



Dear First Baptist Family,

The enclosed 2017 ministry budget and commitment card represent an opportunity rather than an obligation. This ministry budget represents many of the ministries which flow out of First Baptist Church. Each of them is an opportunity to touch the community with the good news of Jesus Christ, nurture our children and youth in the faith, encourage a college student with a scholarship, clothe a person who has just been prepared by Step Up Ministries for a new job, offer hope to a refugee in partnership with CBF, and a host of other ministries. Our building, our ministers, and our members are translating our ministry dollars into ministry every day.

For just over 200 years members of this congregation have “promised to do our best” as servants of Jesus Christ. That is the response of the children who gather to participate in baby dedications in our church. They watch and listen as the parents and adults have our say. Then it is their turn. They are asked in words they understand if they will guide the young child as the child grows. They answer in unison, “We promise to do our best.”

Their answer is a collective assent. “We promise,” they say. Being a people of faith is not a task for individuals; it is an opportunity for the entire body. Together we care for one another. Together we care for the community around us. Together we extend our mission to the ends of the earth. Together we listen for God’s guidance, then together we act.

Our ministry budget is one description of our action. It is a collection of the expectations we have as a people of faith. It is a vision of our hopes and dreams for a growing ministry. It is a determination to be a continuing ministry presence in the middle of our capital city. It is a conviction that our responsibility and opportunity do not stop here; our commitment bears fruit in places and among people we may never see.

We urge you to look over the ministry budget, visualize many of the things we do together, and pray about how you can be a part of helping First Baptist Church continue to do our best. Fill out the commitment card with your financial promise. You may do this on the enclosed card and return it to the church or you can fill out your commitment online at www.fbcraleigh.org.

The Apostle Paul wrote to the Christians in Corinth (2 Corinthians 8:1-15) and urged them to keep a promise they had made. He reminded them of how blessed they were but assured them that they were not obligated to give a certain amount. Paul wanted the believers to understand his urging as an opportunity rather than an obligation. Our prayer is for the same. The amount is your decision but we urge you to give generously as you join with others in embracing our ministries together.

In Christ,
FBC Stewardship Committee