for this kind of support.)

Thank you, First Baptist Church of Pensacola, for continuing the rich heritage in youth ministry by supporting our students. Please ask a student who recently returned from World Changers, has been involved in a small group book study, or has passed out cool bottled water to the homeless how it has transformed them. Or come by the ROC and get a Coke or a t-shirt. Every good youth group has some stashed away.

Big Apple Adventure! Reaching Kids for Christ through Vacation Bible School

by Stephanie White

"Start spreading the news, it's time to get in the groove, it's time to live God's truth in what we say and do.... It's a Big Apple Adventure!" And what an adventure it was as our church transformed into New York City for Vacation Bible School. Over 400 children and volunteers filled Chipley Hall, the ROC, and the Children's area for a week as they learned how to step out in faith and share God's love. By the end, there were six professions of faith!

Dressed as an apple throughout the week, Mrs. Jean led her team of 125 volunteer teachers and staff. These volunteers freely gave of their time to love the children and teach them about Christ. The volunteers began working months before the big week to plan lessons, games, crafts, and missions. The teachers decorated the classrooms to resemble New York City themes, such as Central Park, the Empire State Building, the New York Yankees, Broadway, and Coney Island. The children learned how to connect with faith, love, others, trust, and life by having faith in Jesus, loving Jesus, trusting Jesus, telling others about Jesus, and living for Jesus.

Thanks to the church's financial support, we were able to tell these children about Christ, many of whom were visitors. Of the 281 children who attended VBS, 125 children were not members of our church! Many of these families are not members of any church, and VBS is one of the only experiences these families have had with a church. Because of your support we were able to share God's love with so many precious children.



MISSIONS UPDATE

by Don Minton



What an incredible year of missions at First Baptist Church! It has been a fantastic time of serving and reaching those who need to know Christ and grow in their walk with Him. Your support makes these mission activities a reality.

Locally:

Allie Yniestra Elementary School. We had a Success Store where students could use their reward points to purchase books, toys, games, balls, etc. You supported this with your donations of money and gifts. We also continue to have a number of people who serve as tutors and mentors for the students.

C. A. Weis Elementary School. Through the Backpack Buddies program, we are providing food for 400 children each and every weekend. There are 100 volunteers that make this happen. You support this ministry by adopting the children each semester of the school year.

Habitat for Humanity. We are providing a home for one of our employees.

Kairos Prison Ministry. A group of men mentoring prisoners in Florida State prisons

Martha's Vineyard. This ministry provides a free place for a family to stay when one of their family members is hospitalized. This is run by Marty and Dennis Tackett, and a number of you support it with money and time.

Health and Hope Clinic. This is a place where people can go for free medical care. You support this financially and by volunteering to serve.

Local Ministries. Loaves and Fishes, Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Waterfront Rescue Mission and various other ministries.

Nationally:

Youth World Changers in Birmingham, Alabama. Forty-two of our students and adults spent a week repairing and remodeling homes.

Rebuild Alabama in Sipsey, Alabama. We are rebuilding homes from the ground up for those who lost their homes in the tornados earlier this year.

Atlanta, Georgia. A group of 3 families went to work with refugees who have been displaced from their homes around the world.

North Dakota. One of our women led a weekend retreat for ladies from the Dakotas.

Globally:

Haiti. We saw 22 people come to know Christ, 800 patients visited with our doctors and nurses, and we completed 3 homes.

Middle East. During a relationship-building trip numerous people heard the gospel, many new contacts were discovered and people were encouraged in their faith.

Russia. We saw over 120 children in a craft and baseball camp, worked with adults who are learning English, and saw a church we have partnered with growing, reaching, and making disciples of children and families who are involved in the camps.

Costa Rica. Forty Indian adults and children were involved in VBS. The gospel was presented using dolls made by the ladies of FBC. Also, a water line was installed so the village could have access to fresh water.

Haiti. Coming in October, another group will go to continue the work that has been started.

Hungary, Egypt, Afghanistan. We support efforts in all of these countries to reach people for Christ and disciple them.

On top of all of the above mission and ministry endeavors, you also generously provide significant financial gifts throughout the year to the International Mission Board, North American Mission Board, Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, Baptist World Alliance, Florida Baptist Convention, and Pensacola Bay Baptist Association.

Since October 1, 2010, between 400 and 500 have participated in a mission activity and you have provided over \$880,000 in financial support.