

THE VINEVILLE PAGE

Helping us all grasp the big picture of where we are and what our challenges are as we face the future.

Preserving the Past; Creating the Future

Issue # 12



Money is a critical component of making things happen. Inevitably, for plans and dreams to be translated into action, it requires money. That's what church budgets do. Budgets allocate money for literature, all kinds of staff (kitchen, child-care, secretarial, custodial, and ministerial), bulletins, music, utilities, bus and elevator upkeep, repair of facilities, office machinery, postage, outreach materials, publicizing events—all of these are but the tip of the proverbial iceberg.

Vineville Baptist Church has a history of strong giving. On top of million dollar budgets over the past few years, we have also given an extra 1.35 million for a loan, an elevator, and important property needs. Recently two families gave a combined total of \$52,000 to fund a bus which is routinely used for our outreach to Senior Adult retirement centers.

In 2007, those who have given out of such devotion to the work of Christ in Vineville will be challenged to continue at that level. However, there are also a significant number of members who have only marginally contributed who will be asked to help carry the load financially. ***Our 2007 budget is projecting a sizeable increase of 8%. That roughly translates into an increase of \$95,000.***

Staff and leadership are certainly aware of the reasons we cannot fund such a budget. We can point to a history of budget giving which has often been just shy of our normal budget goals. Yet, we believe that there is a reason to risk that such a budget projection is possible. First, all the designated gifts for various important projects indicate that when there is a commitment to a project, people give significantly more. Second, the level of giving to the *Following Christ* fund would almost cover the

difference if people would continue to contribute. Third, there are still a number of members whose level of giving is not what it could be who might discover God's prompting to increase their support. And finally, every budget needs to have some faith element in it. If we budget only on what we can do, we never take the kinds of risks that makes our partnership with God in the work of his kingdom apparent. *Faith* and *Risk* go hand in hand.

Preserving the Past

[Increases the overall budget by almost \$40,000]

One significant reason for the budget increase in 2007 is to *service a loan* which we need to acquire in order to take care of important property needs. We have known for more than four years now that we have serious property issues. We have addressed a number of those needs over the past four years and when we complete the next phase of repairs, we will be over the largest hurdle. After these property items are addressed, there should be nearly a 40% decrease in future property costs and substantial savings on our utility bills. These are the major projects:

- Water damage caused by cracks and porous sandstone have caused recurring cosmetic damage to walls and structural damage to the substructure in the Landrum and Sammons building for years. Sashes and sills, plaster repair, water-proofing of outside walls, and replacing certain windows will preserve our buildings and cut down on energy costs. [Cost \$300,000+]
- Old *High-Volume Air-Conditioning Units* have been inefficient and hiked up our utility bills. [Costs \$160,000]

- Major rewiring work for Sammons and Landrum. [Cost \$85,000].
- Restroom facilities need to be reworked and made Handicap Accessible in the first floor of Moore and the Activities Building. [Cost \$80,000].

- A new line item for Women's Ministry is funded [\$4,500].

Our Strategic Planning process (which began early in 2006) underscored a number of issues which are reflected in this budget: old buildings, the need for advertising, a Minister to Students, more support for Children's ministry, women's ministry, and missions. Over the past four years we have made many good decisions which have opened new opportunities for us as well as generated the good-will of our members. This budget seriously addresses many of our most pressing needs and opportunities and will lay the foundation for future progress.

These budget projections summon our greatest fidelity and generosity. I hope you will prayerfully consider this budget and see how you help us meet all these needs.

In this budget is factored in all the request for assistance to ministries. You should not hear any church-wide

extra requests for funding of special projects since everything is included in the budget.

Creating the Future

The 2007 budget, however, not only helps us to care for the remarkable facilities entrusted to us, it also has strategic elements in it designed to help us attract visitors, reach the community, and provide more funds for ministry and missions.

- A sizeable increase is projected for advertising [Increasing the present line item by \$27,000].
- Weekday Preschool is increased by \$9,500 to cover actual expenses.
- Macon Baptist Association percentage increased to 2% [increase of \$8,660].
- Dressing up our front parking lot with lights, curb-cuts, ornamental trees [\$45,000—this amount will be included in the loan].
- Our missions ministry line item was increased [by \$9,000].

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