God has been pouring His lavish blessings on our First Baptist 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 **6,235 precious souls** and Bible Fellowship enrollment rose to 5,203.
- During 2018 we received **268 new members** with 119 of these treasured friends requesting to be baptized. Other evangelistic harvest endeavors resulted in many people coming to Christ through The Living Christmas Tree, Vacation Bible School, our television broadcast of Crossroads, prison ministry, Team Impact, Judgment House, and a multitude of mission partnerships.
- God enabled us to soar past our budget of **$6,675,000** with budget gifts of **$7,609,648** — an overage of **$934,648**!
- Our **Lottie Moon Offering for International Missions** was an amazing **$307,678** and the **Annie Armstrong Offering for North American Missions** totaled **$144,870**. Our support of **Community Ministries** totaled more than **$153,580**. Gifts to **Children’s Hope** exceeded **$900,000**. Our **India Church Building Fund** received over **$47,250**. Our aggregate spending for mission endeavors exceeded **$2 million**!

Let’s celebrate the following Ministry highlights for 2018:

Discipleship Ministries

- **Bible Fellowship Enrollment**, our most important indicator, held strong at **5,203**.
- **Bible Fellowship Class Average Attendance** was 1,745.
- On **Easter Sunday** we had a record **2,249** 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 disciple our members during the week. We provided **RightNow Media**, along with **DevoHub**, which provides daily devotions including Stand Firm, Journey, and Open Windows to all First Baptist members free of charge. On Wednesday and Sunday nights, our **Discipleship Classes** are well attended anchored by the ABCs of Evangelism, Experiencing God, and one-on-one discipleship for new members.

Preschool Ministry

- In 2018, there were **312 preschoolers** enrolled in our Preschool Bible Fellowship classes. We had **237 dedicated teachers** who showed and shared the love of Jesus with an average attendance of **182 preschoolers** each Sunday.
- There were **61 Worship Care Ministry volunteers** who provided loving care to our preschoolers (8 weeks to 3 years of age) and our **PEW (Preschoolers Experiencing Worship)** for ages 4 to 5 during the worship services.
- God blessed our family with **25 precious babies**, as well as 14 new preschoolers from 10 new families that joined this past year.
- Our **Spring Celebration and Egg Hunt** was a wonderful time of family fun and fellowship. We had more than **390 in attendance** with 31 families registering as non-churched or no church affiliation.
- During **Vacation Bible School**, there were 125 preschool teachers who shared the gospel of Jesus to 301 preschoolers. We had preschoolers from the Nehemiah Center as well as our Children’s Learning Center along with eight area daycares that participated in our VBS. Supplies were provided for five mission VBS and one local VBS at First Baptist Hayneville. Additional VBS events were held in Cuba, Haiti, and the Hope Heals Camp.
- **Parent’s Night Out** provided free child care for our parents four times last year. Average attendance was **57**.
- **Mission Friends** had an average attendance of 55 preschoolers (2 to 5 years of age). Each Sunday evening these preschoolers heard the love of Jesus for the community and our world.
- In order to minister to all families at First Baptist, a **Special Needs Committee** was formed to evaluate, guide and recruit in Jesus’ name.
CHILDREN’S MINISTRY

- Bible Drill kicked off the year with 72 children who participated and 15 children who completed the State or District Drill.
- Our Young Worshippers Club involved 4th-6th graders in worship. From reading God’s Word to praying during worship, our children learned what it means to serve and follow Christ.
- The Incredikids Day Camp for all 1st-3rd graders at Camp Chandler, included 71 children and 14 chaperones. Our theme was TimeLab: Discovering Jesus from Eternity Past to Eternity Future.
- We hit our target at Vacation Bible School with 1,290 enrolled and an average of 915! We saw 35 children give their lives to Jesus and collected more than $2,000 in school supplies for the Chisholm community.
- We took 66 children and 10 chaperones to Camp Lee in Anniston for an awesome week at Kids Kamp.
- Our annual Fall Festival was a great night with lots of visitors and tons of smiling faces. We added food trucks as a new feature this year.
- Royal Ambassadors (RAs) and Girls In Action (GAs) leaders trained 150 boys and girls on their assignment of doing the Great Commission from their neighborhood to the nations.
- The BIG Church Tour welcomed first graders and their families to Kids Inc. During the evening service, we distributed 51 Bibles to these new first graders.

STUDENT MINISTRY

- God moved in and through the lives of the First Baptist students in 2018. Our attendance across the board has been higher than ever before. We saw many families join the church and our students continue to bring friends to be a part of all our events.
- We were thrilled to add Ryan Gray to our student ministry staff in May. He has already made an impact on our students and has done especially well in leading Baldwin Bible Study.
- Our connection to Lanier High School continued to expand. We fed the pregame meal and delivered spiritual words of encouragement to the varsity football team for another season. This opened the door for us to speak to the team every morning before their games. In November, we began supporting the basketball teams as well.
- Throughout the year we were able to stand by students as they surrendered their lives to Christ and were baptized. Through our various worship services and events (especially our largest Disciple Now and Youth Camp ever with 250 students at each) many others recommitted their lives to Christ.

COLLEGE MINISTRY

- ELEVATE Worship brought students from AUM and ASU as well as young adults not in college together for dinner and worship each Tuesday night. Over the course of the year there were more than 75 first time guests at Elevate. Each week students are fed a home-cooked meal, worship with our student-led band, and taught the word of God. Over the summer, we had weekly Bible study in church families homes.
- Our Connections Ministry paired 16 families with 17 students this year. This included five new families and nine new students.
- We took 54 students to the Passion Conference in Atlanta for the new year and 13 students to the ALSBOM Pursue Conference.
- In 2018, three students participated in summer missions through IMB and NAMB to Romania, Toronto, and Calgary. Over Spring Break, seven students were on mission to New Orleans and nine students to New York City.

SINGLE ADULT MINISTRY

- In 2018, Mark and Brittany Bethea started a new Bible Fellowship Class aimed at reaching young singles just out of college. This class grew and averaged 25 per week in Bible Study. Our other five classes continue to grow and go. Our singles are a vital part of the ministry and missions of FBC.
- There were three FBC single adults in full time missions serving in Hungary, Boulder, Colorado, and Nashville.
- Single Adults participated in mission projects in South Africa, Puerto Rico, Cuba, Canada, and Alaska.
- Once again, we hosted the Back-to-School Block Party and Medical/Dental Clinic for the Chisholm community. More than 250 children were supplied with new backpacks filled with age appropriate school supplies. There were also more than 400 people who heard the Gospel and we reached many prospects for the Mixtec church.
- John Halbrooks, an FBC single adult, was ordained to the gospel ministry and became the pastor of the new Mixtec church.
- Our singles continued to participate in local ministries including tutoring, international ministry and the Nehemiah Center.

SENIOR ADULT MINISTRY

- The 2018 Day Trips included the Senior Adult Singin’, the Abundant Living Conference and the Anderson Farm.
- Five special banquets and fellowships were held with average attendance ranging from 175 to 200 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 First Baptist and those who can no longer attend. This year we provided beautiful Christmas trees at Christmas and our deacons conducted In-Home Lord’s Supper celebrations with many homebound adults. Regular visits are made by our faithful associates.
- Senior Adults serve in so many ways including mission expeditions, Beacon Deacons, Sunday greeters and ushers, and Caring Center volunteers, just to name a few. Their service has enabled and strengthened our First Baptist Family as we follow Jesus together.
Music Ministry

- Our Sanctuary Choir plays a vital role in worship leadership each Sunday morning throughout the year. The Sanctuary Orchestra, led by Kerry Palmer, consistently plays incredible worship music each week in our morning services.
- Our Student Choirs led in worship as well as participated in various choir/mission trips during the summer. In the Spring, the Reflections Ensemble toured Ozark, Alabama. In June, the One Voice Choir (9th-12th grades) worked and sang in Cincinnati, Ohio; and the One Heart Choir (7th-8th grades) worked and sang in Mobile, Alabama.
- In September, First Baptist hosted the annual Youth Choir Kick-Off sponsored by the Alabama Baptist State Board of Missions. We had 10 churches from around the state participate and there were approximately 500 students in attendance.
- The Preschool and Children's Choirs, led by Jenny Renner, provided seasonal worship experiences on Wednesday and Sunday evenings.
- The JOY Singers presented beautiful worship programs for Advent and Memorial Day.
- The Handbell Ensemble, led by Gwen Keene, provided a unique worship opportunity numerous times throughout the year.
- The adult vocal ensemble, Ichthus, led by Ray Burdeshaw, provided special music throughout the year.
- The Living Christmas Tree involved approximately 300 singers, instrumentalists and volunteers. Our entire church body rallied around the Tree to present a gospel-centered message to those in attendance. God's warmth was felt and numerous attendees indicated they had been encouraged, and their lives had been changed.

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, mailouts, posters, billboards, email marketing, social media, and the order of worship. The electronic form of the Beacon continues in popularity and is sent weekly to more than 500 church members. The printed Beacon continues to be mailed each week with the help of a dedicated group of senior adults. Our goal is to keep everyone well-informed and to encourage involvement at First Baptist.
- The Media Ministry completed a lighting upgrade in August. The new digital lights enhance the worship experience in the main sanctuary. We also continued to live stream the 11 a.m. service on Facebook and Vimeo. Our great volunteer staff helped send the message of Jesus Christ beyond the walls of our buildings through our weekly programs that were broadcast on WSFA as well as the Frazer Christian Television.
- The website (www.montgomeryfbc.org) and First Baptist Montgomery App continued to grow in their offerings including the convenience of online giving and event registration, as well as an online member directory. Both are continually updated and expanded to add features that will magnify our ministries. Please take the time to explore and use these ministry tools.

Missions Ministry

- The Missions Factory was alive and well in 2018. Members of First Baptist have been actively involved in missions through work here in Montgomery, the United States, and across the Globe.
- The year started with our annual Missions Expo and Journey of Prayer. During this event we focused on praying for missions and to refocus ourselves on Christ.
- In 2018, approximately 822 volunteers participated in 67 mission projects. Of those, approximately 153 people participated in 42 projects overseas.
- The Women's Missionary Union (WMU) made a wonderful impact in 2018. There are five active Women on Mission (WOM) groups along with Mission Friends (MF), Girls in Action (GAs) and Royal Ambassadors (RAs) under the umbrella of WMU. In 2018, there were 124 ladies enrolled in WOM groups and 223 preschoolers and children enrolled in mission activities.
- We are currently financially supporting 20 North American Church Planters.
- In July, our church hosted around 500 people for the Voice of the Martyrs Advance Conference. This was a wonderful event that focused on the persecuted church and how we can pray and partner together.
- In October, our church played a major role in the River Region Judgment House. This community outreach event saw more than 4,030 people in attendance with 863 recorded decisions for Christ.
- We had a banner year in Operation Christmas Child with over 1,200 boxes collected through our relay center at First Baptist.
- Because of your generous gifts, our missions committee was able to identify and financially support several key projects among refugees and the unreached in South Asia.
- At the end of 2018 we also began efforts to restart our Disaster Relief Team in an effort to help in the event of storms and natural disasters.

Outreach and Evangelism Ministry

- The Outreach Ministry engaged with nearly a thousand people through following up on evangelistic events such as Judgment House, Team Night, Team Impact, The Living Christmas Tree, Vacation Bible School and Fall Festival.
- Weekly visitation and the ABCs of Evangelism class allowed us to reach hundreds of potential FBC prospects. Over this past year, through many volunteers, we have delivered nearly 300 fresh baked loaves of bread, honey and thousands of cookies to weekly share and show the love of Jesus.
- The Membership Information Class was rebranded Discover First Baptist Church, to be a more inviting experience. More than 130 people joined one of the seven classes offered during the year, with a majority choosing to join First Baptist Church.
COMMUNITY MINISTRIES

- The Caring Center registered 9,446 clients for clothing and food assistance. This included 2,203 families that received 55.14 tons of food. We also provided $62,986.32 in financial assistance.
- We said farewell to Judy Nuss in April after more than 16 years of faithful service as the Caring Center director.
- The Children’s Learning Center ended the year with an enrollment of 100 with 23 staff. Annual tuition scholarships (exceeding $40,000) provide quality care and learning to those who otherwise couldn’t afford it. Those completing the K4 program were prepared for the magnet school and private school of their choice.
- The International Ministry included seven Sunday Bible classes for internationals in various levels of English; ESL classes hosted 100 students from 23 countries and many religions; the Conversation Café had 30 volunteers on three mornings a week; and Conversational English had 275 students from 49 countries, supported by 74 volunteers.
- The Nehemiah Center brought hope and help to the Chisholm community with the following programs: Kids’ Club for K-5th grade children, along with eight junior interns from Capital Heights Middle School; Moms and Mentors with an average of 25 moms and 20 preschoolers; weekly ESL classes, the Lydia Project; a summer program with 55 children; and GED with 38 students. We gave away more than 250 backpacks at the Back-to-School Block Party. We hosted four community programs and sponsored a football team along with the Boys Club.
- At Christmas, 331 children were helped through Angel Tree, the Caring Center, the Nehemiah Christmas, Bible Fellowship Classes, and Santa’s Workshop.
- Community Ministries helped facilitate five weekly support groups – Alzheimer’s Caregivers, Women with Emotional Pain, Narcotics/Alcoholics Anonymous, Grief Care, and Freedom in Christ Recovery.
- Tutoring on Wednesday nights hosted 47 students pairing them with 61 mentors.
- Prison Ministry included 11 servant leaders: one director, an administrative assistant, an Angel Tree coordinator, seven instructors for Pathway to freedom classes, an assistant chaplain, and two worship leaders. Volunteers served in six different facilities: Kilby, Staton, Tutwiler main, Tutwiler annex, Montgomery Women’s Facility, and the Montgomery County Jail. Through the Prison Fellowship Program, more than 100 church members supplied 110 children of incarcerated parents with Christmas gifts. First Baptist hosted an appreciation luncheon for prison chaplains in the River Region and for all Alabama Department of Corrections chaplains. A big thank you to Ken Brothers for his leadership in phenomenal prison ministry for 18 years. Ken retired from his leadership role in October. In November, Carl Fisher was appointed as the new prison ministry leader and began a needs assessment in the River Region, setting goals to nurture volunteers and resources with corresponding needs.
- The Master’s Garden assigned 71 junior interns to Chisholm Community residents. The garden hosted over 300 school children and 200 First Baptist members to pick strawberries and enjoy a garden field trip. The 1,500 commercial strawberry plants produced more than 3,000 pounds of strawberries. We had 475 people visit the garden’s pumpkin patch in October including 200 from our International Ministry. The 2018 garden produced more than 8,000 pounds of fruits and vegetables.

CHILDREN’S HOPE

- We rejoice in the Lord’s grace and provision as Children’s Hope cared for children, strengthened families, and served communities in a powerful way in Haiti. There are currently 51 children under our care at the children’s home in Jacmel.
- The medical clinic provides quality and affordable healthcare to more than 6,000 community members, as well as a Christian witness. Our clinic staff includes two doctors, two nurses, two lab techs, and one dentist.
- There are more than 1,250 students receiving a quality education in the seven church schools we support. We provided more than 220,000 individual meals through our school feeding program.
- The short-term mission teams engaged and served over 5,000 people in some way with many hearing the Gospel and following Jesus. We partnered with dozens of Haitian churches for ministry, evangelism, discipleship, and church planting in their communities.
- We provided full-time employment to more than 160 Haitian staff giving them critical income for their families and meaningful work.

FIRST BAPTIST FOUNDATION

- The Foundation managed more than $8 million in 2018, and received gifts that will yield a massive eternal dividend.
- The Foundation distributed over $350,000 in funds to help fuel God’s work through the ministries at First Baptist. We provided significant assistance to Community Ministries, Master’s Garden, RightNow Media, as well as supported a church plant in the San Francisco area. The Foundation provided funds to build a medical lab in Tanzania and provide EEG machines in a remote area in Africa. Funding was also given for multiple mission projects in China.
- We continued our partnership with PhilanthroCorp, a Christian estate planning firm out of Colorado, and we hosted two Legacy Conversation Luncheons. More than 135 First Baptist families have connected with PhilanthroCorp’s team of experts. We have anticipated gifts exceeding $30 million.
- The Foundation made a significant contribution of over $53,000 for the educational advancement of our 61 scholarship recipients.

CONCLUSION

This is an exhilarating season of running the race. During 2019 we are trusting God to bless our efforts as we seek to follow Him and make an eternal kingdom impact.

Running the race together, [Signature]