



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
SHREVEPORT



SMALL SEEDS
MOVE MOUNTAINS

ANNUAL REPORT 2025

PARABLE OF THE MUSTARD SEED

Truly I tell you, if you have faith
as small as a mustard seed,
you can say to this mountain, 'Move'

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Dear Friends in Christ,

Although I officially began serving as your Transitional Senior Pastor and Head of Staff in November of 2025, there are moments when it feels as though I have been here much longer. From my first days among you, I have been met with warmth, encouragement, generosity of spirit, and a genuine openness from leaders and members alike. For that, I am deeply grateful.

Transition seasons can feel uncertain, but they are also holy ground. In these months together, I have had the privilege of coming alongside your session, staff, and ministry leaders—listening carefully, asking good questions, tending to what is visible, and sometimes digging a little below the surface. That is the quiet but important work of an interim season: helping a congregation take stock of who it is, where it has been, and what it needs in order to be ready for what comes next.

I often think of this season in gardening terms. Before anything new can be planted, the soil has to be prepared. Old roots need to be loosened, weeds pulled, nutrients restored, and space made for healthy growth. Much of my ministry among you is that kind of work—tilling the soil, strengthening systems, clarifying purpose, and nurturing trust—so that when God calls your next pastor, the ground will be ready and the ministry of this church can thrive and bear fruit.

This annual report reflects a congregation that is very much alive: faithful in worship, generous in outreach, committed to learning, and deeply rooted in this community. You have much to celebrate, and you also have important work ahead as you prepare to welcome new pastoral leadership. I am honored to walk with you in this in-between time, confident that God is already at work preparing what comes next.

Thank you for the grace you have shown me, for your faithfulness to one another, and for your trust as we continue this important work together.

With gratitude and hope,

The Rev. Brent Anderson
Transitional Senior Pastor / Head of Staff

STRATEGIC PLAN

Our Mission:

To love God with our heart, soul, mind, and strength.
To love our neighbor as ourselves.

Our Vision:

We seek to know the Word of God in Christ with great depth and to foster deeper relationships within our congregation. Through worship, discovery, and outreach, we follow the encouragement of the Holy Spirit to share our lives in faithful service and hospitality.

Our Values:

ROOTED/ in our worship, in the Reformed tradition, and in our community;

DISCOVERY/ we are not content with easy answers, but eager to know God;

GENEROSITY/ we give as an expression of the giving God we serve;

INTERGENERATIONAL MINISTRY/ every person, no matter their age, is welcome to participate in the mission of God through this congregation;

LOVE/ we reflect God's grace in our love for one another.

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FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

The Staff

Rev. Brent Anderson Interim Senior Pastor Head of Staff

Mr. Jacob Allen Dickson, Pastoral Care Coordinator

Dr. Hollice Smith Watson, Organist/Director of Music

Mrs. Lynace P. Veit, Director of Children and Family Ministries

Mrs. Susan W. Abney, Director of Communications

Mrs. Dakota Dunn, Youth Director

Mrs. Ginger Garfield, Church Administrator

Ms. Tanna McAteer, Church Secretary

Mrs. Lona L. Lockard, Staff Secretary

Mr. Jeff A. McKenzie, Maintenance Coordinator

Mrs. Kathryn J. Booth, Director of First Presbyterian Day School

Mrs. Sheri Rowell, Kitchen Coordinator

Mr. Chester Johnson, Housekeeping

Nominating Committee For Class 2028

Robin Jones (Moderator), David Dethloff, Christy Frierson, Robert Folsom, Calvin Head, Kelly Hodgson, John Hoffman, Gloria McGhee, and Piper Moritz

A special thanks to Nominating Committee Class 2028 for their service.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

The Session Ministry Moderators 2025

Piper Moritz	Adult Education Ministry
April Carberry	Children's Ministry
Mary Teekell	Church Administration
Calvin Head	Staff Committee
Gene Hodgson	Church Facilities
Karen Yoder Day	Congregational Life
Anne Jenkins	Welcome Ministry
Amy Bowman	Outreach Ministry
Simone Hennessee	Stewardship Ministry
Brandy B. Williams	Worship Ministry
Brett McCulloch	Youth Ministry

For a full listing of the activities for 2025 and to learn how you can be a part of them, please see our website (www.fpcshreveport.com), contact the church office or contact the moderator of the ministry.

Pastor Nominating Committee

John Frierson Jr. (Moderator), April Carberry, Holly Guy, Kelly Hodgson, Jay Meyers, Carranza Pryor, and Craig Springmeyer

Special prayers to Pastor Nominating Committee for their service.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

The Session

Class of 2025

Amy Bowman

April Carberry

Karen Yoder Day

Robin Jones

Hannah Lawrence

Brett McCulloch

Carranza Pryor

Brandy Williams

Class of 2026

John Frierson Jr.

Calvin Head

Simone Hennessee

Gene Hodgson

Anne Jenkins

Piper Moritz

Carole Mullen

Jeff Overdyke

Class of 2027

Marion Avery

Owen Buhler

Delbert Chumley Jr.

Paul Dickson Sr.

Charles Grubb

Charlotte Sonnenfeld

Miles Sugar

Mary Teekell

Clerk of Session 2025 - Robin Jones

Youth Elder 2025 - Frances Jenkins

TRANSITION COMMITTEE 2025

Anna Gnann (Moderator) , Betty Henderson, Brenda Nimes,
Jeff Overdyke, and Owen Rigby

Special prayers to Transition Committee for their service.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

The Board of Deacons

Class of 2025

Dick Bush

Mary Bush

Paula Frierson

Susan Lavergne

Joan Rigby

Elizabeth Sias

Joe Sias

Martha Sugar

Class of 2026

Brian Carberry

Christy Frierson

Hillary Grantham

Marion Kacos

Barbara Meyers

Pam Naifeh

Brenda Nims

Carol Pabst

Class of 2027

Amber Bradley

Rebecca Despot

John Hoffman

Barbara Mitchell

Gay Stacy

Elizabeth Stephens

Laura Williamson

Mary Bush (Moderator of Deacons 2025)

The Board of Trustees

Class of 2025

Chris Frierson

Shelby Guilbert

Craig Springmeyer (President)

Class of 2026

Julie Blewer

Stephen Roberts

Ed Ytsma

Class of 2027

David Dethloff

Robert Folsom

Bill Sample

ADULT EDUCATION MINISTRY

Adult Education Ministry 2025 Annual Report The 2025 year was marked by both transition and continuity in the Adult Education Ministry. In early summer, the departure of Pastor/Head of Staff Reverend Dr. Will Scott led to necessary adjustments, but the committee members were able to combine their experience and knowledge to continue the important work of the Adult Ministry. Thanks to their efforts, we remained steadfast in our commitment to provide nourishment to the hearts, minds, and souls of both our congregation and the larger Shreveport area.

There were three active adult Sunday School classes in 2025: the Seekers, the Pathfinders, and the combined Sojourners/Young Adults. For the spring and fall semesters, each class organized their own curriculum based on the varied interests of their class members. The Seekers and Pathfinders are blessed to have multiple class members who are also talented teachers. In addition, their curricula were supplemented with video presentations by the Reverend Adam Hamilton and Professor Amy Jill Levine. The Sojourners/Young Adults enjoyed a book study of Will Willimon's *Falling Upward* by Rev. Dr. Will Scott as well as other video presentations. In addition, members of the Seekers class visited to present an Amy Jill Levine series. Throughout the year, the Adult Ministry meetings were characterized by a collaborative spirit as representatives from each class shared ideas and suggestions with one another.

During the summer, the adult classes enjoyed intergenerational gatherings in the month of June with the theme of "Re-Creation," followed by a break for the month of July. In August, a few special Sunday School sessions were put together for all adult classes in the gym: Twin Blends Photography presented on the past and present of the area surrounding the church building; and Toni Goodin, Executive Director of the Bridge, presented information and updates about this new facility that is supported by our church.

In addition to our regular Sunday schedule, we facilitated two guest lecturer events for the church in 2025. In March, the Winter Lecture Series engaged Dr. David Jensen of Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary to discuss "Wrestling With Our Spiritual Ancestors: Do Old Voices Offer Something New?"

continued

ADULT EDUCATION MINISTRY

In September, Dr. Donghyun Jeong of Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary joined us to celebrate Theological Education Sunday with a presentation on “Paul and the Scillitan Martyrs.” Both events were well received, and we are grateful for the commitment of Austin Seminary to providing such unique and informative opportunities for our congregation.

University of FPC had a remarkable year under the banner theme of “Music.” The committee used lectures, performances, and even films to engage with the congregation and larger community over the course of the year. Two standout events include world renowned drummer Bryan Blade and virtuoso pianist Dr. Astrid Morales Torres, both of whom performed at the church to large audiences. The Presbyterian Book Club operated under the umbrella of University and provided four lectures in 2025. Selected book titles ranged from *James* to *Gilead* with superb leaders from both the church and community. The University committee’s leadership is in transition for 2026, with planning already underway for another year of education and fellowship.

Finally, the Day Trippers continued to organize creative and unique outings for adults to enjoy. The highlight experience this year was a tour of Melrose Plantation in Natchitoches, followed by lunch at Lasyone’s. The events of 2025 may have come to a conclusion, but planning for 2026 continues apace. The members of Adult Ministry are thrilled to continue to explore ways to engage with the congregation and community through our myriad classes and special events.

Respectfully Submitted,

Piper Moritz Moderator Adult Ministry of First Presbyterian Shreveport

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Members: April Carberry (Moderator), Anna Gnann, Brantley Hodges, Kristen Ogden, Al Ogden, Owen Buhler, Elaine Dickson, Martha Sugar, Lynace Veit (Staff)

Completed Projects:

- Planned and organized Sunday School for PreK – 5th Grade
- Scheduled childcare for Sunday mornings, meetings, FPC University, and other church events.
- Planned monthly Club 345 gatherings for 3rd-5th graders.
- Encouraged children to serve in worship as acolytes, assist in baptisms, come forward for the Time with Children, participate in special worship services, hand out bulletins, bring the cup and plate forward on Communion Sundays, and by providing worship bags, Bible storybooks, and children's Bibles for all children to use during worship.
- Organized Children's Sabbath modeled after Worship Center where 3rd-5th graders led worship, the Children's Choir sang, and worship center stories were shared.
- Planned an All-Ages Sunday School for the month of June entitled *Re-Creation*.
- Collaborated with other local Presbyterian Churches for Vacation Bible School – *At the Table*.
- Planned, hosted, and assisted in events with the congregation such as the Fall Festival, Easter Egg Hunt/Butterfly Release, and the Christmas Pageant.
- Hosted a two-day Worship Center training in September for all current and new Worship Center volunteers. Led by *Wonder and Worship*.
- Held several Child and Youth Protection Policy trainings.
- Worked with Youth ministry on a presentation about Children/Youth mental health geared toward parents.

continued

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

- Recruited volunteers for all areas of Children's Ministry.
- Held a clean-up day in the CE Building.
- Connected with families and children in worship, Sunday School, and fellowship events.
- Brainstormed ways to live into intergenerational ministry as guided by the strategic plan.

Projects Still Underway:

- Continuing to discuss ways to be an intergenerational church.
- Continuing to plan an all-church retreat for October 16-18, 2026.

Respectively Submitted by,
April Carberry, Moderator

Lynace Veit, Pastor for Children and Family Ministries

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN DAY SCHOOL



OUR PROGRAM

First Presbyterian Day School (FPDS) is an outreach ministry of the First Presbyterian Church of Shreveport, La. First Presbyterian Day School is governed by the Church through the Preschool Advisory Committee, a subcommittee of the Children's Ministry of the Session of First Presbyterian Church. The Advisory Committee is made up of members of First Presbyterian Church, Preschool Director, Children's Ministry Moderator and Day School parents.

2025 OVERVIEW

- First Presbyterian Day School (FPDS) has been an integral part of the First Presbyterian Church ministry for over fifty years.
- FPDS plays a meaningful role in interpreting the mission of the Church in the community.
- FPDS families have become members of the Church through their participation in the Day School.
- FPDS currently serves 98 children and employs 28 on staff with several subs. The program operates Mondays – Thursdays from the end of August through mid May. Ages range from 3 months to 5 years and program hours are 8:30-2:00 pm.

continued

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN DAY SCHOOL



- FPDS currently maintains 11% of enrollment that are members of First Presbyterian Church or affiliates.
- The staff of FPDS enhances the program with many years of teaching experience and strong educational backgrounds. They are trained in child development and regularly receive in-service training and CPR. The staff at FPDS appreciates the differences in children and are committed to helping each child succeed, thus creating a community within the classroom that becomes a second family to the children. The high retention rate and length of service of the FPDS staff have a strong impact on the quality of the program.
- Tuition paid by families covers the direct cost of the program operation (staff wages, supplies, etc.).
- FPDS families come from many different faiths and from wide economic and diverse cultural backgrounds.
- Scholarships support the mission for a diverse population of children. Historically, financial scholarships have been available to registered children and their families who meet stated criteria.
- In 2025, staff scholarships along with need-based scholarships awarded by the FPDS Advisory Board totaled approximately \$24,300.
- Since it's founding, thousands of children from the community have enrolled in the Day School and numerous families have been touched by the experience. Annual enrollment is maintained and waiting lists are available in each age group.

continued

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN DAY SCHOOL



- FPDS children, staff, and families participate in a variety of activities every year. Some of these include:
 - Parent Orientation
 - Weekly Children's Chapel
 - Children's Worship Center for K4
 - Story time in the FPC Library
 - Hug cards for area nursing homes
 - Book Fair & Grandparent's Day
 - Collecting canned goods for the Food Bank
 - Halloween parade and trick or treating w/ FPC Church Staff
 - Making "Boo Bags" for Providence House children
 - Advent Giving Tree benefitting Basic Necessities Diaper Bank
 - Making Christmas cards for FPC nursing home residents
 - Cocoa with Santa Christmas Celebration
 - Christmas Chapel
 - Staff Christmas Luncheon sponsored by the parents and the Advisory Board
 - Making Valentines for the VA Hospital
 - FPDS Annual Mardi Gras Parade
 - Celebrating Muffins with Mommy
 - Annual FPC/FPDS Family Playground Picnic
 - Teacher Appreciation Week
 - School wide Easter Egg hunts
 - Celebrating Donuts with Daddy
 - K4 Celebration with Friends and Family

CHURCH ADMINISTRATION

Per the Manual of Operations of First Presbyterian Church of Shreveport, the Administration Ministry “oversees the broad administration of the church, which includes its daily operation and those support services which are necessary in the life of the church.” The Administration Ministry is responsible for: an annual review of insurance coverage, an annual internal audit, participates on committees, including Memorial Funds and Memorial Gardens, reviews Administration Ministry expenses, coordinates the annual selection of the Nominating Committee. The Staff Committee is a sub-committee of the Administration Ministry and is responsible for staff support and issues and annual staff evaluations.

MEMBERS: Calvin Head (Moderator), Mary Teekell (Chair of Staff Committee), Julie Blewer, David Dethloff, Owen Rigby

COMPLETED PROJECTS:

- Worked with Youth Ministry to search for a youth director with the Center for Youth Ministry Training and interviewed candidates.
- Worked through the exit process for Will Scott.
- Recruited members for the Church Nominating Committee.
- Supported the church staff in the absence of a Head of Staff.
- Worked through the exit process for Drew McFayden.
- Worked to implement changes to Lynace Veit’s role resulting from her ordination.
- Worked to coordinated activities around various staff leaves
- At the direction of the Session, identified and recommend members to serve on an Interim Team to search for and recommend to the Session a candidate to serve as bridge Interim Pastor/HOS.
- Supported the Interim Team during their activities.

continued

CHURCH ADMINISTRATION

- Worked with the Presbytery to determine how to correctly move forward with the formation of a Pastor/Head of Staff search by electing a PNC.
- Worked with the PNC to select a consulting group to help navigate the search for a new Senior Pastor/Head of Staff.
- Reviewed church insurance contract.
- Reinstated staff appreciation lunches.

CHURCH FACILITIES MINISTRY

Our beautiful old building is getting older. 2025 marked the 100th anniversary of First Pres relocating from its downtown location to our new building here on Jordan St. We are also coming up on 14 years since our most recent church remodel was completed in 2012. Last year our focus was on stopping water intrusion from roofs and brick parapet walls, painting of exterior woodwork and handrails, repairing and preservation of our stained glass windows and ongoing repairs/maintenance of our mechanical systems. Here are some of the activities the Facilities Ministry was involved in during 2025:

December 2025

- ✓ Exterior masonry repair/ waterproofing 80% completed
- ✓ Roof leaks repaired gym (gun shots)

continued

CHURCH FACILITIES MINISTRY

November 2025

- ✓ Facilities Meeting Nov. 19
- ✓ Work began on exterior masonry waterproofing/ repair
- ✓ Obtained estimates for repair of leaking stained glass windows
- ✓ Fall mulch installed flower beds
- ✓ Church Work Day

Scope of Work included:

Scrape/ sanding and repainting of all metal handrails in rear parking lot areas

Securing faux ivy on Day School east fence

Trimming bushes in Memorial Garden

Organizing Library

October 2025

- ✓ Facilities Meeting Oct. 15
- ✓ Piano removed from youth loft
- ✓ Storm-damaged tree in Legacy Green removed, stump ground down

September 2025

- ✓ Facilities Meeting Sept. 24
- ✓ Found fabricator for metal roof cover at light well (Memorial Garden)
- ✓ Hydraulic fluid from elevator picked up
- ✓ Youth Loft 3rd floor – deep clean of carpet and furniture
- ✓ HVAC repair (choir room unit)

continued

CHURCH FACILITIES MINISTRY

August 2025

- ✓ Facilities Meeting Aug. 20
- ✓ Benches in Memorial Garden were removed, restored & then re-install by Eric Gnann
- ✓ Received estimate for repair & waterproofing of brick parapet walls at Sanctuary & Chapel
- ✓ Prepared drawings for metal covering over leaking light well in Memorial Garden
- ✓ Barbara Mitchell led walk-thru of kitchen regarding possible remodel/upgrades
- ✓ Water booster pump replaced

June 2025

- ✓ Facilities Meeting June 18
- ✓ HVAC repairs continued (Music suite, chapel, Parlor, Sanctuary)
- ✓ Fire suppression system repairs CE Building
- ✓ Wi-Fi repaired
- ✓ Elevators repaired in Main Bldg. & CE Building
- ✓ Obtained estimate for exterior façade lighting on Jordan St. side of Sanctuary

April 2025

- ✓ Facilities Meeting April 23
- ✓ HVAC repairs- Chapel, Parlor units
- ✓ Trees trimmed Day School playground
- ✓ New icemaker in kitchen installed

continued

CHURCH FACILITIES MINISTRY

March 2025

- ✓ Facilities Meeting March 20
- ✓ Met with John Watts from Mech. Concepts to discuss service contract
- ✓ Exterior church lighting replaced with Led; made sure all are working
- ✓ Tankless water heater in Bride's room replaced
- ✓ Courtyard door repaired

February 2025

- ✓ Facilities Meeting Feb. 20
- ✓ Copper gutters replaced Jordan St. side of Day School
- ✓ Church sign updated & replaced corner of Line & Jordan St.
- ✓ Exterior painting of wood windows and trim completed
- ✓ Outlet added in Vault to allow for dehumidifier
- ✓ Obtaining estimates for painting interior 1st floor Day School

January 2025

- ✓ Facilities Meeting Jan. 16
- ✓ HVAC repairs required – roof top units
- ✓ Water cooler repaired, gathering area

Facility Ministry Members 2025:

Gene Hodgson	Grant Summers
Ginger Garfield	Bill Sample
Rob Ajluni	Barbara Mitchell
Dick Bush	Rick Laborde
Eric Gnann	Charles Grubb

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

MEMBERS: Karen Yoder Day (Moderator), Mary Bush, Lynda Griffey, Lorraine Guice, Susan Lavergne, Sheri Rowell, Ann Morell, & Carol Ytsma

2025 MONTHLY EVENTS:

- **FEBRUARY:** Mardi Gras themed Congregational Lunch following Worship-Gumbo & King Cake
- **APRIL:** Easter Morning Breakfast for Children's Ministry
- **JUNE/JULY:** Ice Cream Social-Hot Dogs & Homemade Ice Cream
Will Scott Farewell Reception
Drew McFayden Farewell Reception
- **AUGUST:** Super Start Up Sunday Pot Luck Lunch
- **NOVEMBER:** Fall Festival- Hot Potato Bar with chicken finger
Reception for Brent Anderson
- **DECEMBER:** Hot Chocolate Bar following Children's Christmas Pageant

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE MINISTRY is a support group to other ministries wherever we are needed as well executing the Church's Congregational gatherings. A big achievement this year for our ministry is the completion of the downstairs closet remodel as well as the addition of fresh linens and items to use for celebration. We are hopeful to continue to clean out, update and organize our kitchen. We would like to purchase a few items including glass bowls as well as a few other utensils in the coming year.

Congregational Life continued to make efforts to support and use our neighborhood vendors when church members were not available to assist in needs in particular Julie Anne's and Brookshires. Jeff McKenzie, Sexton, is always close by to provide help and support during all of our events. Sheri Rowell, our hospitality coordinator is an invaluable member of our team coordinating and handling all kitchen grocery needs. We are extremely grateful for both of their hard work.

OUTREACH MINISTRY

Members: Betty Henderson, Nancy Bushnell-Harper, Martha Sugar, Mary and Dick Bush, Brenda Nims, Amy Bowman, Shelby Guilbert, Linda Blanchard, Jeff Overdyke, Carol Pabst, and Deb Baragona.

2025 Meeting Dates: Outreach met monthly, discussing opportunities for using designed funds to support programming in our community and beyond.

Opportunities we supported in 2025:

Reading glasses/toothbrushes for Kenyan Mission Trip

Scholarships to nine seminary students

Souper Bowl Collection – Youth

Blood Drive

Haiti support in Cherident continued. School and feeding program.

Supported Medical Students with scholarships who traveled with the Harpers to Kenya for the Medical Mission Trip.

Provided funds for the medication on the Kenyan trip.

Highland Blessing Dinner – Encouraging our members to enjoy this time of fellowship with our Highland Community. (once a month)

Tutoring program at Creswell Elementary and Lighthouse program.

Rise Against Hunger – World Feeding program. Intergenerational event where members packed 10,000 meals.

Mission Marketplace

Easter Offering given to the Trinity Hope Feeding program in Cherident, Haiti.

Support of Bob Gamble, This Child Here, with housing, meal hosting and meetings as he traveled through our city.

Provided funds to make hygiene packs for Basic Necessities.

Funded 10 campers to attend the Community Renewal International Camp.

Funds provided to help the Women's Health Program of the MLK Clinic.

OUTREACH MINISTRY

Supported Ronald McDonald House with \$30,000.

Supported the McDade House capital campaign, \$250,000.

Donated to the Highland Center elevator fund, \$200,000.

Introduced the Senior Health Initiative.

Supported the building fund for Alto Presbyterian Church.

Additional Projects We Budgeted To Give Support:

Ferncliff Camp and Conference Center

Highland Ministries

Highland Blessing Dinner

Martin Luther King Health Center

Northwest Louisiana Food Bank

Providence House

Volunteers for Youth Justice

Hope Connections

Mission Marketplace

Austin Seminary

Noel Food Pantry

Haiti Partnership

St. Luke's Medical Ministry

Mo-Ranch

International Outreach

Hunger Relief

Montreat Conference Center

Bridges Alzheimer's Resource Center

Future: This is an active ministry involved with encouraging the Congregation to "get involved" not only monetarily but with their time. There are many programs that will continue and many exciting future opportunities for our church.

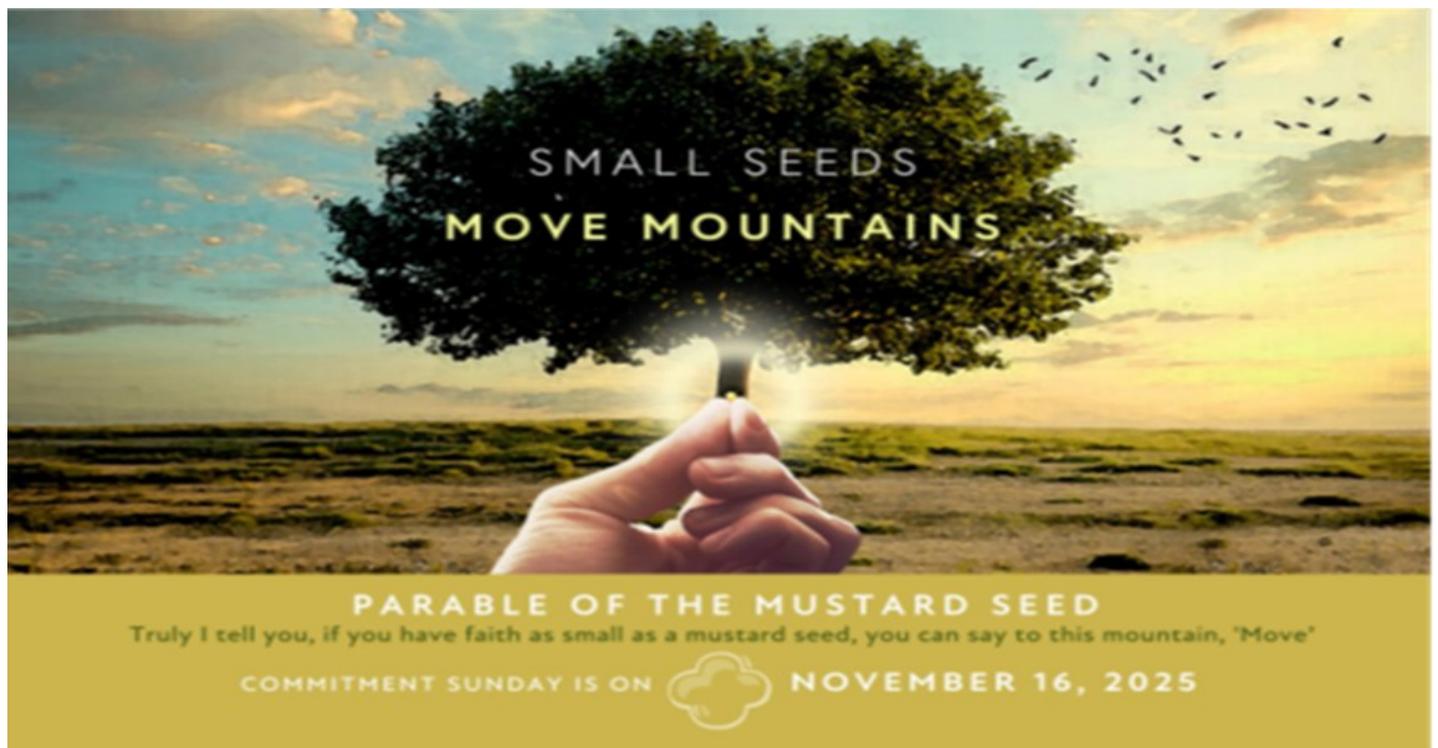
STEWARDSHIP MINISTRY

The purpose of the Finance and Stewardship Ministry is to provide faithful oversight of the financial resources of First Presbyterian Church. The ministry monitors the church's financial health, leads planning for the annual stewardship and fundraising efforts, and assists in the development of the annual operating budget in support of the church's mission and ministry.

Committee Members: Simone Hennessee-Moderator, Carranza Pryor, Susan Lavergne, Adrienne Frierson, Patti Shelton, Delbert Chumley

Staff Leadership: Ginger Garfield-Church Administrator/Finance, Susan Abney -Communications Director.

Theme and Scripture for the 2025 Stewardship Campaign.



STEWARDSHIP MINISTRY

The Stewardship Committee unanimously selected “Small Seeds Move Mountains,” centered on mustard-seed faith (Matthew 13:31–32; Mark 4:30–32; Luke 13:18–19; Matthew 17:20b–21), as the 2025 stewardship theme and approved the accompanying tree logo. The committee met formally five times (and informally as needed), agreed to use two pledge cards tailored to prior pledgers and non-pledgers, and coordinated a comprehensive communications plan including Moments for Mission, themed bulletin content, e-link articles, and a tri-fold brochure mailed twice with the stewardship letter written by Carranza. Stewardship efforts culminated on Commitment Sunday, November 16, 2025, with Lynace preaching and a focused series of Moments for Mission throughout September–November highlighting ministries and impact. Following Commitment Sunday, committee members made thank-you calls, sent reminder letters to prior pledgers, and received a pledge analysis from Ginger in early January.

Initial Stewardship Campaign Results.

- A total of 129 letters mailed to families with previous pledges; 113 pledge were received.
- Sent 297 letters to former non-pledgers; gained five new pledges.
- Out of 387 families contacted, 118 submitted pledges, representing a 30% response rate. *
- Out of 387 families contacted, 269 (70%) did not pledge.
- ***The 118 pledges received totaled \$1,061,855 towards our FPC 2026 budget.***

Ages 10 to 60:

- 22 family units pledged \$182,320 or 12.7% of 173 pledging family units.
- 151 family units did not pledge or 87.3% of the age group.
- ***This age group gave 18% of the total pledges.***

STEWARDSHIP MINISTRY

Ages 61-100:

- 96 pledged \$879,535 or 44.9% of 214 possible pledging units.
- 118 family units did not pledge or 55.1% of this age group.
- ***This age group gave 82% of the total pledges.***

Final Analysis:

- 118 family units pledged or 47% of 387 family units.
- 151 family units did not pledge or 53% of 387 family units.
- Total number of pledges for 2026, 118, 9% less than the 130 pledges received for 2024.
- **Total pledged for 2026 was \$1,061,855, 2% less than pledged for 2024.**

Submitted by Simone Hennessee, Moderator

LEGACY GIVING COMMITTEE

Since last year, a small group has met to discuss the impact of legacy gifts on our church's ministry. The Legacy Giving Committee, part of our Stewardship Ministry, includes Mary Anne Selber, Archer Frierson, Piper Mortiz, Calvin Head, and Shelby Gilbert. Our theme, inspired by the hymn "Oh God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come, and our eternal home," represents continuity through time.

The goal of the Legacy Giving Committee is to increase awareness of the need to sustain the church in years to come. Guided by Annual Giving and Legacy Giving with an eye to the future.

Annual Pledge History 2018-2025:

	<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>
# Pledges	189	195	178	173	144
Total \$\$ Pledges	1,131,725	1,190,318	1,175,860	1,179,684	1,025,209

STEWARDSHIP MINISTRY

Annual Pledge History 2018-2025:

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2024</u>	<u>2025</u>	<u>From 2025</u>
# Pledges	137	134	118	down 9%
Total \$\$ Pledges	1,127,563	1,092,205	1,061,885	down 3%

2025 Annual Budget: \$3,003,000

\$1,100,000 annual Pledges or 37%

\$1,600,000 annual Legacy gifts or 53%

\$ 350,000 FPC Day center or 10%

The Legacy Giving Campaign seeks to celebrate our congregation's remarkable past with an eye toward how that legacy can flourish in the future through a slide presentation and luncheon as a beginning point to inform and begin conversations around legacy giving.

The slide presentation will:

- Provide a brief history of the church.
- Our ministry activities and community outreach today.
- A look at how the endowment has grown, what it supports now and our needs in the future.
- A snapshot of the current church budget: how annual pledges and endowments play a role.
 - Where your annual support goes to support the church.
 - How endowments from yesterday impacted the church today.
- How you can help to provide for the future generations as we are enjoying the fruits of yesterday's legacy.

The Luncheon Slide presentation and luncheon presented a history of our heritage and vision at every table, with images that honor where we have been, celebrate who we are today, and look forward to what lies ahead. Alongside these visual stories, a folder with materials to take home, including a brochure that offers a concise overview of the presentation. Our hope is that you consider your role in our legacy and inspired by the enduring impact you can have in shaping the next chapter of our congregation's story.

The committee going forward will present to small groups or individuals to answer questions and provide guidance for next steps for those interested.

Submitted by Simone Hennessee, Moderator

WELCOME MINISTRY

Members: Anne Jenkins, moderator, Marion Avery, Deb Baragona, Liz Buhler, Lynn Chance, Christy Frierson, Robin Jones, Carole Mullen, and staff member Susan Abney.

2025 Meetings: The Welcome Ministry is scheduled to meet monthly in person with a Zoom option available. A Presbyterian 101 and breakfast was held May 18th, 2025. The ministry assembles Visitor Welcome Bags which are placed at various locations around the church to be disseminated on Sundays. New Member bags are given to those who join the church. The ministry regularly updates the bags to best reflect our congregation. New members are recognized in the bulletin and on a bulletin board in the gathering area.

OUR GOAL is to communicate the good news of First Presbyterian Church, Shreveport to our community and to our members; invite and attract visitors to our church; and welcome, integrate, and nurture visitors and new members to our congregation. We see our mission “to love neighbor as self,” by focusing generally on hospitality and seeking specific ways of communication through this Ministry and the members of FPC. The Welcome Ministry’s goal is to be more intentional in our efforts. We will continue to institute protocols for Evangelism to ensure visitors and new members are connected to the life of the church. We will continue to emphasize personal contact – building relationships with visitors and new members by our Ministry as well as through the congregation.

HOW DO WE COMMUNICATE the good news to the community and our members? This Ministry uses a consistent communication strategy that tells the story of First Presbyterian Church, Shreveport. We strive to communicate the real and articulated mission of our church to show that FPC has a clear mission and strong purpose, both locally and globally. We also communicate FPC’s mission and purpose through other ministries in the church. Additionally, this Ministry endeavors to keep other segments of FPC (i.e., ministries, Diaconate, Sunday School classes) aware of visitors and new members. Finally, this Ministry works to communicate to the public that FPC places importance on education—both religious and secular. Susan helps communicate FPC’s message through media directly to the community and our members (i.e., website, social media, and mail-outs).

WELCOME MINISTRY

HOW DO WE INVITE & ATTRACT VISITORS to our church? As stated, one way to attract visitors is through communication. More and more, people find their way to FPC through watching an online service before ever walking through the doors. The ministry continues to partner with the technology committee to enhance the live stream experience. Another effective way to attract visitors is through other ministries such as the University of First Presbyterian, Children, Youth, and Adult Education because visitors who are interested in FPC tend to be interested in education. These ministries believe that by continuing to offer strong educational opportunities for visitors and members (both “old” and “new”), FPC will be inviting and attractive to visitors. Sunday School and other educational offerings should be an emphasis and will help attract visitors to FPC. Another ministry helpful to Evangelism is Congregational Life, which is important in attracting visitors and new members. That ministry’s work (church dinners, receptions, Easter egg hunt, Christmas party, church breakfasts and other meals) provides wonderful opportunities to invite prospective members and new members to attend. Through Congregational Life, visitors and new members can enjoy the opportunity for Christian fellowship and nurturing that are important in the life of FPC.

HOW DO WE WELCOME, integrate, and nurture visitors and new members? We believe that evangelism is the responsibility of the whole church. FPC seeks to be welcoming and nurturing to all who enter our doors. New signage out front sends an immediate message of welcome. Visitors are given welcome bags with information about our mission and vision and ways to live out one's faith at FPC. After signing in on the visitor pad, visitors are called and/or written by church staff members. Regular visitors may be directed to a member of the Diaconate for additional information. We work to guide visitors and new members through worship and introduce them to the ministries, Sunday School classes, and other groups of the church. One way our Ministry does this is with our Presbyterian 101 gatherings where we inform visitors/new members on Presbyterian beliefs and our church. We also encourage our current FPC members to work to learn about the visitors to our church and strive to make members of FPC ad-hoc members of the Welcome Ministry.

WORSHIP MINISTRY

In 2025 the Worship Committee consisted of 3 Elders: Brandy Blanchard Williams, Hannah Lawrence and Paul Dickson and 2 members of the congregation: David Butterfield and Gloria McGhee. The committee met with staff: Holly Watson (Jan-Dec), Will Scott (Jan-May), and Brent Anderson (Dec)

The committee met 8 times during 2025: Feb 11, May 6, May 19, Jul 7, Aug 4, Sep 30, Nov 3, and Dec 8.

Ministry Actions in 2025:

1. continued to provide and prepare the sacraments.
2. took over the task of organizing Acolytes from Lynace.
3. reviewed the communion serving procedures in a training session with all session members present before the start of the February session meeting.
4. supported the expansion of children/youth participation in the service through a first Sunday initiative proposed by Lynace, which allowed any child or youth to express interest in helping with ushering duties or communion prep on the first Sunday of each month in addition to delivering Communion elements to Minsters during the service.
5. arranged for guest preachers to fill the pulpit while the Interim pastor search committee did their work.

June & July – Drew McFayden and Lynace Veit covered most of June and July Sundays with the one exception being Mitch Miller on July 6th.

August – 3rd Lynace Veit, 10th Jacob Dickson, 17th James Giddens, 24th Lynne Pabst, and 31st Dan Hignight

September – 7th Josh Kerr, 14th Kelly Updegraph Staples, & 28th Gayle Hansen Browne

October - 5th James Giddens, 12th Mitch Miller, 19th Joel Gill, 26th Lynace Veit

November – 2nd Jacob Dickson, 9th Josh Kerr, 16th Lynace Veit, 23rd Josh Robinson

Submitted by: Brandy Williams

2025 Worship Committee Moderator

YOUTH MINISTRY

Ministry Members:

Brandy Blanchard Williams, Holly Guy, Kelly Hodgson, Francis Jenkins, Hannah Lawrence, Charlotte Sonnenfeld, Clayton Sonnenfeld, John Whited, Brett McCulloch (Moderator), Drew McFayden (Staff Liaison)*, Dakota Dunn (Staff Liaison)*

*Partial year transition

Meetings:

January 16, 2025

August 14, 2025

February 5, 2025

September 4, 2025

March 6, 2025

October 1, 2025

April 3, 2025

November 6, 2025

May 8, 2025

December 4, 2025

June 19, 2025

Notable Events/Completed Projects:

- **Hiring of Dakota Dunn/Staff Transition:** In the spring of 2025 a sub-committee of the Youth Ministry worked with the Center for Youth Ministry Training (CYMT) to find and hire Dakota Dunn to become the first dedicated Youth Director in years. Prior to this change the Stoer resident was responsible for youth programming along with their other responsibilities. While we have been fortunate to have great Stoer residents helping with youth we welcome the change to a dedicated Youth Director. As part of this change, the Youth Ministry helped oversee the transition of youth programming to Dakota as Drew McFayden finished out his time as the Stoer resident.

YOUTH MINISTRY

- **Youth Ministry Guide:** This year the Youth Ministry also worked to expand our Youth Ministry guide and digitize our documents to Google Drive. As a result, we now have a clear living document that outlines our mission statement, ministry members, common activities, volunteer procedures, and other important information about the ministry. We hope that this document will continue to evolve and grow and help with future staff or ministry transitions.
- **Youth Sunday:** Each year, we hold our Youth Sunday and 2025 was another successful year letting the youth share their own unique perspectives in worship on April 6, 2025.
- **Breakfast Cook-Off Fundraiser:** We held another breakfast cook-off fundraiser this past year and it continued to be well received and attended. We plan to continue the annual breakfast cook-off next on Palm Sunday 2026.
- **Summer Trips:** The youth group planned to attend our usual set of summer trips to Montreat and Mo Ranch this year. Due to the unfortunate flooding in Texas hill county, our trip to Mo Ranch was cancelled but we still got to send our highschoolers to Montreat.
- **Continued Youth Programming:** Across all of these larger events, the youth group held a number of regularly programmed events from weekly youth group and Sunday school to service work and VBS volunteering. This programming is a critical part of youth ministry and would not be possible without our volunteers, staff, and ministry.

BOARD OF DEACONS

The ministry of the deacons is one of compassion, witness, and service. Deacons are called to share the redeeming love of Jesus Christ with the poor, the sick and suffering, the lonely, lost, and friendless, the oppressed, victims of injustice, and any person in distress.

The deacons of First Presbyterian Church, Shreveport are assigned a group of church members, called a POG, (Parish Outreach Group) who become the focus of their service within our church membership. Each deacon establishes communication with their assigned members by phone or mail, allowing the deacon to begin building a relationship with each POG member. Deacons are expected to stay connected with their POG members and provide support to them during times of need such as sickness, emotional distress, or grieving, and to celebrate with them in recognition of special life events such as birthdays, graduations, weddings, and births. The church administration or other church ministries may ask the deacons to assist with various church activities and programs by lending a helping hand as needed.

The goals for the deacons in 2025 included:

1. To serve on a FPC ministry of their choice such as Outreach Ministry, Congregational Life, Church Facilities, Stewardship, Welcome Ministry, Adult Ministry, Worship Ministry, Administration, or Youth and Children Ministries.
2. To connect with all POG members by phone or email.

The Deacon Ministry meetings in 2025 included devotional and educational presentations by clergy or other ministry representatives. Devotional presentations increased the deacon's spiritual maturity by strengthening their faith and improving their dedication to discipleship. Educational presentations such as updates on various church ministries helped the deacon to stay informed of new and interesting opportunities available to their POG members as well as themselves.

BOARD OF DEACONS

Deacons are assigned monthly tasks/visits that require them to reach out to those in need in the congregation and the community through flower delivery, home communion, and Mercy Center meal delivery. During 2025, deacons delivered flowers to homebound members on nineteen Sundays and provided them with communion on six Sundays. Hot meals were delivered to the Mercy Center in Shreveport by the deacons eleven times during 2025. The deacons also provided the Youth Group with a Sunday evening meal and the FPC staff with a luncheon.

At each deacon meeting time is taken to review and discuss the experiences deacons incur during their monthly visits. This information is helpful to strengthening the deacon's ability to provide the best possible service to our church members and community friends.

Membership Changes and Pastoral Concerns are reviewed and discussed at monthly meetings. Identification of members needing assistance, helps deacons in planning aid and support interventions. At each meeting, the moderator asks for prayer requests for any church member in need and those requests were included in the closing prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Bush

Moderator of Diaconate, 2025

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Purpose

As women forgiven and set free by God through Jesus Christ, and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we commit ourselves to nurture our faith through prayer and Bible study; to support the mission of the church throughout the world; to pursue justice and peace; and to build an inclusive, caring community of women that strengthens the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and bears witness to the promise of God's coming kingdom.

Presbyterian Women Programs

Leadership and Resources

The Leadership and Resources Chair and Co-Chair support Presbyterian Women programming throughout the year. In August, they prepare a light morning refreshment table for the PW *Prepare to Serve* service. In May, they host the annual PW Birthday Party, which also includes the installation of new officers. In addition, they are responsible for recruiting new officers for the coming program year, ensuring strong leadership, continuity, and faithful stewardship within Presbyterian Women.

Christian Missions and Community Action

This year, our Christian Missions and Community Action program featured Madison Poche, Director of the Highland Center. A New Orleans native Madison now resides in Shreveport's Highland Neighborhood. She brings professional experience from the Shreveport Regional Arts Council and Bossier Parish Community College and holds a degree in Business Administration from Emory University and a master's degree in Nonprofit Administration from LSU-S. As President of the Highland Neighborhood Association, she is also a dedicated volunteer and recognized community leader. Under her leadership, the Highland Center has experienced significant growth, expanding programs that address concentrated poverty through cradle-to-career education, economic stability, and neighborhood wellness, while fostering dignity, racial equity, and hope for the future.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Advent Activities

During the Advent season, the Women of the Church engage in a variety of activities that enrich the spiritual life of our congregation and strengthen our church community:

- **Advent Noels:** On three Tuesdays in December, we host Advent Noels featuring music programs for all ages and a light lunch. These gatherings provide fellowship, celebrate the joy of the season, and welcome both church members and the wider community. This year's events also affirmed the need for a kitchen remodel and the intention to present a funding request to the Session.
- **Hanging of the Greens:** In past years, we have participated in Hanging of the Greens, assisting in decorating the church for Advent and creating a warm, festive atmosphere for worship and community events.
- **Poinsettias:** The Women of the Church purchase poinsettias through congregational contributions and ensure their care throughout the season. These plants beautify the sanctuary and enhance the celebration of Christ's birth. Following the service, poinsettias are delivered to homebound members by church families.
- **Providence House Gift Bags:** We purchase and prepare gift bags for residents of Providence House, a local women's shelter, offering comfort and encouragement during the Advent season.

Through these activities, the Women of the Church foster fellowship, celebrate the spirit of Advent, and extend hospitality and care to both our congregation and the wider community.

Lent and Easter

Each year, the Women of the Church coordinate the purchase of Easter lilies through congregational contributions and ensure they are thoughtfully cared for throughout the season. These lilies brighten the sanctuary and help create a meaningful and joyful celebration of the Resurrection of Jesus Christ.

continued

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Memorial Receptions

The Presbyterian Women lovingly host the receptions following each memorial service. This ministry of hospitality offers comfort, nourishment, and a welcoming space for families and friends to gather, reflect, and support one another during a time of remembrance.

Sanctuary Flowers

Twice each month, the Presbyterian Women break down the sanctuary flowers and share them with shut-ins, extending beauty, care, and connection beyond our church walls.

Thank Offering and Birthday Offering

The Presbyterian Women continue to support the Thank Offering and Birthday Offering, encouraging participation and stewardship that supports mission and ministry beyond our local congregation.

New Member Placement

The Women of the Church actively welcome visitors and new members. The church staff secretary collects newcomer information, which is provided to the PW Council and then shared with our three circles. New members are contacted personally and, in addition to the church welcome packet, receive a list of circle meeting times and locations along with a PW Directory to help them connect and become engaged in our faith community.

Bible Study Circles

Our three Presbyterian Women circles meet monthly to study *Horizons Bible Study: Finding Resilience, Joy, and Our Identity in Jesus Christ*. Through this study, participants explore how to find resilience and joy amid life's challenges by reconnecting with spirituality, learning from women of the Bible, and studying the witness of Jesus Christ. One circle meets in the evening to accommodate working women, ensuring accessibility and inclusion.

continued

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Future Endeavors

Looking ahead, the Women of the Church have established a committee to develop and present an action plan for a church kitchen remodel. This committee will assess current needs, propose improvements, and guide the project to enhance ministry, hospitality, and outreach.

Measures of Success

Measuring success in areas such as hospitality and service can be challenging. One meaningful indicator of success is the faithful continuation of these ministries over time, demonstrating sustained commitment and engagement. Through the gifts of money, time, and service, the Women of the Church encircle our congregation and neighborhood with love. In doing so, we strengthen internal bonds while extending outreach into the broader community. We also serve as strong partners in the church's 2025 Strategic Initiatives, aligning our efforts with the broader vision of the church to ensure our ministries are purposeful, impactful, and sustainable.

THE STOER COMMITTEE

Members: Liz LaBorde (Moderator), Gene Hodgson, Simonee Hennessee, Shelby Guilbert (†), Amy Bowman (Ex-Officio, Moderator of Outreach)

Staff: Will Scott (Former Head of Staff) and Drew McFayden (Former Stoer Pastoral Resident and Associate Pastor)

HISTORY

In 2014, First Presbyterian Church received an unexpected bequest from Newton B. Stoer. Three FPC Trustees—Paula Hickman, John Frierson, and Frank Dodson—and three members of the Session—Gray Teekell, Simone Hennessee, and Shelby Guilbert—were asked to form a task force to:

1. research Mr. Stoer's connection and affinity with FPC;
2. develop a structure to guide and steward the Stoer funds; and
3. bring recommendations to the Trustees and Session in 2015.

The Session enthusiastically approved the formation of the Stoer Sub-Committee. Mr. Stoer's act of generosity is expected to provide between \$250,000 and \$300,000 annually to First Presbyterian Church.

In August 2015, Gray Teekell presented the recommendations of the Stoer Sub-Committee to the Session. Of the annual distribution received by FPC:

- **70%** of the funds are dedicated to the Stoer Sub-Committee to support efforts to make a significant and meaningful impact in the Highland community
- **20%** of the funds are placed in a Stoer Legacy Fund to support the work of the Outreach Ministry
- **10%** of the funds are used to establish an FPC Building and Maintenance Legacy Fund to be maintained at a level of \$500,000

THE STOER COMMITTEE

Excerpt from the Session Minutes of August 26, 2015

“The stated purpose of seventy percent of this annual fund from the Stoer Foundation is to support the mission and vision of First Presbyterian Church through partnerships and projects that seek to make a major impact, particularly in the Highland area, in concert with the action plan of the Outreach Ministry. Twenty percent of the annual distribution will establish a Stoer Fund within the church’s Endowment/Legacy Fund in order to preserve the future buying power of the Stoer Foundation and to support Stoer Foundation disbursements through the Outreach Ministry of First Presbyterian Church. Ten percent of the annual distribution will establish an FPC Building Maintenance Fund within the church’s Endowment/Legacy Fund. When the Building Maintenance Fund reaches a balance of \$500,000, or a target amount agreed upon by the Facilities Ministry, this allocation will cease, but will resume if the FPC Capital Reserve Account falls below \$500,000. The purpose of this fund is to provide major building and capital repairs, prevent the need for a major capital campaign, and address deferred maintenance. **Both motions were seconded and approved unanimously.**”

PURPOSE

To support the mission and vision of First Presbyterian Church through partnerships and projects that seek to make a major impact, particularly in the Highland area.

GOVERNANCE

The Stoer Sub-Committee functions as a sub-committee of the Outreach Ministry. All funding recommendations developed by the Stoer Sub-Committee are submitted to Outreach for review. Reviewed recommendations are then presented to the Session by Outreach for final discernment and approval.

FUNDING RECOMMENDATIONS – 2025

During 2025, the Stoer Sub-Committee reviewed funding requests and developed funding recommendations consistent with its purpose and guidelines. The following recommendations were approved by Outreach and acted upon by Session.

THE STOER COMMITTEE

Support for New Projects

- The Stoer Sub-Committee recommended that Session award **\$200,000** to the **Highland Center** for capital renovations, specifically to install a new ADA-compliant elevator.
- The Stoer Sub-Committee recommended that Session award **\$250,000** to the **McDade Hospitality House** for capital renovations. The Hospitality House provides housing for patients undergoing cancer treatment at Feist-Weiller Cancer Center.

Support for Ongoing Projects

- In 2024 the Stoer Sub-Committee recommended that the Session make a multi-year funding commitment to **Revitalize Historic Highland** to support salary and start-up costs of the organization. The mission of Revitalize Historic Highland is to protect and promote buildings, landscapes, and sites important to the diverse heritage of the historic Highland neighborhood. The organization seeks to accomplish this by operating as a revolving fund, acquiring endangered properties and identifying purchasers willing and able to rehabilitate them. Proceeds from each sale are reinvested into subsequent property acquisitions.

Funding schedule:

2024 – \$ 32,500 – paid

2025 – \$130,000 – paid

2026 – \$140,000 – outstanding

2027 – \$150,000 – outstanding

Conclusion of the Stoer Residency Program

- In recent years, Stoer funds supported a Stoer Pastoral Resident, a recent seminary graduate who served on staff with responsibilities that included youth ministry and outreach into the wider community. Following the conclusion of that residency, the Session discerned not to seek a new Stoer Resident at this time and instead redirected Stoer funding toward community partnerships and initiatives consistent with the original purpose and guidelines of the Stoer Sub-Committee.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The Trustees are charged with the management of the property of the Church, including the physical assets of the Church as well as the permanent special funds (Legacy Funds) subject to the authority of the Session.

2025 Trustee Members: Julie Blewer, David Dethloff, Robert Folson, Chris Frierson, Stephen Roberts, Bill Sample, Craig Springmeyer, Ed Ytsma

Staff Leadership: Reverend Brent Anderson, ex officio Ginger Garfield, Church Administrator, ex officio

What are Legacy Funds?

Legacy Funds are permanent endowment gifts made to the church which perpetually fund areas of the church's mission and ministry. These endowments gifts are usually made after a person's death and are either restricted for a particular area of the church's work or unrestricted based on the person's desires. Some popular forms of legacy gifts are bequests from a will and charitable remainder trusts. A person can contact the church office to learn more about how to establish an endowment "legacy" fund.

First Presbyterian Church was founded in 1845 and since that time church members and friends have made legacy gifts to support the church's work. Below is the status of the Legacy Fund portfolio as of December 31, 2025.

- Amount of Legacy Funds: \$35,136,897
- Number of Legacy Funds 63

Legacy Funds Overview:

- The Texas Presbyterian Foundation (TPF) (tpf.org) continued as the Legacy Fund's investment manager. The TPF has been First Presbyterian Shreveport's manager since 2015.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

- TPF was established in 1925 and is a 501 (c) (3) non-profit that assists congregations, institutions, and other non-profit church related agencies in the management of their investment funds. The performance of TPF's investment funds have historically been higher than the Lipper Index Funds. Lipper indexes are benchmarks for actively managed mutual fund performance, across a range of fund strategies and asset classes.
- TPF currently has over \$2.5 billion assets under management 0.6% net expense ratio. 13 experienced staff.

FUNDS FROM 500 CHURCHES & NON-PROFITS under management including:

- Austin Presbyterian Seminary
- Presbyterian Children's Homes
- Schreiner University

TPF OFFERS A FULL RANGE OF SERVICES INCLUDING:

- Asset allocation consulting at no charge
- A wide variety of investment options
- Access to managed and indexed mutual funds
- Cash management and cash flow modeling and planning
- Non-fund asset management (oil, gas and more)
- Investment performance measurement and evaluation
- In-person performance reports and updates
- Secure Web access for self-service reporting
- Representation by TPF's board of trustees investment committee

The performance of First Presbyterian Church's legacy fund portfolio in 2025 under TPF's management in the balance fund was 15.4%, which is 1.8% better than the Lipper MATA moderate index.

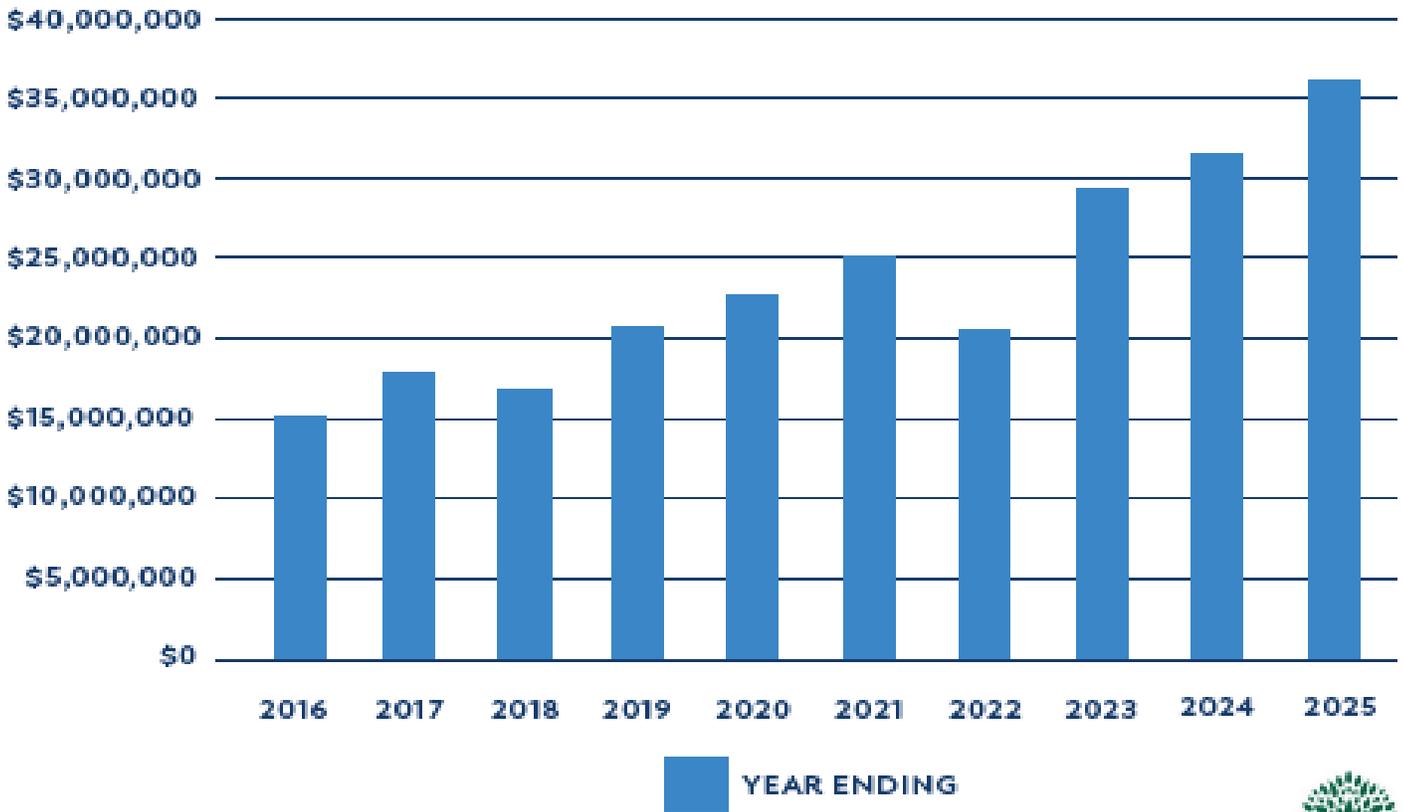
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BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Legacy Funds for First Presbyterian Church Shreveport December 31, 2025:
\$35,136,897.10

THE PERFORMANCE of First Presbyterian Church's legacy fund portfolio in 2025 under TPF's management was net 15.4%. This exceeded the Lipper MATA Index Fund 13.6%.

Legacy Funds for First Presbyterian Church Shreveport
Year ending 2025: \$35,136,897.10



continued

LEGACY FUND ALLOCATION

THE LEGACY FUNDS INVESTMENT POLICY

- The Trustees made no revisions to the investment policy and guidelines which were last updated in 2015. The investment guideline’s general purpose is to provide for long-term total return at a reasonable level of risk.
- The Trustees voted to allocate a legacy fund spend or withdrawal rate of 4%. Using a 4% legacy fund withdrawal rate, the funds available to support the 2024 church ministry and mission were \$1,094,090.74. The use of these funds was divided into two categories:

The “General Fund” which includes income to support First Presbyterian Church’s annual budget and “Other Than General Fund” which includes income to support other areas of First Presbyterian Church’s mission and ministry.

Below is a breakdown of how funds were allocated in the 2 categories:

GENERAL FUND	2025	2026
Scholarships	\$ 25,121.21	\$ 25,652.07
Benevolences	\$ 24,506.81	\$ 25,035.11
Education	\$ 8,236.96	\$ 8,403.03
Worship & Music	\$ 9,870.91	\$ 10,082.91
Stoer Legacy Outreach	\$ 25,452.30	\$ 28,205.54
Webb Multiple Ministries	\$ 48,504.09	\$ 42,000.00
Unrestricted	\$ 168,181.93	\$ 172,958.54
FPC MAINTENANCE REPAIRS & SUPPLIES		
Hicks Marital Trust	\$ 220,142.46	\$ 225,170.34
Sam & Elizabeth Hicks Facilities		
Upkeep	\$ 2,404.38	\$ 2,453.53
Sam & Bobbie Hicks Facilities Upkeep	\$ 22,442.45	\$ 22,901.25
D. Thomason Memorial (Gym)	\$ 11,612.41	\$ 11,849.81
Dickson Endowment	\$ 47,489.63	\$ 48,460.46
Webb Funds	\$ 25,000.00	\$ 32,966.00

LEGACY FUND ALLOCATION

OTHER THAN GENERAL FUND	2025	2026
D. Thomason Grants	\$ 452,764.69	\$ 462,288.61
Other Endowments benefiting Day School	\$ 622.06	\$ 634.82
Grand Total Spend Rate Dollars	\$ 1,092,352.29	\$ 1,119,062.02

continued

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

- The Trustees voted to allocate a legacy fund spend or withdrawal rate of 4%. Using a 4% legacy fund withdrawal rate, the funds available to support the 2025 church ministry and mission were \$1,092,352.29 The use of these funds was divided into two categories:

The “General Fund” which includes income to support First Presbyterian Church’s annual budget and “Other Than General Fund” which includes income to support other areas of First Presbyterian Church’s mission and ministry.

Below is a breakdown of how the funds were allocated in the 2 categories:
General Fund :

Scholarships	\$25,121.21
Benevolences	\$24,506.81
Education	\$8,236.96
Worship & Music	\$9,870.91
Stoer Legacy Outreach	\$25,452.30
Webb Multiple Ministries	\$48,504.09
Unrestricted	\$168,181.93
FPC Maintenance, Repairs, Supplies	
Hicks Martial Trust (maintenance & repairs)	\$220,142.46
Sam & Elizabeth Hicks Facilities Upkeep	\$2,404.38
Sam & Bobbie Hicks Facilities Upkeep	\$22,442.45
D Thomason Memorial (gym)	\$11,612.41
Dickson Endowment Fund	\$47,489.63
Webb Funds	\$25,000.00
General Fund Ministries Total	\$638,965.54

continued

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Other than General Fund

D Thomason Grants	\$452,764.69
FPDS	\$622.06
Total 2025 Spend Rate Dollars	\$1,092,352.29

For 2026, the Legacy Fund will provide \$1,119,062.45 to the Church budget

D. THOMASON LEGACY FUND GRANTS

Mr. D. Thomason was a church member who in 1980 bequeathed a substantial portion of his estate to the church to be used as a legacy fund. Mr. Thomason requested that his endowment be unrestricted, and to provide funds for work and expenses over and above the regular operating and benevolent budget of the church. He outlined areas for his funds to be used whenever possible which have been combined into two broad categories:

- Presbyterian Connections - seminaries, churches, camps, Presbytery supported mission work, etc. and
- Community Endeavors - local non-profits, mostly in the church's Highland community but also non-profits and mission work that are also supported by the Outreach Ministry.

THE D. THOMASON GRANT COMMITTEE:

Annual Grants from the D. Thomason Fund (a First Presbyterian Church Legacy Fund Endowment) is one of many hallmarks of our church, our outreach ministry, and the legacy of the generous endowment gift from Mr. D. Thomason.

The Thomason Grants, the Grant Committee, and the allocated Legacy Fund Endowment dollars are determined and approved annually by both the Board of Trustees and subject to the oversight of the session of First Presbyterian Church.

continued

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

None of what all of this represents this year as well as historically would have been possible without the foundation of endowment gifts and the ministry and mission of First Presbyterian Church.

The 2025 gifts and the dollars that, time and time again, continue to embrace the needs and work of God’s Kingdom in countless and immeasurable ways.

2025 Committee Members:

Craig Springmeyer, Chairman	President Board of Trustees
Julie Blewer, Vice-Chairman	VP Board of Trustees
Mary Bush	Board of Deacons Moderator
John Frierson, Jr	Moderator of Outreach
Jeff Overdyke	Outreach Ministry Nominee
Simone Hennessee	Moderator Finance/Stewardship
Sammy Guy	Member-at-large
Brett McCulloch	Member-at-large
Owen Buhler	Member-at-large

D. Thomason Grants 2025

Austin Theological Seminary	Austin TX	20,000.00
Broadmoor Presbyterian Church	Shreveport	22,300.00
Ferncliff Pres. Camp Conference Center	Little Rock AR	25,000.00
First Presbyterian Church Day School	Shreveport	19,216.00
First Presbyterian Church	Texarkana AR	5,000.00
First Presbyterian Church	Warren AR	5,000.00
Montreat Conference Center	Montreat NC	25,000.00
Presbyterian Mo-Ranch Assembly	Hunt TX	25,000.00
University of the Ozarks	Clarksville AR	5,000.00
William Black Lodge	Montreat NC	10,000.00

continued

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Arc Caddo-Bossier Goldman School	Shreveport LA	20,000.00
Basic Necessities	Shreveport LA	4,000.00
Bridge Alzheimer's & Dementia Resource Ctr	Shreveport LA	20,000.00
Caddo Council on Aging	Shreveport LA	5,000.00
Catholic Charities of North LA	Shreveport LA	5,000.00
Children's and Arthritis Inc.	Shreveport LA	5,000.00
Christian Service Program Institute	Shreveport LA	10,000.00
Common Ground Community	Shreveport LA	2,500.00
Community Renewal International Inc.	Shreveport LA	2,500.00
Council on Alcoholism & Drug Abuse	Shreveport LA	25,000.00
Evergreen Presbyterian Ministries	Haughton LA	5,000.00
Faith and Fostering	Shreveport LA	6,500.00
Food Bank of Northwest Louisiana	Shreveport LA	40,000.00
Haiti Healthcare Partners	Westlake Village CA	10,000.00
Highland Center Ministries	Shreveport LA	4,000.00
HOPE Connections, Inc.	Shreveport LA	3,000.00
Hunters for the Hungry	Baton Rouge LA	10,000.00
LifeShare Blood Center	Shreveport LA	5,000.00
Literacy Volunteers at Centenary College	Shreveport LA	5,000.00
Martin Luther King Health Center	Shreveport LA	5,500.00
North Louisiana Interfaith	Shreveport LA	10,000.00
Providence House	Shreveport LA	15,000.00
Renzi Education & Art Center, Inc.	Shreveport LA	4,500.00
Robinson's Rescue	Shreveport LA	5,000.00
Ronald McDonald House	Shreveport-Bossier LA	10,000.00
Shreveport Opera (SOX)	Shreveport LA	2,500.00
Social Therapy Project	Shreveport LA	5,000.00
St. Luke's Mobile Medical Ministry	Shreveport LA	2,500.00
Volunteers for Youth Justice	Shreveport LA	15,000.00
YMCA of Northwest Louisiana Inc.	Shreveport LA	3,630.00
GRAND TOTAL ALL REQUESTS		\$427,646.00

2025 GENERAL BUDGET

<u>INCOME/RECEIPTS</u>	<u>2025</u>	<u>2026</u>
	\$3,577,139	\$3,313,890
EXPENDITURES:		
Administration Committee	\$1,189,387	\$1,397,902
Church Facilities Committee	\$ 569,939	\$ 613,177
Total Christian Education Committee	\$ 64,666	\$ 87,403
Adult	\$ 21,519	\$ 34,003
Youth	\$ 18,513	\$ 23,100
Children	\$ 24,634	\$ 30,300
Congregational Life Committee	\$ 7,105	\$ 12,700
Welcome Committee	\$ 22,871	\$ 28,250
Stewardship Committee	\$ 11,938	\$ 7,500
Worship Committee	\$ 24,540	\$ 35,283
Total Benevolences	\$1,362,090	\$ 769,155
Mission/Services	\$ 305,490	\$ 141,393
Stoer Committee	\$ 580,000	\$ 140,000
D. Thomason Grants	\$ 451,600	\$ 462,288
Scholarships	\$ 25,000	\$ 25,652
Day School	\$ 397,933	\$ 362,520
Grand Total Expenditures & Benevolences	\$3,650,469	\$3,313,890

2025 BIRTHS

Clinton Rigby Martin September 4, 2025
Parents Elizabeth Rigby Martin & Philip Paul Martin

Atheliah Rose Dunn October 12, 2025
Parents Dakota & Garrett Dunn

Rebecca Dawn McCulloch October 28, 2025
Parents Emma Church McCulloch & Brett Turner McCulloch

2025 BAPTISM

Chauncey Todd Dyer February 23, 2025

Flora Dawson Dickson March 2, 2025
Parents Amanda & Russell Dickson

Cordelia A. Dennen April 27, 2025

Corbin Frierson Young October 19, 2025
Parents Katherine Frierson Young & Maxfield Young

Quinn Margaret Chun November 16, 2025
Parents Mary Katheryn Chun & Arnold Chun

William Jefferson Cain December 7, 2025
Parents Emmie Downs Cain & Adam Cain

2025 MARRIAGES

Brandy Marie Blanchard to Michael Paul Williams May 31, 2025

2025 NEW MEMBERS

Chauncey Todd Dyer	January 26, 2025
Alex Paul McLachlan	January 26, 2025
Deanna Webb	March 23, 2025
Cordelia A. Dennen	March 23, 2025
Samantha Crawford	April 30, 2025
Grady Edward Jackson	April 30, 2025
Marion Hadley Jackson	April 30, 2025
Camille Elizabeth LaBorde	April 30, 2025
Charles Mitchell LaBorde	April 30, 2025
Moira Diane McDowell	April 30, 2025
William Harper Martin	April 30, 2025
Park Moritz	April 30, 2025
Helen Eloise Summers	April 30, 2025
Kanya Michelle	May 11, 2025
Skyla Nicole Dennen	June 1, 2025
Jeri & Jimmy Latham	June 1, 2025

2025 Church Triumphant

Bettye Leslie	February 21, 2025
Marilyn H. Gallagher	July 11, 2025
Shelby S. Guilbert	July 25, 2025
James R. Madison	August 3, 2026
Jean Carroll	August 7, 2025
Mary Ann Shaw	November 11, 2025
Phillip Ponder	November 15, 2025

This Annual Report lists only highlights of each ministry's activities for 2025. For a full listing of the activities for 2026 and to learn how you can be a part of them, please see our website (www.fpcshreveport.org), contact the church office, or contact the moderator of the ministry.