



# Capital Campaign *Light*

First Baptist Church, Tallahassee

Campaign 3, Issue 5

## Testimony: Newer Members Become a Part

Having joined First Baptist in March of 2007, we felt so blessed having become a part of the church family in Tallahassee. At that time the *Growing By Faith* campaign was already underway. We had always tithed regularly, but we were new to the concept of “gift bundling” over and above the tithe. We soon learned more specifically about how the resources are used for missions [evangelism] and paying down debt for the growth of the church.

We prayed for the Lord’s direction for how much our commitment should be and a certain amount kept coming up repeatedly. We prayerfully considered God’s word in 2 Corinthians, “Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.” Armed with God’s truth, we made a commitment trusting He would provide the resources over and above the tithe. God has consistently provided us

the opportunity to fulfill our commitment.

As *Capital Campaign Light* begins we are faced with the obstacle of an uncertain economy. Having prayed together for God’s direction of how much He would lead us to give, a specific amount has come to our minds. Even so, deciding to believe God’s word over our circumstances can be a tremendous exercise of the will at times. However we know that God’s will stands firm regardless of the economy. It seems the more we practice faith, the more faith we have to practice. We plan to add the CCL amount to the weekly tithe. However, when He leads we will give more, because God says in Luke 6:38 “Give and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.”

Our perspective of *Capital Campaign Light* is: continuing our commitment to support missions, and the growth of the church so that TOGETHER we can spread a passion for His glory in all things.

— Sam & Michelle Mitchell

## This Sunday is Commitment Sunday! How Everything Will Work

Enclosed is your *Capital Campaign Light* commitment form. This Sunday, you will find privacy envelopes in the foyer.

**When and how do we turn our form in?** This Sunday morning, August 24, we will have “Joash’s Chest” at the front of the worship center. (You can read about “Joash’s Chest” on the back of this page) As part of the service, we will walk by the chest and place our privacy envelopes with our pledge forms in the chest. The time for testimonies and sermons will be over; this will be the only part of the service connected with the building program. If you will be out of town, you can drop your form by the church office.

**What if I have already turned in my commitment form?** If you made an advance commitment, just place a dollar in your privacy envelope as a symbolic gesture of solidarity, walk by the chest, and drop it in.

**What do I do if I am not participating?** Just take one of the extra forms in the foyer, write zero on it, insert it in a privacy envelope, and place it in the chest. However, every church family is asked to commit to give at least 25 cents per week.

**Should we make a family commitment?** That is entirely up to you; if family members wish to make individual commitments they may do so.

**When do the gifts begin?** Sunday, September 7. We will use our present offering envelopes which have a place to indicate the amount we are giving to GBF. Just cross out GBF and write CCL.

**Can I change my commitment later?** Yes, you may revise your pledge up or down; in fact, that is part of your pledge: “I promise to contact the church office and revise my pledge should circumstances make it necessary.”

## Testimony: Strengthened Commitment

Carol and I have been totally committed to helping financially in the growth of our church since beginning the campaigns. Having been “born and raised” in First Baptist Church, Carol vividly remembers her father, as chairman of the deacons, talking of the need to relocate the church and to build.

Three areas in our life are: our family, our work, and our church family. We decided that our church family needed and deserved as much of our financial support as we could muster.

Being a part of the *Challenge to Build and Growing by Faith* campaigns has strengthened our commitment to giving to the Lord. Early on in our married life, we would struggle so much to make the financial commitment to the church. There was always somewhere we needed to apply our money. As CTB approached we knew we needed to ask the Lord to help us determine an amount to give. It was not easy for us. Old habits are indeed hard to break. The amazing thing to us is how the Lord has blessed

us since the campaigns began. When GBF was ready to start we knew we could continue what we had been giving. Again, through thoughtful prayer we were able to determine to give more to GBF than we did for the first campaign. We especially like being able to bundle our missions giving with the program.

As the *Capital Campaign Light* approaches, we will continue to give the same amount that we have been giving. We will take this opportunity to give more to the General Fund as well as continue our support of the campaign. Our church has rising costs just like our own household and we want to do our part. It is important that we, as a church, provide for additional programs for our growing church family. That will mean additional personnel in the future. We are extremely excited about the future of First Baptist Church!

— Ron and Carol McDaniel

## The Story of Joash’s Chest in 2<sup>nd</sup> Chronicles 24:4-10

*4 Afterwards, Joash took it to heart to renovate the Lord’s temple.*

*5 So he gathered the priests and Levites and said, “Go out to the cities of Judah and collect money from all Israel to repair the temple of your God as needed year by year, and do it quickly.” However, the Levites did not hurry.*

*6 So the king called Jehoiada the high priest and said, “Why haven’t you required the Levites to bring from Judah and Jerusalem the tax imposed by the Lord’s servant Moses and the assembly of Israel for the tent of the testimony?”*

*7 For the sons of that wicked Athaliah broke into the Lord’s temple and even used the sacred things of the Lord’s temple for the Baals.”*

*8 At the king’s command a chest was made and placed outside the gate of the Lord’s temple.*

*9 Then a proclamation was issued in Judah and Jerusalem that the tax God’s servant Moses imposed on Israel in the wilderness be brought to the Lord.*

*10 All the leaders and all the people rejoiced, brought the tax, and put it in the chest until it was full.*

## Pastor and Deacons Announce Their Advance Commitment Total

The pastor and deacons announced in this past Sunday morning service their combined total pledge amount for Capital Campaign Light. Individual family pledge amounts were not revealed, of course, but eighteen families were represented. Over the next three years, these families have al-

ready pledged to give a total of \$88,160. The announcement was described as a statement that the church leadership is not asking members to do something they are not doing themselves and as a challenge to the rest of the church family to join them.

## One More Time: What This is About

Capital Campaign Light (CCL) is for the purposes of reducing our debt (the two phases totaled \$1,545,976 as of August 11) and of supporting missions. We are two-thirds of the way through paying for the total project cost of phases I and II, and this will free even more funds for ministry. 75% of CCL receipts will go to debt reduction and 25% will go to missions (divided 60/40 for Lottie and Annie.)

The “Light” part of the campaign's name comes from the fact that those who have been giving *sacrificially* to the previous two campaigns are being asked to pray about an amount around 33 to 40% of their previous GBF pledge amount. Those who have yet to give sacrificially, or who have recently joined, are asked to pray about making a sacrificial commitment.