



**Ancient City**  
BAPTIST CHURCH

**Capital Stewardship Campaign  
Newsletter 2 • April 8, 2019**

**Don't Miss the Banquet!  
Sunday, April 14, 6 p.m.**

**What Are the Projects?**

Last year the **Visioning Team** identified four major areas of the church that needed upgrading or repair, including **Fellowship Hall**, a new **Welcome Center**, the **choir room**, and the limited mobility **parking lot** at the rear of the building. A comprehensive list of what is needed (Scope of Work) was developed in each area by our Trustees.

Once the initial list was complete, we brought in an architect, engineers, and two general contractors to further develop the details. We are now in the process of finalizing a package to give to contractors for them to put together proposals, with itemized costs, to present to the church. Using this information, we will select a contractor to be awarded the contract for the facilities phase of the project.

This, along with **painting** the exterior of the buildings that face the main entrance courtyard, new **landscaping** in the courtyard, and **signage** directing members and visitors to their proper destinations, will constitute the proposal as initiated by the **Visioning Team**.

Tom Parrish

**Ever Ancient ~ Ever New Banquet**

Please join us for our **Ever Ancient, Ever New Banquet** on Palm Sunday, **April 14, at 6:00 p.m. in our Fellowship Hall**. All members, regular attenders, and all others who are interested are invited to attend. A wonderful **complimentary dinner** will be served, and information about the **history** of our church, the **projects** we will be undertaking, and the **bigger picture** of what God has in store for us at Ancient City Baptist Church will be presented. No offering will be taken and no commitments will be asked to be made at the banquet; there will only be great food, great Christian fellowship, along with information and inspiration! Sign up is requested but not required.

Rhonda Parker, Banquet Team Leader



Ever Ancient ~ Ever New

**Ever Ancient, Ever New Schedule**

- Sunday, April 14** Testimony by David & Marsha Sneller during morning worship
- Sunday, April 14** **Ever Ancient, Ever New Banquet 6 p.m.**
- Sunday, April 21** Celebration Sunday (Easter): Commitment Cards Returned
- Sunday, May 5** First Fruits Offering Sunday: *Ever Ancient, Ever New* offerings begin

# Many Ways to Give to Ever Ancient, Ever New!

Many fund-raising campaigns are one-time offerings and are done. Ours is different: we are requesting that we all consider gifts that could be received by the church over a three-year period. Why? Because we know that sacrificial giving—giving over and above your current tithes and offerings—may take planning. And we recognize that everyone's financial situation is different and that one's financial situation may change over time. So, if your situation finds you in a tight circumstance *now*, perhaps some planning now may improve your capability for later.

And here is the important part: no one should make any commitment without being in PRAYER about it. Ask the Lord and He will respond.

As you are praying, you may want to consider various giving possibilities that might help in your planning...

## Cash

Cash is always good and appreciated. Consider your pledge as a one-time gift, a weekly gift, a monthly gift, an annual gift, or a combination. "Have it your way."

## Non-cash Donations

Cars, boats, jewelry—anything of value. We'll get it sold and you will get the deduction.

## Stock

The church has a brokerage account and can deal with gifts of stock. DO NOT SELL the stock first. There may be significant tax benefits to you by donating the stock. Consult your financial advisor.

## Tax Refund

Consider the church as a place to park your refund; if not this year, then next year. After all, you have been able to get along this far without those dollars in your account, so why not consider them for *Ever Ancient, Ever New*?

## IRA distributions

We have been told that if you need to take annual minimum distributions (AMD) from your IRA, you can set up what is known as a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) which allows your broker to make a direct distribution to a qualified 501(c)(3) charity (which the church is) and not pay income tax on the amount of that direct donation.

If you are over 70½ years young, you may donate up to \$100,000 per year in charitable donations without paying taxes on those withdrawals from your IRA, as long as the recipient is a qualified 501(c)(3), which we are.

**These options should be discussed with your qualified financial advisor**, as your circumstance may require additional analysis. If you *do* choose to make the donation from your IRA, you will not be able to claim a contribution deduction, but that may be to your net advantage.

If you have questions, our own Eddie Calhoun has agreed to provide help. Eddie is a CPA financial advisor. Eddie is not going to do your taxes for you, but he can tell you what might work in your particular situation.

Hugh Peters, Steering Team Leader and Church Treasurer

## "Faith Comes From Hearing": Sanctuary Sound Enhancement

*So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.* Romans 10.17 (ESV)

We are fortunate to have such a beautiful, historic sanctuary in which to worship and hear the word of God. Acoustically we find that the choir and piano resonate beautifully throughout the sanctuary, but there are some challenging dead spots for speech. We do recognize this, and we continue to strive to improve the sound for our congregation.

Our first step to improve the sound for some in our congregation was to install an "induction loop" system, which magnetically transmits sound to hearing aids and cochlear implants with a "T-coil." This system works in conjunction with people's hearing aids, allowing the hearing aids to serve as wireless loudspeakers, delivering clear, customized sound from inside their ears.

Our next step to improve the sound has been to hire a sound engineering company to map out the travel of sound waves in our sanctuary, enabling them to design a sound system that will eliminate the dead spots we currently have throughout the sanctuary. The experts from this company believe that with the installation of this new sound system, we will have an immensely improved quality of the sound. This will be installed soon!

Jeanette Booth

## Frequently Asked Questions About Our Campaign



### What is a Capital Stewardship Campaign all about?

It is **raising money *outside of the budget*** to help churches reach special goals such as building and renovation of facilities. It emphasizes ***“over and above”*** giving, typically over a 3-year period. It calls for ***equal sacrifice, not equal giving***, following God’s leadership.

### Why do we need a Capital Stewardship Campaign?

Most of our facilities are 50, 60, and even over 100 years old! Our **Vision Team** and **Trustees** have identified several projects in more than one phase that need to be completed to maintain, repair, and upgrade our facilities to ensure they will continue to be vital tools in our church’s mission. To do it all, we could easily spend one or two million dollars. For Phase I, we are getting bids right now. Since we do not have adequate funds in our budget to undertake these projects, the church voted to conduct a Capital Stewardship Campaign that we are calling ***Ever Ancient, Ever New*** to make a strong beginning and accelerate the completion of many of these projects.

### What if we do not raise all the costs of the projects?

Even if the entire amount is not raised, we will still be able to complete many of the projects on our list. Our Trustees have set a list of priorities based on what they consider our greatest needs. We will take care of the needs as funds are available and trust God to lead us and give us wisdom.

### Will we get a loan to cover the expenses and renovations?

Possibly. The Trustees have explored this possibility, but we want to borrow as little as possible and to stay within the ability to pay off our work through the funds that will come in during this 3 year campaign. We want to be good stewards of what we have, and we hope that gifts to the campaign will show us what we can do. Our Trustees are given responsibility in church fiscal matters and will keep us informed and bring recommendations to us as necessary.

### Should I redirect part of my tithe or regular gifts to this campaign?

**No!** This campaign is about ***over and above*** regular giving only. If we take money from our regular giving to give to the campaign, the entire church will suffer. Those who are unable to give to the campaign should simply continue giving their regular gifts.

### What If I cannot give or do not have much to give?

We are asking everyone to pray and then simply give as God directs. We are not setting any expectation on anyone except to follow the leadership of God. If we are all faithful, God will provide for our needs.

### When will the projects begin?

We have already begun! The elevator work is complete. New signage work is in progress. An updated sound system is being designed and will soon be implemented for our Sanctuary. An architect has drawn plans that are being bid upon for Fellowship Hall, the Welcome Center, Choir Room, and to offer covered access from our limited mobility parking lot in the rear.

### Who will oversee the project?

The Trustees will have oversight. Tom Parrish and Bob Blake are acting as our Building Superintendents. We will keep you informed about various aspects of the projects and any changes that might need to be made during the process.

**Not Equal Giving  
but Equal Sacrifice**

## **Celebration Sunday & First Fruits Sunday**

While the *Ever Ancient, Ever New* Banquet will be one of the highlights of our campaign, you have heard us stress that we will take up no offering and we will not ask anyone to complete a Commitment Card on that night. How, then, do we make our three year commitments toward fulfilling our projects to update and repair portions of our facilities and grounds?

At the banquet, everyone present will indeed receive a Commitment Card. (Those not present will receive one via mail.) We ask you to take the card home and do two things: **Pray... and Obey.** We want your gift to be between you and God. Yes, we do ask everyone to make a sacrificial gift, but that will be different for each person or family. Jesus said that the widow who put in two tiny coins gave more sacrificially than “the large sums” put in by the “rich people.” (See Mark 12.41-44). In our campaign, we are emphasizing, not equal *gifts*, but equal *sacrifice*.

We ask nothing more or less than for each of us to pray, seeking God’s direction, and then obey. Fill out your Commitment Card in the privacy of your home, and bring it back in the privacy envelope on **Celebration Sunday**—Resurrection Sunday (Easter), April 21. There will be a time for those who have completed cards to place their envelopes in the “Chest of Joash”—so named for a similar campaign we read about in the Old Testament to repair the Temple. So on Celebration Sunday, you bring the confidential Commitment Card only—no offering!

Two weeks later, on May 5, our campaign will culminate with **First Fruits Sunday**. On that day, we ask everyone to bring their first offering for the campaign and to make it the best offering possible. Why? Partly, it is the principle of bringing “first fruits” to God. We are bringing him our best possible gift to start off with. Of course, there is a practical reason as well. We would love to see the campaign start off with a large offering to help us as we begin to do the work on our facilities. Money in hand saves us time and possibly interest. We want to pay as we go as much as possible, and the First Fruits offering will give us a boost in collecting offerings for *Ever Ancient, Ever New*.



**Celebration Sunday  
April 21**

**First Fruits Sunday  
May 5**

***We ask everyone to  
do two simple things:  
Pray... and Obey!***

### **Ancient City Baptist Church**

**27 Sevilla Street  
St. Augustine, FL 32084  
(904) 829-3476  
ancientcitybaptist.org**

<b>Sample gifts over a 3 year period</b>			
<b>Weekly</b>	<b>Monthly</b>	<b>Annually</b>	<b>3 Year Total</b>
2,000	8,667	104,000	312,000
1,000	4,334	52,000	156,000
500	2,167	26,000	78,000
300	1,300	15,600	46,800
100	433	5,200	15,600
50	216	2,600	7,800
40	173	2,080	6,240
30	130	1,560	4,680
20	87	1,040	3,120
15	65	780	2,340
10	43	520	1,560
7	30	364	1,092
5	21	260	780