



STRATEGIC VISION
TEAM REPORT
MAY 2, 2010

Dear Friends,

In the spring of 2009, the Strategic Vision Team, at the request of the deacons, began a journey seeking a way for First Baptist Church to reach the Tucker community for Christ.

We started by researching the history of Tucker and the history of First Baptist Church. We identified who our active members are today and where they live. Then we looked at our community to identify who lives in our neighborhoods.

Only after we had profiled the people living within a 2 miles radius of FBC as to age, marital and economic status, education and nationality were we able to get a clear picture of the folks we are called to love, serve and introduce to Jesus.

We have identified four major areas of mission. Our strategic plan centers on these: neighbor-ing, evangel-ism, discipleship and membership. We are fortunate. We have the structure (organization) and the assets to carry out this mission.

We ask that you study this document and be prepared to discuss it with us in the days ahead. It is our prayer that you will catch the excitement of the journey that God has for us as we learn to live and love like Jesus.

Respectively,
Rachel Suddeth
Strategic Vision Team Chair

Essential Value Shifts

1. At First Baptist Church of Tucker, we can no longer afford to pursue silver bullet or quick fix approaches to church transformation. If a church in our kind of context is to transform, then it will be the result of sustained patterns of building relationships and serving persons who are not connected to Jesus Christ.
2. We choose to look at our ministry situation through the lenses of possibilities and strengths rather than problems and deficiencies. We will not ignore difficulties, but we will face them by celebrating and using our existing assets (i.e. buildings, location, people, groups, and material items) to embrace God's work.
3. After all of our research, prayer, and planning, we remain more committed than ever to the vision of a multi-generational, multi-cultural neighborhood congregation.
4. We agree with Ron Johnson when he said, "The future of the church in North America is missional." This means that our future will rest upon doing the mission of God outside the walls of our congregation, rather than focusing solely on creating new programs to attract more persons into our buildings.
5. We are called to be a congregation of radical hospitality where all of our members are encouraged and equipped to extend the love and compassion of God to persons around them. We believe that church programs must encourage these interactions, rather than keeping people too busy to build these interactions.
6. We believe that mature discipleship involves loving like Jesus loves, living like Jesus lived, and listening to God the way Jesus listened to God.
7. We believe that as we love, serve and befriend the people of our community we will grow in loving Jesus and one another, and our congregation will grow in spiritual and physical health.

Strategic Plan

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| Goal |
| Neighboring/Evangelism Inspire a servant evangelism culture within our membership and develop intentional relationships within our community for the purpose of bringing others to Christ. |
| <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Pray for God's guidance and leadership as we transform into a servant and relational evangelistic church.<ol style="list-style-type: none">a. Pray for the wisdom to go where God leads us.b. Pray for the community to open their hearts to God's love.c. Pray in prayer teams and/or partners and individuals. |
| <ol style="list-style-type: none">2. Equip our membership with the skills to find ways to connect and build relationships.<ol style="list-style-type: none">a. Provide pastoral leadership through periodic sermon messages that reinforce our evangelism effortsb. Develop training for Evangelism Team Leaders.c. Provide easy access to training materials including library and on-line resources for evangelizing in today's culture. |
| <ol style="list-style-type: none">3. Involve members and non-members in serving opportunities as a connection point.<ol style="list-style-type: none">a. Host a "Community Service Fair" involving targeted community needs to serve as a conduit for people to connect with serving opportunities.b. Open and promote "Mission Possible" opportunities to allow the Tucker community to serve alongside our members. |

| Responsibility |
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| 1. Have brochure Ready by June 6, 2010/Summer of Prayer Brochure—SVT will create a brochure prayer guide to be handed out on June 6 th at our meeting. |
| 1. Connection cards will be available all the time for anyone to use. 2. Challenge members to connect with folks on Wednesday nights during the summer; we'll provide them with a list of possible ideas of how to do this. Then we need to provide a time and place to share testimonies of what God is doing. |
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Strategic Plan

Goal

4. Build relationships within the targeted areas in our community.
 - a. Seek opportunities to meet and reach out to people in our homes and neighborhoods, within a 2 to 3-mile radius of the church.
 - b. Look for opportunities to start community small group studies and involve non-members
 - c. Cultivate serving persons in the name of Jesus as a regular rhythm for the people of our congregation. We will develop this value by providing *Connection Cards* on a continuous basis so that our people have readily accessible tools to serve others and share Jesus with others during their daily routines.

Discipleship/Membership

Discipleship refers to becoming like Jesus in every area of life. It is the overall journey during which people seek God, come to know God in Christ, develop and mature as disciples of Jesus, and live "*beyond our corner and into the world*" lives of love and service in the power of the Holy Spirit. As voluntary members of the local church, we exist to encourage one another forward in our discipleship journeys (Hebrews 12:1-2).

1. Make Membership matter.
 - a. Develop a two session membership class for persons considering membership at First Baptist Church of Tucker. This class should help people get connected to groups for discipleship and groups for serving the mission of God in our community.
 - b. Develop a team of membership mentors to befriend new and potential new members and to facilitate their deeper connection with the congregation.
2. Build new small groups and Sunday School entry points to connect persons to relationships and to studying the Bible.

| Responsibility |
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Strategic Plan

Goal

3. Focus on spiritual formation and training so that we will have the tools to build friendships and connections with non-Christians outside the walls of our buildings.
 - a. Challenge the Mainstreet preschool, children's ministry, and student ministries to equip parents to spiritually develop their children. Develop a plan and provide resources so that parents are equipped to serve as the primary spiritual former of their children.
 - b. Create a spiritual formation/Christian education team that will develop spiritual growth pathways for use inside and outside our congregation.
 - c. Reevaluate the entire Wednesday night program of our church for effectiveness as a discipleship enterprise, formulate plans for change, and implement the plans for change.
4. Focus on celebrating victories in our daily lives; look for ways to share testimonies, such as the sharing of the connection cards. We will practice JOY!
5. Develop and commission persons in the congregation as leaders of small groups and classes.

Structure

The organization of the church needs to be designed in order that the core values and goals can be achieved.

1. Modify and streamline the organizational structure, by-laws, and manual of procedures to promote a ministry concept that utilizes congregational gifts for the purpose of mission, discipleship, and evangelism.

| Responsibility |
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| <p>b. Phill Nall will be responsible for creating this group.</p> <p>c. Get Angela Lovins, Phill Nall, and Food services committee to look at what Wednesday night needs to look like in the fall. This committee would need to include choir, children's choir, Praise band, mission groups, and the SVT committee representations.</p> |
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| <p>Start looking at beginning a committee.</p> |

Strategic Plan

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| Goal |
| 2. Facilitate better communication with members, visitors, and our community through updated means such as improved signage, state-of-the-art technology, and print. |
| 3. Connect the church family with an updated pictorial directory and displays of videos and stills of activities and members on mission. |
| 4. Commit more money in the 2011 budget for evangelism initiatives. |
| Assets Our desire is to identify and use all of our existing assets for the work of God in our congregation and community. We also want to care for our current assets and develop new assets so that we can expand our ministry and influence of hospitality in Jesus' name. |
| Building Assets: Provide a welcoming, safe, and hospitable structure for our community to meet, learn, and worship. |
| 1. Continue renovating projects from the master plan and upkeep of our present facilities, i.e. painting and replacing carpet as needed, and develop a plan for efficient space and utility use. <ol style="list-style-type: none">Move the playground for convenience of the preschool program.Construct a warm and casual welcoming area of the Sanctuary for visitors and members to connect before and after the serviceDevelop our green space and curb appeal and make entryways safe, lighted, and inviting.Develop consistent indoor and outdoor signage.Develop an eco-friendly plan for church ministries. |

| Responsibility |
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| Take a committee on a field trip to Decatur 1 st Baptist to look at pictures on the walls and to start doing that here. |
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| Roof to be replaced. Playground to be moved. |

Strategic Plan

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| Goal |
| <ol style="list-style-type: none">2. Develop a Levite ministry.<ol style="list-style-type: none">a. Recruit volunteers to care for the worship place of God; this allows everyone to feel ownership in the building.b. Feature Levite "workdays" twice a year (before Easter and Christmas). |
| Financial Assets: |
| <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Develop a plan for capital machinery replacement. |
| <ol style="list-style-type: none">2. Establish or continue offering "Christian financial enrichment" curriculums for the community (i.e. Financial Peace University, Estate planning, English for Speakers of Other Languages [this could assist people in getting jobs to earn a living], etc.). |
| <ol style="list-style-type: none">3. Provide members with information about the impact of our budget. |
| <ol style="list-style-type: none">4. Be debt free by the end of 2012. |
| Spiritual Assets: |
| <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Encourage and maximize the opportunities for members / attendees to participate in worship through sharing of gifts of music, art, drama, and dance and other gifts of the church family. |
| <ol style="list-style-type: none">2. Discover and encourage spiritual gifts as part of our regular Christian education. |

Glossary

Assets – Any physical, individual, relational, partnership, or economic resource that is willingly offered on behalf of the congregation to do the work of discipleship, evangelism and worship outside and inside our congregation.

Connection Card – a card available to be picked up which members can give to other people. This card says “It’s free...seriously” in a variety of ways so that our people can share free gifts of service with others in the name of Jesus. The card also includes the church’s contact information so that a recipient of a free gift of service can connect with the church at their own initiative.

Connection Points - places or events that provide the opportunity to change casual greetings into friendship

Discipleship – The process of learning to live and love like Jesus

Entry points - activities, other than regular church services, that bring people to our church, such as NTO's, weekday education, sports activities, family fun nights in the gym, etc.

Financial Peace University (FPU) – class offered to help individuals and families learn how to budget their finances.

Levite Ministry - Levites were the ones who physically cared for God's temple

Spiritual formation - refers to the variety of practices, tools, writings, and teachings that are used by the Holy Spirit to shape an individual into a mature follower of Jesus Christ. Formal programs and groupings of Christian education are one aspect of spiritual formation.

Structure (as in the document) - the organization of the church - the things we have in place or need to have in place that enable us to efficiently do the work of the church – evangelism

Targeted areas - 2 miles radius of the church, Mercer University, specific apartment complexes in the Tucker community, and other areas of our community that are identified for specific ministry, prayer, and evangelism.

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