

## First Day to Give Growing by Faith Offerings

This Sunday, Sept. 4

### Update Report

As of August 29, 2005  
With the Visitation Remaining

### Advance Commitments:

\$332,500.00 ( 32 forms)

### Commitment Sunday-Tuesday

\$344,695.20 (122 forms)

### Total Pledges

\$677,195.20 (154 total forms)

### Compare With Phase I Phase I After the Commitment Visitation

August 23, 2003

Commitment Cards: 205

Percent of those returning cards  
pledging something: 72% (148)

Amount Pledged: \$738,277

Average Pledge of those partici-  
pating: \$4,988.36

Total pledge amount equal to:  
1.6 times previous year's  
budget receipts

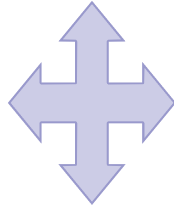
### The 2004-2005 Church Year

**Baptisms:** 22

Our records go back to 1960;  
this is surpassed only by the 24  
baptisms recorded in 1971.

**Sunday School Average:**

331 (+8%)  
(+115% since 1995)



# Growing by Faith

## Commitment Visitation Begins

**As of Tuesday, August 30, our total pledge amount to date stands at \$677,195.20. One notable success is that 25 forms reported that the family or individual committed to start tithing!** While the pledge amount to this point is lower than our goal, we still have the commitment visitation yet to go. After that, the building committee will begin making changes to the building plans, as necessary. We will build based on the pledge amounts returned to the church.

### If you haven't turned in your Commitment Form yet...

If you did not turn in a Commitment Form with any amount (including a zero), then you will be contacted by a commitment visitor. A fair number of those absent this past Sunday will want to participate. They just happened to be absent on this day.

The commitment visitor will provide you with a Commitment Form and a privacy envelope. The visitor may be a little nervous. So help him out with a kind reception; he's just trying to be a team player and help the church. He will answer any questions you may have, but will not pressure you in any way. Nor will he watch as you complete the form - in fact, you can go into the next room to complete it. If you choose not to participate, enter a zero.

**If you would rather, you can drop your commitment form by the church office and be removed from the visitation list.**

### If you turned in a Commitment Form stating that you will give something, but you don't know how much...

We had 31 of these. Some peoples' financial situation is in a state of transition or special need. A form with such a statement in those circumstances is certainly understandable!

However, if that is not your situation, please remember that while such a statement is supportive and appreciated, it isn't useful for planning purposes. You are encouraged to consider revising your pledge to enter a

dollar amount, if possible. A minimum amount can be revised upward later and is more helpful in the planning process. We don't know how much we can afford to build unless the congregation tells us how much they are going to give.

### If you "just put something down"...

If you realized since you turned in your commitment form that you had not given sufficient thought and prayer to your commitment, you can change it—up or down. As you recall, devotional booklets were provided and for a many weeks it was emphasized that we should pray and ask God to lead us to the amount we should give. Even when we do our best, we sometimes miss the guidance of God, but those who are committed to do God's will find that He will not let them miss it ultimately. Feel free to contact the financial secretary to revise your pledge amount.

### Did you reduce your giving by accident?

Because *Growing by Faith* is a bundled offering, if you used the same pledge amount for GBF as for the Phase I *Challenge to Build* offering, you will reduce your building offering by 7.77%. If that's what you needed to do this time, that's fine. But if you forgot to add in your missions giving, you may be *unintentionally* reducing your total giving.

*Not equal gifts, but equal sacrifice*

## ***I Was Looking For Ways***

With Phase II coming up, I was looking for ways to cut expenses in order to increase my pledge to the building fund. So after much prayer, I looked at my satellite bills and decided I could cut that amount in half and still have access to more TV than I had time to watch - so I was able to cut that expense in half.

I looked at my medical insurance expenses. I had good group coverage through a well-known provider. I had become eligible for Tri-Care (at no cost), but Tri-Care would not give complete coverage as long as I had other insurance. I had been afraid to cancel my insurance, fearing Tri-Care would not be as good — and I didn't think I could reinstate the old policy at the good group rate if it didn't work out. But after much prayer, I decided to go for it. It turned out that not only did Tri-Care pay as well, but in some cases better. And on top of that, I received a letter from my old provider, saying I could come back to them at a later date at the SAME RATE! So I saved that amount.

As a result of these two steps, I have been able to give more for the Phase II building program. What I'm learning more every day is *Pray and Trust God*.

— Carolyn Garnett

“...the people that do know their God shall be strong, and do exploits.”

— Daniel 11:32

“Remember this: the person who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the person who sows generously will also reap generously.”

— 2nd Corinthians 9:6

***It is every member's responsibility to promote the mission, protect the reputation, and ensure the success of the church.***

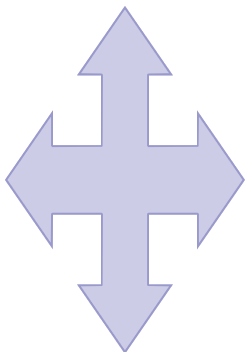
— ***Church Principles***

## ***Welcome New Tithers!***

25 new individuals and families have indicated that they are committing to begin tithing through the general church budget. You are taking a step of obedience and faith. You are also taking God up on His invitation to put Him to the test. “‘Test Me in this way,’ says the LORD of Hosts. ‘See if I will not open the floodgates of heaven and pour out a blessing for you without measure’” (Malachi 3:10). As you do, be faithful in managing the other 90% in keeping with His ways. Keep the right priorities, budget wisely, and you can count on God to supply your needs! You can also expect your commitment to be tested early on; so be prepared.

As you tithe, remember that you have a part in supporting the ministry of First Baptist Church, that you are helping to make building payments, and that, through the Cooperative Program funds that go through the budget, you are supporting missionaries around the world.

**First Baptist Church  
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***Growing by Faith***

*“And without faith it is impossible to please him...” —Hebrews 11:6*