

Recommended Strategies for 2017

GOAL 1

FAITHFUL DISCIPLES

We will think, act, and be like Jesus, fully surrendered to Him as Lord.

WHAT SUCCESS LOOKS LIKE

Everyone growing to be more like Jesus. Christians developing friendships with unreached people and Bible Studies and Life Groups that fulfill the vision.

OBJECTIVES

A. Invite people into a saving relationship with Jesus.

1. Continue to support existing and emerging adult Life Groups. (Life Groups)
2. Support the growth of new disciples in children and youth. Find a way to provide new adult volunteers for children and youth ministries and support their projects. Focus on helping them become strong in their relationship with Christ.

B. Increase the number of people practicing spiritual disciplines.

1. Create new Bible study groups and renew existing ones for adults and new persons joining or visiting our church. Continue to improve the discipling of everyone with an emphasis on involving everyone in a church initiative and tithing. Work with SMBS leaders and pastoral staff to create a new initiative for children and youth teachers. (SMBS)
2. Create a Life Stewardship Concept that promotes and monitors a disciple's growth in giving of money, time, gifts, and abilities. Create a great communication with other goal areas and adult Bible studies. (Stewardship Group)
3. Keep utilizing new teaching aids. (Weekday)
4. Develop new Bible study groups to promote new growth.

C. Deepen our understanding of core biblical beliefs.

1. Deepen our understanding of core Bible beliefs by coordination of study material, worship services, and special events (e.g., revival, common book study).
2. Identify opportunities to build Christian leaders in College and Young Adults to face emerging world challenges. (College, Young Adults)

D. Demonstrate the fruit of the Spirit in our lives.

1. Provide small group opportunities to understand and develop the fruit of the Spirit.

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GOAL 2

CONNECTED CHURCH

As members of the body of Christ, we will actively participate in worship, learn and use our spiritual gifts, and care for and communicate with one another. We will share Christ's message with our community.

WHAT SUCCESS LOOKS LIKE

More people actively engaged in worship, informed about the church's ministries, regularly involved in small groups, and practicing spiritual gifts to communicate Jesus' message to Tallahassee.

OBJECTIVES

A. Attend and participate in worship services.

1. Begin a college worship night during the first week of December. (College, Music)
2. Provide deaf interpreters for Good Friday and special worship events. (Deaf, Music)
3. Involve college and graduate students in the orchestra. (Music)

B. Help members find a place to fit, develop friendships, and feel the care of the congregation.

1. Have four church-wide Sunday morning lunches to build fellowship.
(Budget/Generosity- January/February, Haiti- April, College/Wear Your Colors/Food Truck- September, Heritage- November)
2. Enhance options for food on Wednesday evenings. (Hospitality, Food Service)
3. Coordinate and reorganize Women's Ministry structure. (Women, WMU, WOM)
4. Collaborating with the Minister of Pastoral Community, create a system to provide outreach and connect classes and individuals in Senior Adults, Pastoral Care, and Single Focus Ministries to church. (Single Focus, Pastoral Community)
5. Create a reservation system for Wednesday evening dinner.
6. Recognize and connect with ongoing ministries (i.e., Internationals, Deaf, etc.) and those who lead them. (For example, create videos for each that are shown once a month in services, have a ministry of the month table in the welcome center.)
7. Organize an "Adopt a College Student" program to connect generations.

C. Inform members adequately about church activities.

1. Create a communications plan for promoting the four major seasonal events. (Communications group)
2. Maintain a weekly prayer e-newsletter that informs congregation of news regarding celebrations, grief, and hospitalization. (Communications, Pastoral Community)
3. Begin a semi-annual FBCTLH magazine featuring stories of how FBCTLH is fulfilling the vision. (Communications)
4. Host Missions Fair with exhibits from local, state, national organizations, and disaster relief. (WOM, Impacted City)
5. Adopt a Weekday classroom and teacher to care for students, parents, teachers, and those in crisis. (Weekday, Children)
6. Expand small and large group focus on creating life-changing relationships that support each person's spiritual growth and discipleship. (SMBS, Pastoral Community)

D. Communicate Christ's message to Tallahassee.

1. Form a Marketing and Communications Ministry Group. (Communications)
2. Market four major seasonal events to Tallahassee: Easter, VBS, Fall, and Christmas. (Communications)

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GOAL 3

SERVANT LEADERS

More people will embrace leadership roles in the congregation and community, use their spiritual gifts to build the body of Christ, serve in places of work and study, and respond to God's call to service.

WHAT SUCCESS LOOKS LIKE

New and existing leaders growing in a servant lifestyle, demonstrating service in our community, training a new generation of leaders, and equipping men and women in their gifts to follow God's call and be commissioned into service.

OBJECTIVES

A. Equip men and women to serve in leadership in the congregation.

1. Establish a Leadership Institute at First Baptist that includes a mentoring, yoke-fellow, and/or Timothy program.
2. Design a new process change that empowers new ministry groups to serve.
3. Teach a study on Biblical leadership, ordination, and spiritual gifts. (Pastoral Staff)
4. Organize interested deacons into Servant Leader Committees.
(Outreach- Visitation, First Step; Welcome- New Members, Baptism; Care- Drop outs, Disconnected; Heal- Hospitals, Nursing Home, Homebound Communion, Pastoral Care; Grief- Bereavement, Food Delivery, Pall Bearers)

B. Use spiritual gifts to build the body of Christ.

1. Encourage people to learn and use their spiritual gifts to build up the body of Christ. (Pastoral Staff)

C. Accept roles in community ministries and service opportunities.

1. Using First Baptist Church (FBC) Leadership Institute to equip people to accept roles in community ministries and service. (Pastor, Deacons)

D. Serve in places of work and study.

1. Emphasize a ministry of invitation by inviting others to serve with us during First Love and other church outreach programs.
2. Continue to support and expand Life Groups and similar groups throughout our community.

E. Commission people to mission service and train people in Vocational ministry.

1. Encourage individuals to fulfill God's call in ministry and missions.

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GOAL 4

STRONG HOMES

By placing Jesus at the center of our homes, we will be mission outposts in the community. We will be families on mission to reach people for Jesus.

WHAT SUCCESS LOOKS LIKE

Strong homes are those where individuals are invited to follow Christ and serve others. Here Christian marriages are strengthened in the pattern of Jesus, and individuals reach their neighbors in Christian love.

OBJECTIVES

- A. Engage households in family Bible study, mission service, prayer, and other spiritual disciplines together.**
 - 1. Encourage families to develop a family mission project and serve together on activities such as First Love and other events.
 - 2. Offer parenting classes on select Wednesday evenings throughout the year. (Children, Youth, Young Adults)

- B. Care for individuals and families in crises and need.**
 - 1. Establish deacon teams to minister in these areas. (Deacons)
 - 2. Provide GriefShare and DivorceCare programs to those in need.
 - 3. Establish a laity-led ministry of Biblical care and support (similar to a Stephen ministry).

- C. Strengthen marriages.**
 - 1. Help staff a Parent's Night Out. (College)
 - 2. Offer "Fight Night" with Les and Leslie Parrott.

- D. Describe and demonstrate strong homes for our community.**
 - 1. Encourage members to sponsor Florida Baptist Children's Home children on weekends and holidays.
 - 2. Encourage church families to reach out to other families in our community to build intentional relationships.

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GOAL 5

IMPACTED CITY

We will care for the those in need by sheltering children, working for racial harmony, and partnering with other groups to transform Tallahassee through the love of Christ.

WHAT SUCCESS LOOKS LIKE

Through our efforts and in partnership with other churches and organizations, we work for harmonious relationships with people of other races, feed and shelter children in our community, and expand efforts to reach our community .

OBJECTIVES

A. Serve with other churches and organizations.

1. Partner with Second Harvest of the Big Bend in A Full Summer to feed hungry children.
2. Encourage families to serve together in First Love and A Full Summer.
3. Empower volunteer construction teams to respond to requests from the city beyond First Love. (Impacted City)
4. Continue partnerships in Haiti and explore new partnerships in Cuba, India, Brazil, and South Africa. (Strategic Coordinating Committee, Pastoral Staff)
5. Partner with Sabal Palm to provide encouragement and to meet the needs of children and staff through mentoring and volunteering. (Pastoral Staff, Impacted City)

B. Adopt, foster, and shelter children in need.

1. Establish a fund to assist families with adopting children. (Strategic Coordinating Committee)
2. Promote and support work of Florida Baptist Children's Home (FBCH) and other foster parent programs. (Impacted City)
3. Partner with the Big Bend Homeless Coalition/Hope Community through Backpack-A-Palooza to meet the needs of children facing homelessness. (Impacted City)

C. Engage in racial harmony.

1. Participate in Operation Safe Neighborhood. (Impacted City)
2. Participate in The Longest Table initiative in partnership with the city. (Impacted City)
3. Seek opportunities to serve with other ethnically or racially diverse congregations.

D. Increase our ministry with college students and internationals.

1. Encourage internationals to be integrated into the life of the church. (Internationals)
2. Develop ministry to refugees. (Internationals)
3. Assist area churches in setting up similar Internationals Programs. (Internationals)
4. Provide recital and rehearsal space for FAMU and FSU music students and create opportunities for students to play in orchestra. (Music)
5. Partner with FAMU to grow the Baptist Collegiate Ministry (BCM) center on the FAMU campus (College)