

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH CAMPUS IMPROVEMENT CAMPAIGN

BUILDING OUR SPIRITUAL HOME BY THE SEA

VOLUME

3



COMMITMENT TIME!

SPIRITUAL LIFE FROM ROB AND JOAN TANNER

“WE MAKE A LIFE BY WHAT WE GIVE”

By Rob Tanner on behalf of Joan Tanner and their family

In James 2:24, the writer reminds us that as Christians, “We please God by what we do and not only by what we believe.” While my wife Joan and I took different paths on our individual faith journeys, we came to share this conviction as a tenet of our Christian lives.

My faith story began as I grew up in a Christian home in Northeastern Kentucky, attending First Christian Church, where I was baptized at the age of 12 in the church’s baptismal pool. I witnessed many people of all ages giving their lives to Christ in that baptism pool, and the image and its meaning stuck with me. I have always seen the acceptance of Christ in my life as full submersion – full commitment.

I lost my mother, who was my spiritual light, when she was only 43, and I was 20. But I did find another light: Joan and I met in college, graduated, and married in 1976. Joan had very little Christian influence as a child, but as we grew in our marriage and began to bring children into our life, we sought a church home. First Presbyterian Church of Delray was one of the community churches we visited, liked, and then never left! As we strove to raise our three wonderful daughters to be strongly rooted in the Christian faith, each of them grew to know this church well. They were all baptized here, attended Sunday School and Youth Group, and haven’t ever missed a candlelight service on Christmas Eve. Though grown, they continue to love this place, and it is connected to the convictions that guide their lives.

Joan and I care deeply about doing our part to make this church a place where everyone can come to share in God’s love; because of this, we have held many leadership roles over the years. Through Heath Larry, a legendary leader in our church, we came to understand the responsibility for financial giving. He

once told how he became deeply committed to tithing at an early age -- even when it wasn’t easy and it went against the logic of his personal finances. His message, and the knowledge that furthering God’s work through this church rests entirely on our shoulders as a congregation, has led us to want to lead this Capital Campaign.

While our family may not have the deepest of financial resources, we are driven to support this campaign with our time, talents, and financial giving. It is our hope that each of you in our church family, no matter what your financial capabilities, will also strive to give back.

During our girls’ childhood, Joan and I had a poster that hung in the hallway to their bedroom that stated: “We make a living by what we get; we make a life by what we give.” We believe this to be true, and hope that you will find a giving spirit in your hearts in support of this legacy project. Your contribution will make First Presbyterian a beautiful and accessible place for future generations, one where they too can find a Christian way of life, and which they will come to love, just as we do.



COMING TOGETHER IN FAITH, HOPE AND COMMITMENT – “ALL IN”!



Palm Sunday, March 20 has been designated as Commitment Sunday. On this day, we culminate the education and communication phases of our Capital Campaign with the giving of our formal pledges toward the campaign funding goal. Everyone is invited and encouraged to attend one of the worship services on this date to participate in this collective act of “thanks-giving” and support. On this Sunday, when we celebrate Jesus’ triumphal entrance into Jerusalem, we will also come together to commit ourselves to strengthening the work of Christ at First Presbyterian Church. As individual members, and as a church family, we will offer up our promises of support for the enhancement and renewal of our beautiful church property – the anchor for our faith and service, today and in the future.

Over the past several months, you have been receiving information about this project from many sources. You have received two other newsletters like this one and had the chance to attend in-person meetings where you viewed an informative and inspiring video. These fellowship events offered the opportunity for you to ask questions and share your thoughts with campaign leaders and other church members. All of these activities come to fruition with our pledging of financial resources to carry out this plan to prepare First Presbyterian to thrive in the coming decades.

During worship on March 20, you will be provided with a commitment card and, if you have not already done so, given the opportunity to finalize your decision on giving through a brief conversation with family or a moment of personal prayer. We will then offer up our Commitment cards, celebrating our unity as grateful believers, each of whom is willing to do his or her part to share God’s love through the ministry and service of First Presbyterian. Commitment cards will not be provided ahead of the service, but we recommend you continue thinking and praying about what you can give, using the many wonderful devotionals found in the



First Presbyterian Church of Delray Beach
3-Year Commitment for Giving • March 2016 - March 2019



Amount I/we plan to give:

Name _____ Weekly _____

Address _____ Monthly _____

City, State, Zip _____ Annually _____

Phone/E-mail _____ Other _____

Signature _____ Date _____ 3-Year Total _____

Gifts other than cash _____

Prayer Guide distributed a few weeks ago. Complete information on the goals of the Campaign, Frequently Asked Questions, the Prayer Guide, and the video, can all be found on the church website (<http://firstdelray.com/capital-campaign>), and the video can be accessed through our Facebook page. We hope you will revisit these resources as you consider making a commitment to supporting the Campaign.

Recently, you may have heard the phrase “All In.” It’s been used in many contexts as shorthand for the idea of being fully committed. Apparently, it has its origins in the game of Poker, where it means “wagering one’s entire stake.” For us as a Christian community, it has this individual meaning, but we can also think of it another way: If we each offer the most that we can (everyone is “in”), we can reach our collective goal for preserving and expanding First Presbyterian Church.

OUR GOAL
100%
Participation



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH DELRAY BEACH, FLORIDA

Levels of Giving Needed to Produce \$3,500,000
(3-Year Pledges)

No. of Gifts at Level	Gift Level	Total at Level	Cumulative Total
1	\$500,000	\$500,000	\$500,000
2	\$250,000	\$500,000	\$1,000,000
2	\$150,000	\$300,000	\$1,300,000
5	\$75,000	\$375,000	\$1,675,000

10 Gifts = \$1,675,000 / 48% of Total

10	\$50,000	\$500,000	\$2,175,000
25	\$25,000	\$625,000	\$2,800,000
40	\$10,000	\$400,000	\$3,200,000

70 Gifts = \$300,000 / 8% of Total

50	\$5,000	\$250,000	\$3,450,000
20	\$2,500	\$50,000	\$3,500,000

TOTAL: 155 Gifts = \$3,500,000 / 100% of Total

Ways to Give: Cash, Stocks or Bonds, Real Estate, Life Insurance, Antiques, Works of Art, Jewelry, Coin or Stamp Collections, Income Tax Refunds, Revocable or Irrevocable Trusts, etc.

*“Freely you
have received,
freely give.”*

Matthew 10:8



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN: BUILDING A HOME FOR "20S AND 30S"

Thoughts from Lauren and Courtland Weisleder

By Lauren Weisleder

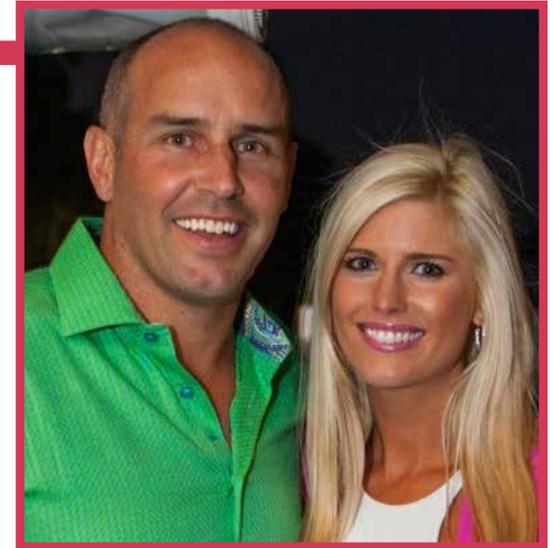
Courtland comes from San Diego, California and I hail from Tampa, Florida. A little over two years ago, we moved to Delray Beach. We decided that we wanted to make a church an important part of our lives. We "church shopped," attending several in the area, but when we came to our first service at First Presbyterian Church of Delray Beach, we absolutely fell in love with it! Sitting in the gorgeous Sanctuary, meeting the friendly congregation, and being introduced to Jessi, Doug and the rest of the wonderful staff, we knew instantly that we had found our home.

After a few months of attending, we decided to make a commitment and join the church. At that time we were engaged and planning our wedding, which included deciding where the marriage ceremony would take place. It was a "no brainer" to be married at the beautiful First Presbyterian Church of Delray Beach by Pastor Hood!

For us, the church offers so much more than just services on Sunday. We have made some great friends while participating in activities in and out of the church. The TnT (Twenties and Thirties) program is perfect, giving us the chance to break bread with Jessi and other folks our age. From dinners at local restaurants, to bowling, to "putt putt" golf, we always have a good time attending TnT, sharing laughs and having some fun.

In addition, the music program has become a wonderful part of Courtland's life. With only one year of playing the clarinet at age 10, Courtland always felt he had zero musical talent, but last year he became enthralled with the bell choir's performances at church services. He decided to reach out to Jim Poch to see if he could give the bells a try. After a tough start, he has really enjoyed ringing the bells on Sundays, and having fun each Thursday night practicing with his fellow Westminster Ringers!

We believe it is vital that more young men, women, and couples visit and join the church to enhance its vibrancy and grow our membership. From our perspective, the Capital Campaign is a great opportunity to strengthen all facets of the church in support of this goal. The church campus should take full advantage of our beautiful, perfect location, and the Capital Campaign will allow that to happen. The new and improved church facilities will also help to attract more young adults to visit and join. In addition, the phenomenal music program at First Presbyterian Church will continue to be strengthened as more members add their support to our ongoing resources.



LEADERSHIP EVENT SUPPORTING THE CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

On the evenings of February 19, 24 and 25, three different events were hosted by the Oren family, the Tiernan/Devitt families, and the Evans family in the Gulfstream, Seagate and Quail Ridge communities as part of the Leadership Cultivation portion of the 2016 Capital Campaign. Each evening consisted of great fellowship, food, drink and of course an education by Rob Tanner and Kurt Bagwell on the campaign itself. In addition, personal testimonies of Christian Stewardship were presented by Dr. Hood and some of our congregation's members.



A great time was had by all, and attendees said that the sessions really increased their understanding of the proposed projects targeted by the Long Range Planning Committee. Discussions also focused on how the current members of First Presbyterian can help to prepare our facilities for the next generation -- just as those who have come before us have done. These meetings reminded us that, jointly, we can leave a legacy that will continue Christ's work into the future.

THOUGHTS FROM CAMPAIGN DIRECTORS AS WE APPROACH COMMITMENT SUNDAY

It has been a very busy couple of months for me, Dorinda, Joan and Rob Tanner, and all of the committee members and Church staff who have given so freely of their time to support the rollout of the Capital Campaign. Our goals have been to inform you about the plan for enhancement and renewal of our church property, and to dialogue with you about the reasons for supporting this project at this time.

RECENT CAMPAIGN ACTIVITIES

As reported, the Leadership Cultivation evenings and Vision Awareness events were well received, many have expressed appreciation of the Prayer Guide, and we have received a number of comments about the wonderful video that was produced by our Communications Committee. We have been gratified by your response to these efforts; it is clear that we all share a love for our church and want it to prosper in its mission of service in Christ's name.

LOOKING BACK ON OUR JOURNEY

Some of us, like Rob Tanner, have been involved in envisioning changes and improvements to First Presbyterian's property for over a decade. Changes such of these are bound to require much debate and many revisions, and we appreciate the input and feedback that everyone has provided along the way.

You will recall that the original plan, which included all of the changes recommended to meet our future needs, started with a budget of over \$10 million. The current project, narrowed to cover only expanded parking, elevations/entrances, Narthex bathrooms and Narthex expansion, aesthetics/landscaping, and consolidated meeting spaces in a refreshed Christian Education (CE) building, emerged from many months of discussion. Dropping out more ambitious parts of the original proposal brought us to a project scope that reflects our actual, current resources, and the will of our congregation. It addresses our priorities and leaves us flexibility to continue with our Master Plan for the facilities in the future.

...AND LOOKING FORWARD

The leaders of the Church and of this Campaign are grateful to all of those who provided their wisdom and clear input to achieve agreement on the revised \$3.5 million plan. We know that all of our members are giving prayerful thought to the financial commitment they can make to help us bring it to fruition. I look forward

to our joint offering of these commitments on Sunday, March 20. With everyone's support.

With everyone's support First Presbyterian will continue to be a "spiritual home by the sea" -- an anchor for those who come next to take up Christ's work, just as it has been for all those who came before.

LET'S BE "ALL IN!"



Kurt Bagwell
Capital Campaign Director



Rob & Joan Tanner
Capital Campaign Directors





FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
OF DELRAY BEACH

Your Home by the Sea

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
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