

Dear Church Family,

At our Quarterly Church Conference on November 29, 2009, the Stewardship Committee will propose the Annual Operating Budget for 2010, copy attached.

Stewardship Committee meetings were held to review the various budget requests from our staff, committees, ministries and organizations receiving funding within the Budget. Those submitting requests for funding were asked to plan their new year to meet the goals, opportunities and needs of the Church in consideration of the Budget Receipts shortfall we experienced throughout most of 2009.

The Committee accepted all proposals essentially as requested and the 2010 Operating Budget is \$70,000 (approx. 6%) less than the 2009 Budget.

The Committee believes this to be a workable financial plan in support of the mission of First Baptist Church during 2010.

At the Quarterly Conference the Stewardship Committee will also recommend a plan to pay off the outstanding debt associated with the purchase and remodeling of the Annex. We are proposing that excess unused funds accumulated over many years that are currently producing very little interest income can be better deployed to stop our interest expense and eliminate our debt.

Very simply, we will 'borrow' from ourselves, to be debt free and save the interest expense on that debt.

As you know, after a two year program we called "For His Glory", our designated giving to cover the \$1.1 million costs of the Annex purchase, remodeling and code compliance has raised about \$700,000 leaving a loan balance of \$370,000.

The Committee will propose that we ask our Church membership to continue to make regular contributions to "For His Glory", extending the program for another year. Under the plan, the entire amount of the gifts to "For His Glory" will 'repay' ourselves and rebuild our fund balances over time.

We believe the approval of this plan will not impact our Budget and the ongoing financial operations of our Church. On the balance sheet, we exchange an unused asset (money on hand) for a liability (the Annex loan and interest expenses).

Please join us in Church Conference on Sunday, November 29<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm to discuss both the 2010 Operating Budget and the debt elimination plans. Based on approval or modifications that may be made by the Conference, the 2010 Operating Budget and the Plan will be presented for vote, without discussion, at a Special Business Meeting at our combined worship service on Sunday, December 13, 2009.

Sincerely,  
Sam Walls, Chair  
FBC Stewardship Committee