

DISCIPLESHIP GROUPS



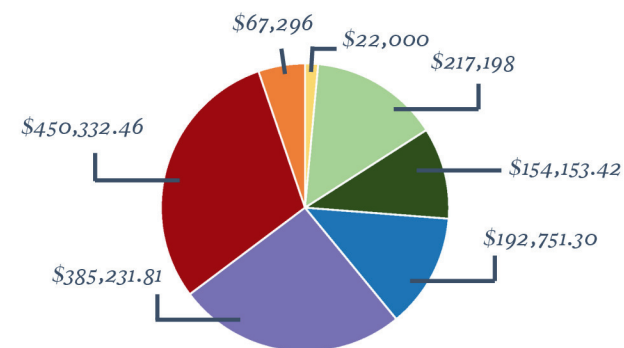
Our church places a high value on discipleship. Every Sunday, 17 Adult Sunday School classes meet to study the scriptures, learn more about our faith, and discuss how we can fulfill Jesus' Great Commission to make disciples for Christ for the transformation of the world. Each class has a different style and approach, but they all seek to grow closer to God and to one another. These adult classes not only help us all to deepen our walk with Christ, but they also provide the opportunity for lifelong friendship and support in the hills and valleys of life.

Throughout the week, more discipleship groups meet for study, prayer, and fellowship. Each Wednesday evening, as a part of FaithBreak, multiple classes meet to grow their faith and understanding of the call to discipleship. Several other groups meet throughout the week, all of them focused on helping us deepen our relationship with God and each other!

When our Finance Committee creates a budget for the new year, they are acutely aware that every dollar that is given to our church represents a sacrificial gift from a devoted follower of Jesus Christ. Our church makes every effort to spend wisely and make sure our budget supports our stated mission of Attracting people to Christ, Building committed disciples, and Commissioning them for service to the world.

It takes a financial commitment to provide salaries for our staff, keep our large facility in good shape and pay for improvements, repairs, and utilities, fund ministries for children, youth, and adults, pay down our debt, and fund missions on a local, statewide, national and international scale. It is ONLY possible because faithful members and friends generously and sacrificially give to our budget.

- CLERGY
- CHILDREN'S MINISTRY
- YOUTH MINISTRY
- ADULT MINISTRY
- DEBT RETIREMENT
- BUILDING MAINTENANCE
- MISSIONS



2024 BUDGET BREAKDOWN

ABUNDANTLY BLESSED!

In **II Corinthians 9:8**, Paul writes **“And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.”** God has blessed me in so many ways – a wonderful partner in Jeanine, three great adult children and their spouses, five beautiful grandchildren, and an amazing church family!

God has also blessed our congregation in so many ways! For 121 years, God has done great things here on the corner of College and Main! As Broken Arrow's first church, we have seen God at work in worship services, children and youth ministries, adult Sunday School classes and small groups and so much more. We have supported missions in local programs like Broken Arrow Neighbors, Restore Hope, Meals on Wheels; outreach ministries to impoverished veterans, lonely senior citizens and children with no one with whom to share Christmas joy.

We have sent youth mission teams all over the country every summer, adult teams to Mexico, Alaska, Poland, China and many other far flung locations. We have hosted hundreds of children every year at VBS and provided an amazing Pre-School for our community.

God continues to pour out his blessings on our church! What can we do in response? In the verse right before the one above, Paul says this:

II Corinthians 9:7: Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

Stewardship – giving – is a response to God's goodness and blessings. We don't give to earn God's love – His love is freely given. We give back to God because we are thankful. We give back to God because we want to be a part of what he is doing in our world. We give back to God because we know that without churches like ours, our community and our world would be a far darker place. We give because we have a loving relationship with Jesus, and we want girls and boys and women and men to have a loving relationship with him, too.

This little brochure is a reminder of just how big an impact our congregation has in our community and in our world. Please take time to soak it in, thank God for his blessings, and pray about how you can **“give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.”**



Grace & Peace
Senior Pastor

Larry Vance



What is the most precious resource of a healthy church? What gives a church the best chance for a great future? The answer is simple: children! Our Children's Ministry, led by Karen Lawless, Jenny Brown and Paige Gaither, ministers to children and their families from infancy through 5th grade with unconditional love. Every Sunday morning, our Children's Ministry provides childcare for all three services, with Sunday school programming during the middle and last service, along with a Children's Church (Kids Praise) experience for our younger elementary students. During Faithbreak on Wednesdays, programming is planned for Pre-K and elementary children, along with childcare. Monthly Kids Connect events are planned so that families can connect and enjoy time together. Special events are planned throughout the year, including a variety of camps. For the past few years, First Kids has expanded their Easter Egg Hunt to be a neighborhood Eggstravaganza. Our VBS continues to grow each year, with an amazing enrollment of 434 this past summer and over 130 youth and adult volunteers.

A VIBRANT CHILDREN'S MINISTRY IS VITAL TO ATTRACTING AND MINISTERING TO YOUNG FAMILIES AND ENSURING A BRIGHT FUTURE FOR OUR CONGREGATION!



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For most of us, our teenage years were critical in forming our personalities, goals, dreams, and priorities for the rest of our lives. We made decisions about what kind of friends we wanted to associate with going forward. We began to think about careers and long term goals. For many of us, we made important and life changing spiritual decisions that would shape the rest of our lives. The majority of people who give their lives to Jesus Christ do so in their teenage years.

Our student ministry is led by Andrew Varvel and Emma Rosencutter. Andrew and Emma, along with a great team of adult leaders, guide our teenagers through the challenges of the most formative years of life.

Through Wednesday evening United Student worship (with around 70-80 students worshipping and meeting in small groups), Bible studies, camps (over 70 students attended our summer camps, Dayspring and Disciple), mission trips (66 students and leaders went to Las Animas, CO), Confirmation classes, and so much more. Our teenagers continue grow in their faith and leadership skills!

Each year, students have given their lives to Christ at one of our camps or mission trips. These life-changing decisions have an eternal impact on their lives and into eternity. Youth ministry is challenging – and expensive.



WILL YOU MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN THE LIVES OF OUR STUDENTS BY CONTINUING TO SUPPORT OUR CHURCH WITH FAITHFUL STEWARDSHIP?



 @UNITEDBA  @UNITED.BA  FIRSTCHURCHBA.ORG/STUDENTS

COLLEGE AGE

  @112COLLEGEAGEMINISTRIES
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When is the most common time for people to “drift away” from church and faith? If you guessed “the college-age years,” you are correct. Far too many young adults grow up going to a church with a great youth ministry but then find themselves navigating the next phase of life without the church's support. That is why our church's College Age Ministry is so important.

Our College Age Ministry helps keep this vital generation connected to faith and to our church. Through mission trips, retreats, lock-ins, float trips, care packages during finals and more, college-age students continue to grow in their faith and serve as disciples.



MUSIC MINISTRY

Psalm 96:1-2 “Sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth. Sing to the Lord, praise his name; proclaim his salvation day after day.”

We are blessed to have wonderful music in all three of our worship services, thanks to great staff leadership and talented volunteers.

Mark Frie leads our Celebration Choir. They provide great anthems that lift our hearts and stir our souls. Our choir, accompanied by our wonderful pianist, Jeanine Magnuson, is filled with faithful singers who usher us into the presence of our God. Our Traditional Worship services are also blessed by our organist, Dawn Frederick, along with David Hunt, our director for the Chancel Ringers and the Church Orchestra. Our Breath of Heaven liturgical dancers, led by Adrienne Teague, bless both our traditional and modern worship experiences.

Our modern service is led by our amazing Praise Team full of talented and dedicated musicians. The Praise and Worship of our Modern Service allows our congregation to feel the power of God’s Holy Spirit as we worship together.

*YOUR SUPPORT ALLOWS US TO HAVE WONDERFUL MUSIC LEADERSHIP –
WILL YOU HELP US TO CONTINUE TO BLESS PEOPLE WITH THE GIFT OF MUSIC?*



MISSIONS & OUTREACH

Jesus calls his church to not only care for one another, but to reach out to those outside the church who face challenges that weigh down body and spirit. We are continually reaching out to bless God’s children who struggle for the necessities of life.

We have ongoing partnerships and offer monthly financial support to local organizations like Broken Arrow Neighbors and Meals on Wheels. We participate in ministries to homeless individuals through Tulsa Night Life and Restore Hope.

Our Missions Committee continues to sponsor ministries like our Angel Tree at Christmas, Broken Arrow Neighbor food drives, “Undie Sunday” for homeless veterans, “Operation Christmas Child” for children who otherwise would never receive a Christmas present or hear the Christmas story. We send mission teams to do God’s work around the country and beyond our borders – annual mission trips with our Student Ministry, College Age Ministry and Mexico Mission Teams. We believe loving Jesus means reaching out to the least, the last, and the lost.

*HEALTHY CHURCHES LOOK BEYOND THEMSELVES TO HELP THOSE IN
NEED. YOUR SUPPORT OF OUR BUDGET ALLOWS US TO DO JUST THAT!*

MEN'S MINISTRY

Our Men's Ministry continues to serve our church in multiple ways! Our "Gravy Brigade" not only cooks for our monthly men's breakfast, they also cook for special occasions like our Fourth of July indoor picnic, our Christmas brunch, and more. Many of our men help widows and others who need help with lawn care or other pressing needs. Many of our men help keep our church's lawn and flower beds in great shape. Our men are always ready to help the church fulfill its mission and support our members and friends.



WOMEN'S MINISTRY

All of the parts of our Women's Ministry are designed to help women of every generation grow in their faith and serve their Lord and His church.

Our FMW (First Methodist Women) continues the traditions of programming for spiritual growth and supporting local and worldwide missions. The annual Heart of the Crafter raises funds for missions along with other outreach activities. This year's annual Tea was a great hit, with over 70 women of all generations gathering to hear Channel 6 news personality LeAnne Taylor share a great message on Breast Cancer prevention. Our FMW provides meals for families after funerals and memorial services to show love and support. Our Freezer Friends ministry also provides meals for families who are sick, hospitalized or grieving.

Other women's activities include Girlfriends Connect book studies, Young Women's Bible studies, Wednesday FaithBreak women's classes, and our annual Women's Retreat.

All of our women's ministries are committed to helping women deepen their walk with Christ.



Our Exercise Class meets three times a week to promote a healthy body and spirit! This great ministry, led by Gerry Dunbar and a great team of volunteers, gives senior adults and others a great reason to start their day in a loving and healthy environment! Members of our church and members of our community enjoy this great ministry, supported by all of our gifts and prayers!

