



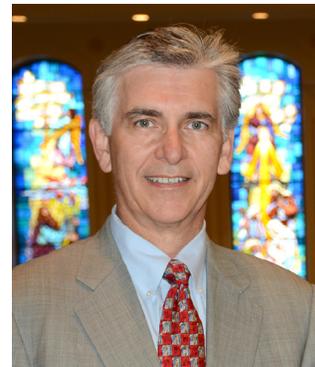
First Baptist Church | February 2017

# *The State of God's Church*

*"And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us."*

— Hebrews 12:1b NIV

**G**od has been pouring His lavish blessings on our FBC family in a way that creates humility, affirmation, and inspiration! But, we are not yet done. Now is the time to press on toward the finish line while experiencing God's blessings. The following is just a sampling of the kingdom harvest God is sending our way.



## MEMBERSHIP, EVANGELISM AND FINANCIAL MINISTRY REPORT

- Church membership grew to **6,365 precious souls** and Bible Fellowship enrollment **rose** to more than 5,100.
- During 2016 we received **267 new members** with **110** of these treasured friends requesting to be **baptized**. Other evangelistic harvest endeavors resulted in hundreds of people coming to Christ through The Living Christmas Tree, Vacation Bible School, our *Crossroads* television broadcast, prison ministry, Judgment House, and a multitude of mission partnerships.
- God enabled us to soar past our budget of **\$6,525,000** with budget gifts of **\$7,501,219** — **an average of \$976,219!** This is our highest budget overage ever!
- Our **Lottie Moon Offering for International Missions®** was an amazing **\$314,086** and the **Annie Armstrong Offering for North American Missions®** totaled **\$121,091**. Our support of the Community Ministries totaled more than **\$270,000**. Gifts to **Children's Hope** totaled nearly \$1.2 million. *Our aggregate spending for mission endeavors exceeded \$2 million!*

*Let's celebrate the following Ministry highlights for 2016:*

## DISCIPLESHIP MINISTRIES

- **Bible Fellowship Enrollment**, our most important indicator, grew by over **100** to **5,123** – an all-time record.
- **Bible Fellowship Class Average Attendance** continued to hold steady at **1,800**.
- On **Easter Sunday** we had a record **2,230** in Bible Fellowship attendance!
- In August, the **Sunday School Training/Appreciation Day** was attended by more than **300** leaders.
- We continue to grow in Christ by equipping the Saints for ministry (Ephesians 4:11-13). **On-Campus and Off-Campus Bible Studies** continue to multiply helping disciple our members during the week. On Wednesday and Sunday nights, our **Discipleship Classes** are well attended. One exciting new start was the Disciple-Maker initiative, where 40 mentors were trained to disciple new believers to look more like Jesus every day.

## PRESCHOOL MINISTRY

- We had **203 dedicated teachers** share the love of Jesus with an average attendance of **282 preschoolers** in Bible Fellowship.
- There were **130 Worship Care Ministry volunteers** who provided loving care to our preschoolers (8 weeks to 3 years of age) and our **PEW (Preschoolers Experiencing Worship)** ages 4-5 years of age during our 11:00 AM worship each Sunday.
- God blessed our FBC family with **32 precious babies** this year.
- Our **Spring Celebration** was a wonderful time of family fun and fellowship. We had more than **200 in attendance** with 30 families registering as non-churched or no church affiliation.
- We had **138 Vacation Bible School (VBS) teachers**, who shared the gospel of Jesus to **285 preschoolers** including preschoolers from the Nehemiah Center along with 6 area daycares.
- **MOPS (Mothers of Preschoolers)** had a wonderful year reaching young moms. They had an average attendance of 25 moms, 5 mentor moms and 48 preschoolers.
- **Parent's Night Out**, for children 8 weeks through 6th grade, gave parents a chance to enjoy a night out, to help reconnect with each other and/or other parents in our church. Attendance in August was 70, 102 in February, 88 in May, and 87 in December.
- **Mission Friends** had an average attendance of 50 preschoolers (2-5 years of age). Each Sunday our 17 volunteers teach our Mission Friends how to share the love of Jesus in their community as well as how missionaries are sharing Jesus' love around the world.

## CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

- 2016 started off with 57 children in **Bible Drill**. We had 22 of those children complete the State or District Drill.
- Our **Young Worshipers Club** involved 4th-6th graders in worship. From reading God's Word to praying, our kids learned

what it means to worship and follow Christ with all their heart.

- Our **Incredikids Camp**, a day camp for all 1st-3rd graders at Camp Chandler, included 63 participants and our theme was *Cave Quest: Following Jesus, the Light of the World*.
- **VBS** had an enrollment of **1,200!** Our children *Submerged* themselves and learned that *Jesus Sees, Jesus Knows, and Jesus Saves*. Our kids gave hundreds of pounds of school supplies to the Caring Center and **28 children** gave their lives to Jesus. VBS brought 40 prospects to our church.
- The **Kids Kamp** theme was *Illusions!* We took **86 children** and 15 chaperones to Camp Lee in Anniston for an awesome experience.
- We continued our theme of **Something Far Out** on Wednesday nights during the summer and focused on serving others at the Caring Center, the Nehemiah Center, and the Master's Garden.
- Our annual **Family Fest** was huge once again, with 75 visitors/prospects and tons of smiling faces.
- The **BIG Church Tour** was a success as our first graders and their families joined Kids Inc. The children loved asking our Pastor Jay questions and they were excited to tour the facilities. Sunday evening, we distributed **68 Bibles** to the first graders.
- **Royal Ambassadors (RAs) and Girls In Action (GAs)** trained a record number of our treasured children on their assignment of doing the great commission from our neighborhood to the nations.

## STUDENT MINISTRY

- In 2016, the Student Ministry saw many students accept Christ as Savior, and commit to a stronger stand for Christ.
- Students followed **God's call to missions** locally in Montgomery, across Alabama, throughout the U.S. (Chicago, New York, New Orleans, Atlanta), and around the world in places like Haiti, Cuba and South Africa.
- One of the greatest blessings this year was our **Lanier Football Team Outreach** in which we fed 80 young men and their coaches before each home game. Merrill Ingram went above and beyond grilling steaks and chicken. We were able to share the gospel weekly, leading to multiple professions of faith, rededications and baptisms.
- Students participated in great numbers in our **yearly events**: Disciple NOW, Choir Tour, Outdoor Adventure, Crossover trips, Missions Montgomery, Youth Camp, Senior Leadership Retreat, Winter Conference, Passion Conference, and many more. We continued to have record numbers at both Youth Camp and Disciple Now with **225 students at each!**
- This year for **Missions Montgomery** we joined with other area churches for missions and fellowship. This was a great way to move past denominational boundaries and serve the Lord with new friends.
- God moved in a special way at **Youth Camp**. Our theme was "THE RACE," and students were challenged to run their Christian race with endurance. This year we moved our camp location to Shocco Springs Retreat in Talladega.
- Each year, the Student Ministry has the blessing of providing Christmas presents and a party for the children at the **Nehemiah Center**. This year we sponsored **31 children** with the help of the Youth Sunday School classes, the College Ministry, and numerous adult classes. The excitement and joy displayed on the faces of each child was priceless, but the greatest gift was the opportunity to share the Christmas Story and the love of Jesus.
- On Wednesday evenings at **Powerhouse** we began a year-long walk through of the Gospel of John. We regularly had 125 to 150 students worshipping with us. The **Baldwin Bible Study** on Wednesday afternoons brought in nearly **100 students** from Baldwin Junior High each week. At least **90% of these students** are not part of our church, and many are not connected to any church. Our **Small Groups** meet off-campus weekly for discipleship. We have **50 to 100 students** digging deeper into God's Word, creating a strong foundation for our ministry.

## COLLEGE MINISTRY

- In 2016, **ELEVATE** was used to feed and fuel worship of the Lord and fellowship among college-aged believers across the city. There were more than **80 first time visitors** throughout the year. This service is designed to be the front-door for college students to FBC.
- The **Connections Ministry** also grew this year. We had **24 families** "adopt" **34 college students** for the school year.
- Over Christmas break, we took a team of 9 on its first **international mission** trip to Haiti to partner with Children's Hope. We brought the good news through VBS and trained and evangelized with local Christian teenagers and young adults.

## SINGLE ADULT MINISTRY

- **Bible Fellowship Classes** continue to be the flagship of the Single Adult Ministry with 6 classes for all ages and stages.
- Single adults continued to host and teach **English as a Second Language (ESL)** classes on Thursday nights at FBC and Tuesday nights at the Nehemiah Center. Single adults also worked with our community ministries by tutoring and providing Christmas and Easter goodies for the children in Chisholm.
- The yearly highlight was the **Back-to-School Block Party** and Medical/Dental Clinic at the Nehemiah Center. We gave out **200 new backpacks** and school supplies. *Flatline*, a rap group, brought the gospel and many responded.
- **Service** and **missions** continued to be on the forefront of the ministry with mission trips to Africa, Cuba, New Orleans and Denham Springs, as well as many local mission opportunities.

## SENIOR ADULT MINISTRY

- Our **2016 Day Trips** included Samford University, Senior Adult Evangelism Conference, SweetCreek Farm Market, Alabama Nature Center and the Anderson Farm.
- Five special **banquets and fellowships** were held with average attendance ranging from **200 to 270 senior adults**.

- The **January Bible Study** and **Senior Adult VBS** gave senior adults many opportunities to study God's Word.
- Our **In-Home Ministry** is a vital link between FBC and those who can no longer attend. This year we provided hand-sewn neck pillows at Christmas and our deacons conducted In-Home Lord's Supper celebrations with many homebound adults. Regular visits were also made by our wonderful associates.
- Our **Living Hope Cancer Care Ministry** continued to minister in the name of Jesus to those affected by cancer as well as ministering to their family.
- Senior Adults serve in so many ways. Mission expeditions, Beacon Deacons, Sunday greeters and ushers, Caring Center volunteers, just to name a few, enabled FBC to help more people follow Jesus.

## MUSIC MINISTRY

- Our **Sanctuary Choir** led our congregation in worship each Sunday morning throughout the year. The **Sanctuary Orchestra** faithfully and effectively leads in worship each Sunday morning. Special events like our annual Gospel Sing are a great blessing to many.
- Our **One Voice Choir** (9th-12th grades) continued to grow and impact many students. The choir led in Sunday evening worship throughout the school year, and had an incredible music and missions experience to Chicago, which culminated in our annual Homecoming Worship Concert.
- Our **One Heart Choir** (7th-8th grades) experienced continued growth, and led in worship for a number of our evening services. The summer music and missions tour was well received and lives were changed by the student's service in the Atlanta area.
- The Annual **Youth Choir Kick-Off** in September, was an encouraging event for the **600+ people** who participated.
- In March, **Reflections Ensemble** took a mission trip to the Mobile area and ministered in a powerful way.
- The **Preschool and Children's Choir Program** impacted the lives of many children with the help of 50 volunteers. The children led in worship at seasonal times during the year and culminated with a concert and musical in the spring. We also had nine of our older children participate in the Alabama State Board of Missions Children's Honor Choir.
- The **Praise Team** provided musical support for the evening worship services.
- The **Joy Singers** provided special music throughout the year. The group traveled around Montgomery and provided special music in nursing homes and assisted living facilities. They also led the services on Senior Adult Sunday and the Annual Patriotic Service.
- The **2016 Living Christmas Tree** was a huge Kingdom success. Many attendees indicated they chose Christ as their Savior, made a written recommitment of their life, and indicated they wanted more information about FBC. An estimated **8,000 people** attended the LCT this year. Additionally, we had the largest choir participation with more than 300 singers. From parking, to decorating, greeters to greenery, the entire LCT team was comprised of more than 500 people. After 36 years, God continues to produce massive Kingdom fruit from our old tree!

## COMMUNICATIONS MINISTRY

- The **Communications Ministry** continued to creatively enhance and promote all of FBC's events and ministries to our members and the community. This was done through a variety of ways including the website, newsletters, posters, billboards, email marketing, social media, Beacon and the order of worship.
- The **Media Ministry** continued send the message of Jesus Christ beyond the walls of our buildings. Staffed primarily by volunteers, the media ministry produced 52 thirty-minute programs that were broadcast on WSFA as well as Frazer Christian Television. In addition, a complete service is also available on the Frazer TV at 1:30 PM each Sunday. Many special productions were made, the highlights being the Living Christmas Tree DVD, One Voice Choir Tour, and the Gospel Sing.
- The website, [www.montgomeryfbc.org](http://www.montgomeryfbc.org), continues to grow in its offerings including an online member directory and the convenience of online giving and event registration. It is continually updated and expanded to add features that will magnify the ministries of FBC. Please take the time to explore and use this ministry tool.

## MISSIONS MINISTRY

- FBC members have been actively involved in missions through work here in Montgomery, the U.S. and across the globe. Approximately **718 volunteers** participated in 55 mission projects, 28 of which were overseas.
- Our partnership with the **Ejamat** people continued to thrive. In 2016, the Ejamat leaders participated in a training called *Story Together*. Funds were donated from the FBC Foundation to help make this a reality.
- We currently support **11 North American Church Planters** from Montgomery, New York and Seattle. In addition, our partnership with **SEND NYC** also continues to thrive. In 2016, we supported three NAMB church planters serving and reaching lostness in different areas of NYC.
- In October, our church played a major role in the **River Region Judgment House**, which saw **3,491 in attendance** and **562 recorded decisions** for Christ.
- Our **Zaza Conference** took place in Central Asia. We saw nearly 40 participants go into six different cities of the Zaza homeland to help push back the darkness among this unreached people group.
- We had a banner year in **Operation Christmas Child** with more than **900 boxes** collected through our relay center at FBC.

## OUTREACH, SPECIAL MINISTRIES AND FOOD SERVICE

- The **Outreach Ministry** saw **41 persons** complete the ABCs of Evangelism. Visitation was held each Sunday night with an average of 14 participating.

- The **Kitchen and Hospitality Ministry** served 88 meals during 2016. It is a joy to make love edible at FBC.

## COMMUNITY MINISTRIES

- The **Caring Center** registered **12,433 total clients** for clothing and food assistance. This includes 2,569 families (7,841 adults and children) that received 61 tons of food. We also provided **\$59,502.17** in financial assistance. We had **15 known professions of faith**. In addition, we assisted another 435 people with clothing at Mt Carmel Baptist Church. Our Barnabas Ministry assisted 336 clients with job interview skills and 122 found jobs. We also established a Caring Center Advisory Board.
- The **Children's Learning Center** ended the year with an enrollment of 82 with 19 staff. Sixty percent of our Pre-K graduates were accepted in magnet schools. We also hosted a book fair where we received over \$400 in new books.
- The **International Ministry** was awarded the Bridge of Unity in Diversity Award, presented by the Alabama-Korea Education and Economic Partnership. More than 500 internationals joined us weekly for lessons and fellowship led by 106 volunteers! **Conversational English** hosted 284 students representing 49 countries supported by 73 volunteers. We also provided childcare for 64 international preschool children. Our **Citizenship Classes** had 34 students. **English as a Second Language (ESL) Daytime** and **Conversational Café** hosted 140 internationals representing 30 countries supported by 22 volunteers. **ESL Evening** hosted 45 internationals representing 13 countries supported by 6 volunteers. **ESL Nehemiah** hosted 25 internationals from three countries supported by five volunteers.
- In 2016, the **Nehemiah Center** brought hope and restoration to the Chisholm community. Programs included: Kid's Club (K-5th grade) with **33 enrolled**, Mom's & Mentor's Program with **ten meeting weekly**, Lydia Project with **six clients**, Summer Program for **52 children**, GED Prep Program with **68 students**, our Master's Garden with **26 gardeners**, host for YMCA Summer Free Lunch Feeding program, host for a city-wide Mixtec revival where we distributed Jesus DVDs and assisted families with medical, school, government assistance and legal documents. We also hosted the Read to the Paws Program at Highland Gardens School for K-3rd grade students.
- Our **Counseling/Support Center** hosts one counselor and five weekly support groups.
- **Tutoring** began its 29th year with 45 students and 49 mentors.
- We blessed over 300 children at Christmas including **Angel Tree** (93 children), **Nehemiah Christmas** (31 children), **A Caring Center Christmas** (16 children), **Highland Gardens Stockings** delivery (150 children), **Santa's Workshop** (40 children), distribution of 50 turkeys to families, and amazing support from our membership to provide gifts and food to needy families.
- We continue to make **facility and security enhancements** at the Huff Community Ministries Building as well as the Nehemiah Center. A building committee was formed to study the need of future facilities to meet the growing needs of the Nehemiah program.
- Our **Prison Ministry** is expanding and evaluating four sites as "Landing Zones" to assist former inmates with re-entry life skills and jobs.
- **Jane Ferguson** retired after 28.5 years leading the ministry, and we welcomed **Tim Cearley** on board as Minister of Programs.

## CHILDREN'S HOPE

- God continues to bless the **Children's Hope** ministry that provides help in adoption, foster care and orphan assistance.
- In the U.S., Children's Hope facilitated a **foster care** training course for eleven families to prepare them to serve as foster parents. We also started support teams for foster families in Montgomery, while encouraging and supporting foster care agencies.
- There are **51 children** currently under our care at the **children's home** in Jacmel, Haiti. More than **3,000 patients** were provided with quality, **affordable healthcare** at our medical/dental clinic, with many professions of faith. We are now supporting nine church schools with over **1,000 students** receiving a **quality education** that will prepare them for advancement in life. Our **mission team** ministry continued to thrive as we partnered with multiple pastors and churches for community and gospel ministry. More than 25 volunteer teams and over 300 volunteers partnered in Haiti in various ways including evangelism, pastor training, construction, medical, men's and women's conferences and VBS.
- We provided **disaster relief** to areas affected by Hurricane Matthew, including an ongoing food program in ten communities serving over **3,500 people**.

## FIRST BAPTIST FOUNDATION

- The Foundation managed more than **\$6 million** in 2016, and received **over \$800,000 in gifts** that will yield an **eternal dividend**.
- The Foundation distributed **more than \$300,000 in funds to help fuel God's work** through FBC ministries. We provided significant assistance to Community Ministries and Children's Hope, provided Bibles for the International Ministry, helped with special IMB projects in Europe, Asia and Africa, and invested in spreading the gospel through missions around the world.
- During 2016, we also continued our partnership with **PhilanthroCorp**, a Christian estate planning firm out of Colorado, and we hosted estate specialist, Dave Keesling. We have had **125 FBC families** work with PhilanthroCorp's team of experts.
- The Foundation made a significant contribution of **\$51,000** for the educational advancement of **62 scholarship recipients**.

## CONCLUSION

This is an exhilarating season of running the race. During 2017 we are trusting God to bless our efforts as we seek to follow Him and make an eternal kingdom impact.

Running the race together and always doing MORE,

