



The Discovery

JANUARY 2022

Financial Snapshot



As of November 30, 2021, tithes, offerings, and other income for the year totaled \$239,359 towards our revised 2021 budget of \$2,866,127. Our expenses through the end of November totaled \$2,522,096 leaving a negative balance of \$135,684 of expenses over income.

Please visit us at DiscoverFBC.org/give to learn about the various ways to financially support the ongoing ministries and mission activities of the church.

As a reminder, contribution statements for 2021 will be mailed by the end of January.

Bible Studies

As we enter the new year, we encourage you to join in at least one of the many opportunities available for Bible study.

Our broadest opportunity happens every Sunday morning at 10 AM. So join us between worship services. Also, we offer the Pastor's Bible Study (co-taught by Will Dyer and Laurel Landon) on Wednesday evenings at 6 PM, beginning January 5th. And we will have additional Bible studies through the Women's and Men's Ministries. Finally, if you can't join us for a study, take advantage of RightNow Media, offering hundreds of Bible study series absolutely free. You can get more information regarding all these opportunities through our website.

Sunday

MORNING SCHEDULE

9:00AM—Contemporary Worship

10:00AM—Bible Study

11:00AM—Traditional Worship



Dear Church,

How many of you make New Year's resolutions? I was shocked to find that according to one study, 60% of Americans will make resolutions for 2022. What I was not shocked to find is that the number one thing people want to do in the new year is "get in shape". No doubt, this is a noble goal. When we are healthier as individuals, then we naturally lead richer and more fulfilling lives. So, as the new year gets underway, people of all shapes and sizes will commit to certain practices that help them meet the goals that they set. There are certain benchmark practices that we know lead to better health. We know we should exercise. We know we should eat more fruits and vegetables. We know we should get seven to eight hours of sleep. When we make these habits part of our routine, then we know we are on the way to success.

I don't know if you have thought about this fact, but being a disciple of Jesus follows a pretty similar track to being a person who is healthy and in good shape. Both take commitment and discipline. If you want to follow Jesus well in 2022, there are a few essential things that you need to commit to in your life. While I could spend the entirety of this edition of the Discovery writing to you about the habits of the heart that help you follow Jesus well, I am not going to take up that much space. Instead, I am going to invite you to join me for a new series that will begin on January 9th. Over the course of eight weeks, we are going to take a deep dive into the different ways that you can ensure the new year is your best year as you live out the Jesus way. Alongside our sermon series, we are preparing a slate of Wednesday night classes that will also better equip you to become a better follower of Jesus over the next twelve months. You can learn all about those opportunities by visiting our website, [DiscoverFBC.org](https://www.DiscoverFBC.org).

With the remainder of my space, I did want to take a moment and thank each of you for making 2021 such an amazing year for FBC. While I am incredibly excited about all that God is going to do over the coming year, it wouldn't be right if I didn't pause and give thanks to God for each one of you. Because of your faithfulness and generosity, we ended the year with energy and excitement. I am proud to be the pastor of such an amazing group of people.

To God Be the Glory,
Will Dyer, Senior Pastor

Invitation to a Journey

If you have participated in the life of our congregation in recent months, you are aware of the sermon series this past fall around the Sermon on the Mount. Some of that series was based upon *The Divine Conspiracy* by Dallas Willard. Not only did I read the book, I also co-taught a Bible study based upon the writing. I immersed myself in the series and the book. And I experienced a significant moment of conviction.

It happened in the later chapters of the book, when Willard discusses true discipleship and how that might look in our lives and in our churches. I'll try and boil it down to two quotes.

"It is now generally acknowledged...that one can be a professing Christian and a church member in good standing without being a disciple. There is, apparently, no real connection between being a Christian and being a disciple of Jesus."

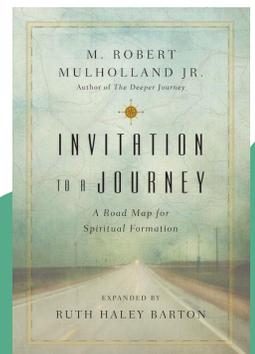
Or, stated more personally—just because I have been baptized, attend church every Sunday, and even work for the church—does not mean I continue to seek out transformative moments in my life so that I might live more like Jesus. And, as a minister, I was convicted by the fact that we do not offer many opportunities in the life of our church to discuss how we might be transformed. We want to believe that by showing up for activities, that transformation is happening (I'm not saying it can't or won't, we simply aren't being clear about the goal).

And the second quote—*"Nondiscipleship is the elephant in the church. It is not the much-discussed moral failures, financial abuses, or the amazing general similarity between Christians and non-Christians. These are only effects of the underlying problem. The fundamental negative reality among Christian believers now is their failure to be constantly learning how to live their lives in The Kingdom Among Us. And it is an accepted reality."*

In my conviction, I took the next step. I picked up the book *Invitation to a Journey—A Road Map for Spiritual Formation* by Robert Mulholland, and it has created in me a new space to allow God to continue transforming my life. And I feel better, spiritually speaking than I have in many years.

So I extend this opportunity to you—join with others in reading through *Invitation to a Journey*. For those who are able, we will meet on Sunday and Wednesday nights (starting Jan 9 and 13) to review the questions after each chapter. And if you can't be with us, read the book anyway! If you are interested in more information regarding times and outline for our discussions, please email me at jwalls@fbcaugusta.org. It is my belief the way you will feel more fully alive—and that our church will live fully into its calling in our community—is when we truly pursue being transformed into the image of Christ.

-Jim Walls,
Associate Pastor



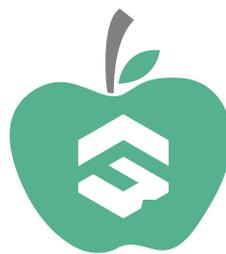
Calling All Volunteers

2021 is out-a-here and 2022 is underway! At the beginning of a new year, folks are always looking to make resolutions to find new ways to make their lives better- resolving to make and stick to changes that will improve their quality of life in the coming year. A lot of those resolutions revolve around eating better, working out, doing better with your finances, or some other physical/material plus. I just want to take a moment to suggest a new way that you can improve your life and go deeper in your faith while helping others. What I'm talking about is volunteering to serve in one of the church's ministries.

When you help in church ministry, you get the opportunity to support the preaching of the gospel. You also get to see God working through you in new ways. Volunteering can give you a fresh sense of purpose as you work together with other passionate people to lift up the name of Jesus. There is no greater purpose! You can put your skill to work for the glory of God. If you play guitar, sing, have teaching skills, or even if you have an awesome handshake, a winning smile, or baby rocking expertise, there is a place for you to serve. If you join our tech team you can learn some new skills too! We have plenty of training and instruction to get you to the place of serving with excellence so don't worry about not having the skills you don't have. The most important thing is a heart to serve.

If there's one thing that I have learned in all my years of church involvement, it's that in serving others in the context of church ministry, you grow closer to the community you serve, you grow closer to the ones you serve with, you grow closer to God and you have a lot of fun doing it. I can say that the Contemporary Worship Band and Audio/Video/Lighting production team are a tight group of supportive folks devoted to making Sunday mornings at FBC awesome! We are currently looking for new singers, musicians, and techs, but those aren't the only ministries with opportunities. There are openings in Children's ministry, youth ministry, Bible studies, Choir, and greeters/ushers. If there's one sure-fire way to grow in your faith, it is to find a place to serve in the body of Christ and to give yourself wholly to it. Reach out to someone serving where you would like to serve and get in where you fit in! You can also go to our Serve page for the big list of ministry opportunities at discoverfbc.org/serve. Start the new year by joining our team and making Jesus's praise glorious!

-Dan Gaudinier



FIRST BAPTIST
WEEKDAY
EDUCATION

Important Dates

FOR THE 2022-2023 SCHOOL YEAR

THURSDAY, JAN 20

Weekday Open House | 1:30 - 2:30 p.m.

SUNDAY, JAN 23

Weekday Open House | 3:00 - 4:00 p.m.

MONDAY, JAN 24

Registration begins for all FBC Families

MONDAY, JAN 31

Registration opens to the public

Celebrating Missions

As we wrap up 2021, it is great to celebrate all we have done in the community and beyond as we seek to connect people with Christ. If we attempt to list all of the volunteer hours and the financial support, we would certainly leave out someone or some missions moment. So instead, allow us to share an email we recently received.

"Even though I am new to this church family, I consider myself blessed to have the new friends and fellowship I have received from members at First Baptist. I have lived in Augusta since 2008 and was a member of a nearby Baptist church. I have needed some physical and Christian fellowship for some time, and since August, I have received more from this church family than I have all the years I was a member of that previous church. There have been four visits from the Men on Mission, who not only installed two ramps for my wheelchair and put up safety bars in the bathroom but fellowshiped with me as they worked. One of those men arranged for me to have my haircut here in the home. My online [Sunday morning] class with Billy Bennett (FaLoHo) has also been a blessing.

Basically, I want to express that your members have been a tremendous support to me in a much-needed way and time. I want to thank this fellowship for everything they have done and for your leadership to encourage members to reach out. Their generosity and positive outlook have helped me through some difficult situations that occurred of late, but most of all these actions are making an impact on my son....Please pray that he will see that not all Christians speak one way and act another."

What a beautiful story and testimony about how our congregation continues to serve our community and connect people with Christ! Thank you!

Jingle Jam Wrap-Up

Our Jingle Jam Light Show was a fantastic evening. Thank you to our 40 + volunteers and the over 200 people who came and experienced God's greatest gift, Jesus. Our night started with family games and great music led by Dan Gaudinier. We ended our show with a lightastic re-telling of the Christmas story. We gathered for cookies, hot chocolate, pictures, and fellowship at the end. It was a great night filled with joy, laughter, and God's light!



FIRST BAPTIST
CHURCH OF AUGUSTA

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