

RE/NEW

From Generation to Generation





RE/NEW

From Generation to Generation

This Book Belongs To

TABLE OF CONTENTS

A Note From Pastor Michael	1
Where We've Been	3
Where We Are Now	9
Where We Are Going	15
One Fund	23
Message Notes	25
Personal Devotionals	33
Frequently Asked Questions	41

A Note From Pastor Michael

First Family,

Abigail and I are so thankful for you and to be part of what God is doing at First Baptist Church of Rockwall. For 173 years, God has moved through this church in powerful ways—people putting their faith in Jesus, proclaiming that faith through baptism, sharing that faith through missions, evangelism, and service. God has truly blessed us at First Rockwall.

But He is not done. Therefore, we are not done.

Psalm 100:5 tells us “For the LORD is good; his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations.”

We believe that God's faithfulness in the past 173 years is a blessing meant to be shared and extend far beyond this generation. By renewing our mission, we are paving the way for the next 173 years. Our dark world needs the bright light of Jesus like never before. There is no greater cause on the planet than the cause of Jesus Christ. This is our moment to link arms together, to renew our commitment to ministry and missions, for the sake of the whole world. Let's push forward and gain ground for the Kingdom of God that will extend for generations and beyond.

Abigail and I are excited to invite you to join us as we follow the Spirit and move forward together.

Let's do this, church!



Where We

e've Been

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A Snapshot Of Our Church History

1852- 1876

THE FOUNDATIONS

New Hope Baptist Church of Christ was established in 1852, meeting in homes and schoolhouses. In 1868, the church purchased our first land for \$20 at the corner of Washington and Goliad, and dedicated our first building in 1876.



PORCH OF FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH



EAST RUSK STREET CHURCH HOME



THREE-STORY SUNDAY SCHOOL ANNEX

1908 -1951

EARLY EXPANSION

The congregation built a second church home on East Rusk Street in 1908. After surviving a devastating fire in 1927, we continued growing with a three-story Sunday School Annex in 1934 and added classrooms, an office, and nursery by 1951.

1962-1970

MAJOR RELOCATION

In 1962, the church voted to relocate, purchasing 6.7 acres at Boydston and Goliad. Despite a 1968 hailstorm setback, we laid the cornerstone on Father's Day in 1970 with the theme "Building for Christ" and sold our old building the following year.



CHURCH SIGN AT BOYDSTON AND GOLIAD



NEW EDUCATION BUILDING



FIRST BAPTIST ROCKWALL CHURCH MEMBERS (1961)

1979-1989

MISSION & GROWTH

The church launched an outreach mission in 1979, which later became Lake Pointe Church. We approved a \$450,000 education building in 1980 and dedicated it along with a new fellowship hall in 1983. Pastor Steve Swofford began his leadership in 1989.



DEDICATION OF THE FELLOWSHIP HALL

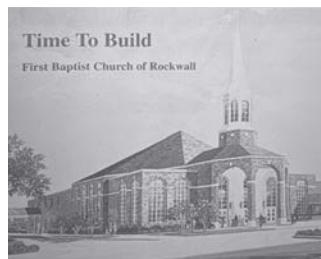
1990- 1999

TRANSFORMATION ERA

Pastor Steve led massive growth with a balcony addition in 1990 and successive building campaigns. “Together We Build” (1991-1995) raised \$1.4 million, and “Time to Build” (1997) raised over \$2 million, resulting in a stunning 20,000 square foot, 800-seat Worship Center completed in 1999.



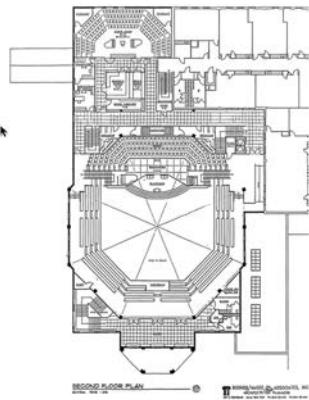
NEW CHURCH SIGN



TIME TO BUILD POSTER

2000 -NOW

MODERN CAMPUS



FLOOR PLANS FOR WORSHIP CENTER

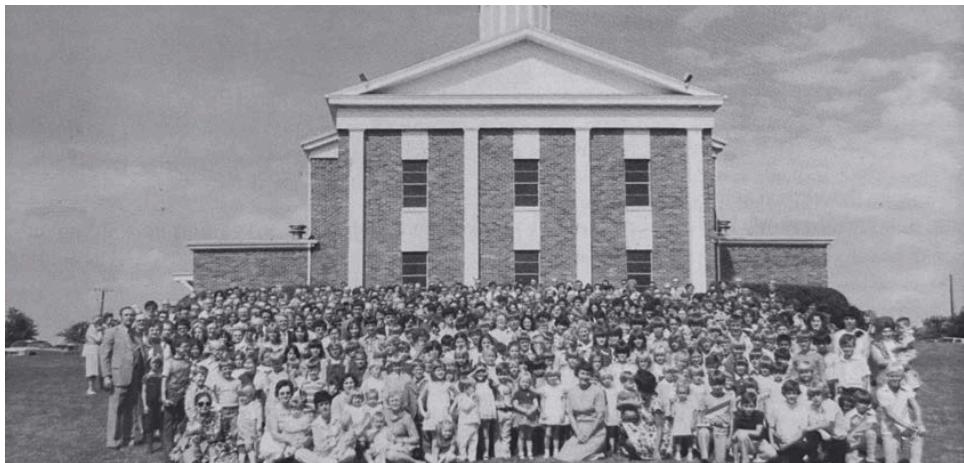
The church completed our current campus with the 32,000 square foot Children’s Building in 2008 and the Student Building in 2011. The M.L. Jones Chapel was renovated in 2013, and the Worship Center received a renovation in 2021, replacing pews with chairs for greater flexibility.



WORSHIP CENTER GROUNDBREAKING



REVEREND M.L. JONES



CHURCH MEMBERS AT 125TH ANNIVERSARY



PASTOR STEVE SWOFFORD



LORD'S SUPPER IN WORSHIP CENTER (2024)

Where We

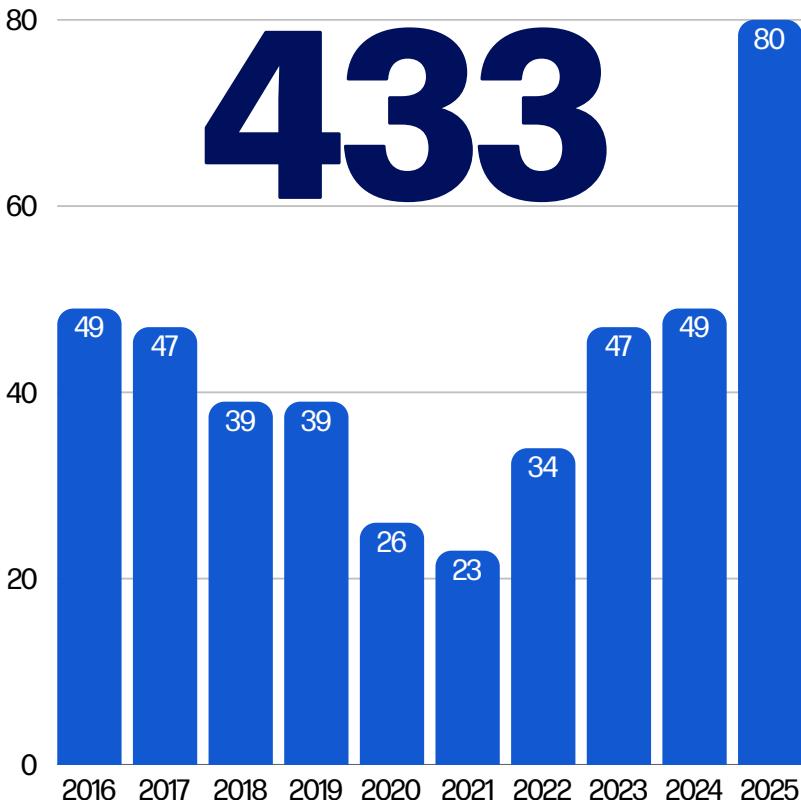
We Are Now

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BAPTISMS

2016-2025



VOLUNTEERS

SUNDAY MORNINGS

451

Adult Teachers - 40; Student Teachers - 38; Children/Preschool Teachers - 175;
Greeters, Ushers, Welcome Center - 49; Library - 3; Baptism - 1; First Steps Class
Hosts - 12; Sound Booth - 3; Bus Drivers - 10; Choir - 100; Orchestra - 20

ATTENDANCE

WORSHIP

1500

AVERAGE WORSHIP
ATTENDANCE
2025-2026

80%

INCREASE IN AVERAGE
WORSHIP ATTENDANCE
SINCE 2021

2809

ATTENDANCE AT
EASTER 2025

ATTENDANCE

SUNDAY SCHOOL

1310

AVERAGE SUNDAY
SCHOOL ATTENDANCE
2025-2026

Older Adults - 356; Young/Median Adults - 428; Students - 115;
Children - 195; Preschool - 216

LOCAL

IMPACT

335

CURRENTLY ATTENDING A
MEN'S OR WOMEN'S BIBLE
STUDIES

507

BACKPACKS WITH
SCHOOL SUPPLIES
DISTRIBUTED TO KIDS IN
NEED

1129

PEOPLE SENT OUT FOR
LOCAL MISSIONS AND
SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

>3K

SHOEBOXES COLLECTED
AND PACKED FOR
OPERATION CHRISTMAS
CHILD

GLOBAL

IMPACT

\$14.4M

TOTAL WORLD MISSIONS OFFERING FOR THE LAST 10 YEARS

20%

AMOUNT OF OUR
TOTAL BUDGET THAT
GOES OUT THE DOOR
TO OUR MISSION
PARTNERS

4

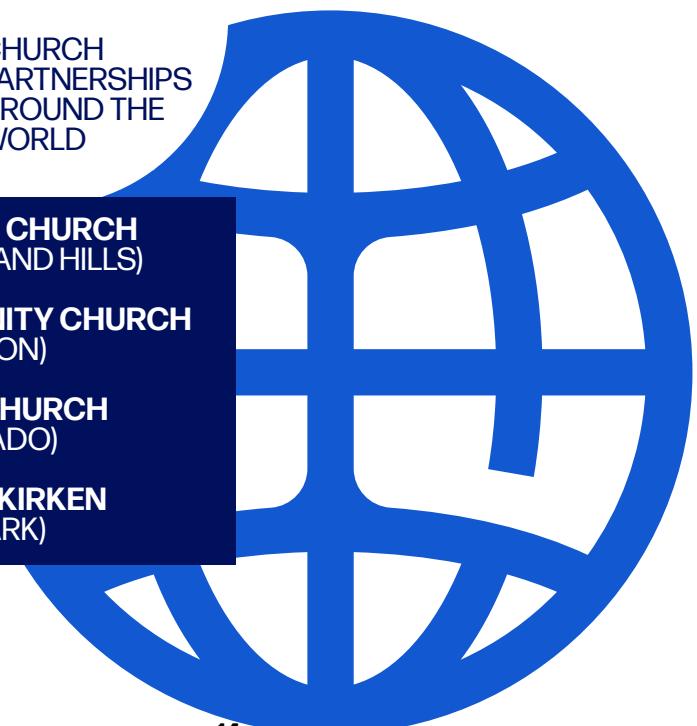
CHURCH
PARTNERSHIPS
AROUND THE
WORLD

CREEKSTONE CHURCH
(NORTH RICHLAND HILLS)

CROSS COMMUNITY CHURCH
(HOUSTON)

OUR CITY CHURCH
(COLORADO)

NEW SONG KIRKEN
(DENMARK)



Where We

Are Going

RE/NEW

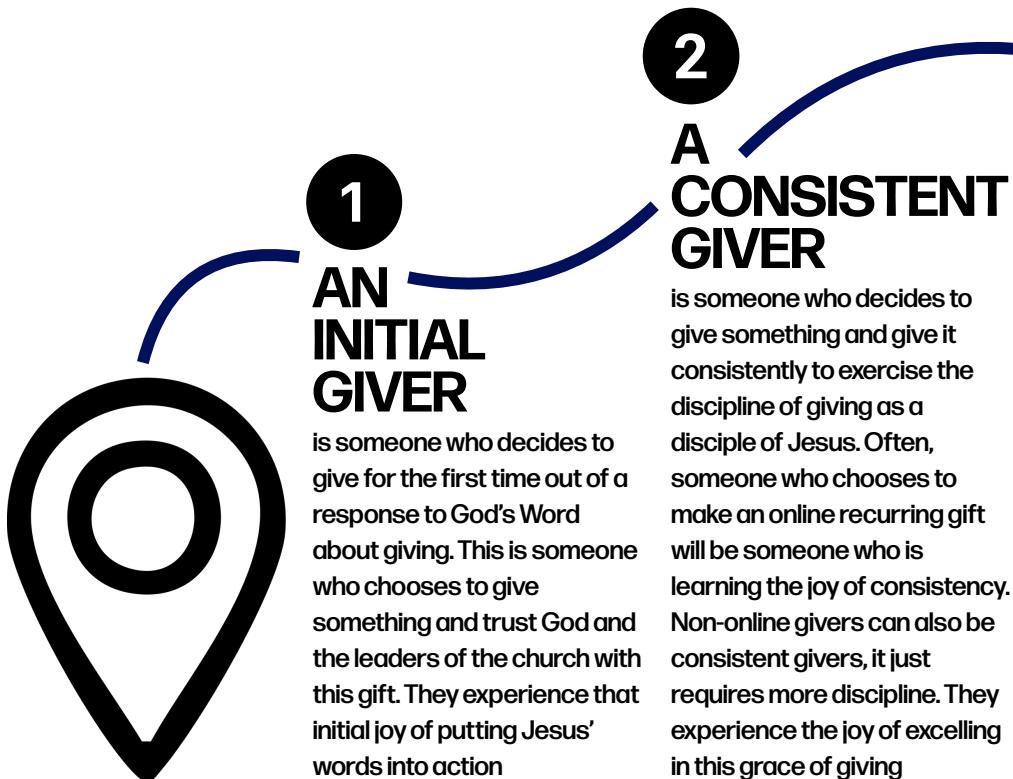
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GIVING DISCIPLESHIP JOURNEY

We want every single person to take his or her first or next step in discipleship and grow in generosity.

PRIMARY GOAL:

100% ENGAGEMENT



We're praying for all-in engagement from those who call First Baptist Rockwall home, inviting everyone to go on a journey of the heart this season. In God's eyes, our growth in generosity is less about a financial transaction and more about a heart transformation. Use this "Giving Discipleship Journey" as a tool to discover where you are now and how you might experience new joy in trusting God with your giving.



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SECONDARY GOAL:

RENEW THE CHURCH

\$25 MILLION OVER THE NEXT 2 YEARS
(APRIL 2026 - APRIL 2028)

Renew Our Mission

DECLARE, DISCIPLE, DEPLOY | \$12 MILLION

A two-year operating budget of \$9.5 million renews our commitment to each and every ministry serving kids, students, and adults.

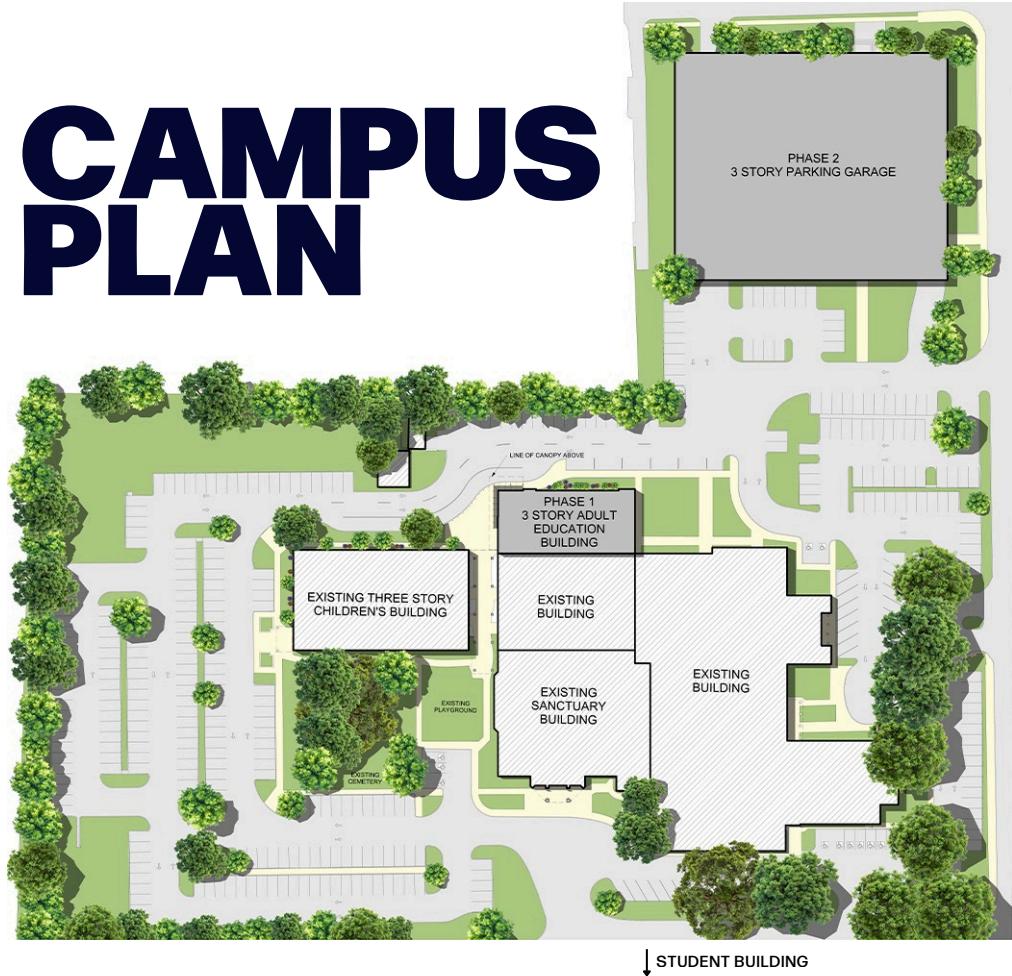
As we renew our promise to advance the gospel to the ends of the earth, we will invest \$2.5 million in this next season into the cooperative program, plus our local community and global partners.

Renew Our Reach

EVERY LIFE MATTERS TO JESUS | \$13 MILLION

Creating new adult education space and expanding our parking will renew and revitalize our campus, making room for growth and transformation.

CAMPUS PLAN



REBUILD TIMELINE

Phase #1 - Education Building

Begin in Summer 2026

Phase #2 - Parking Structure on Kenway Property

Determined based on lease structure

Phase #3 - Auditorium & Foyer Space

Begin in mid 2027 - Completion estimated early 2029

RENDERINGS OF FUTURE BUILDINGS



ADULT EDUCATION BUILDING



PARKING GARAGE



FIRST FLOOR LOBBY



SECOND FLOOR HALLWAY



FLOOR PLANS



VIEW FROM CHURCH CAMPUS



VIEW FROM GOLIAD

WHAT IS A “ONE FUND” INITIATIVE?

You may have been part of church campaigns in the past where you were asked to give a second gift above and beyond your regular tithes and offerings to make special initiatives like new buildings and new ministries possible.

Typically, you gave that gift to a "Building Fund" while also continuing to give to the "General Fund." This type of giving can be confusing for those new to the practice, and it can make it difficult to celebrate the full impact of your generosity to First Baptist Rockwall with a single number. We believe that all giving advances ONE MISSION—and that mission is to glorify God by making disciples of Jesus Christ. So for this next season of ministry growth, we're inviting you to give your gifts to First Baptist Rockwall through one unified fund, allowing us to celebrate the totality of our generosity as we grow together as disciples of Jesus.

The RE/NEW campaign will last for two years. During this time, every gift* given will support the key components of this initiative: our general ministry budget, strategic facility improvements to better serve our community and continue reaching people for Christ, and continued investment in our local and global missions. These areas are explained in detail throughout this booklet.

**Does not include World Missions Offering*



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\$

What I/we would normally give in a year
(Excluding World Missions Offering)

+\$

My/Our expanded annual generosity
as part of the RE/NEW initiative

= \$

x 2 years 

\$

Gifts from my/our stored resources + \$

TOTAL 2-YEAR COMMITMENT

\$

April 2026 - April 2028

Name

Address

City

State

Zip

Email

Phone

Here we have included a sample commitment card so that you can begin to pray about your commitment and what that will mean for your journey with God. Please take time to think and pray through this. We will provide you with a physical commitment card on Commitment Sunday, March 29.

Message

Change Notes

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RE/MEMBER

FEBRUARY 22, 2026

JOSHUA 1:1-5



NOTES

RE/SOLVE

MARCH 1, 2026

JOSHUA 1:6-9



NOTES

RE/FOCUS

MARCH 8, 2026

JOSHUA 1:6-8, 16-18; JUDGES 2; PSALM 78



NOTES

RE/FRESH

MARCH 15, 2026

JOSHUA 1:1-9; 4:23-24



NOTES

RE/CALL

MARCH 22, 2026

ACTS 20:18-37



NOTES

RE/NEW

MARCH 29, 2026

PSALM 78



NOTES

PERSONAL DEVOTIONALS

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WEEK 1

RE/NEW OUR MISSION

CONSECRATE

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. **Psalm 51:10 ESV**

★ READ ACTS 1:1-11.

FOCUS IN ON ACTS 1:8 AND SEEK TO MEMORIZE IT.

EXAMINE

1. Jesus is asking His followers to be patient, have a persevering faith, and wait for the gift of the Holy Spirit, which would empower them to be His witnesses all throughout Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and the ends of the earth. We know that as we renew our commitment, it will take a faith that requires both patience and perseverance. Do you wrestle personally with either of these traits? How does this impact your faith? What is the source of patience and perseverance in our faith?

2. Jesus casts vision for His followers to spread His message to all types of places, even those in which they weren't personally comfortable. When you think about your Jerusalem, your Judea, your Samaria, what is uncomfortable for you as you seek to share your faith in an unstoppable way? What is your Jerusalem on a day-to-day basis? Is it hard to share your faith in those settings and why?

3. The mission we are called to be active participants in requires great generosity. As you think about the generosity challenge of the RE/NEW initiative, how does this inspire you personally? How specifically can others be praying for you as you take steps in your generosity in this season?

PRAY *(talk and listen to God)*

Pray for what God will do in each one of us through this RE/NEW series and what He will do in our church. Reflect on your answers from #3 above and share with family or close friends so that they can be praying for you. Encourage everyone to join us each week as we see what God has for us in this next season for His glory.

WEEK 2

RE/NEW OUR COMMUNITY

CONSECRATE

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. **Psalm 51:10 ESV**

★ READ ACTS 2:42-47.

EXAMINE

1. Acts 2 is about the Holy Spirit coming at Pentecost and the effect this had on the early believers. Not only were thousands of believers added on that day but the power of community in those believers increased immensely. What are the benefits of living in community with other believers?

2. What does it mean that the believers were devoted to the apostles' teaching? Do you feel that you are devoted to the Word of God being taught by our leaders? Where do you fall short in this, and how could you be more deeply devoted?

3. The communal living of these believers is inspiring. Contrary to some interpretations, this type of living shouldn't be interpreted as socialism; rather, it was a deep care for one another through a love and devotion that comes only from Jesus. Do you feel you live in this type of way with other believers? If not, what is stopping you from living this way?

4. Verse 45 shows us that early believers sold property and possessions to meet each other's needs. Through our RE/NEW generosity challenge, we're asking you to prayerfully consider what resources God has placed in your hands to bless others. Faithfulness and generosity aren't just financial decisions—they're essential steps in discipleship. When we live this way, we position ourselves to see the Lord "add to our number day by day." Our vision is to reach all of Rockwall County with the gospel, but that only becomes reality if we're all committed—not just to the mission, but to one another. Take a moment to ask God how He's calling you to serve and invest in our community.

PRAY *(talk and listen to God)*

Pray for what God will continue to do in each one of us through this RE/NEW series and what He will do in our church. Reflect on answers from #4 above and pray specifically for what God is calling you to do.

WEEK 3

RE/NEW OUR BOLDNESS

CONSECRATE

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. **Psalm 51:10 ESV**

★ READ ACTS 4:1-13; 23-37.

EXAMINE

1. Peter and John faced a similar fate as Jesus did when being questioned by the Jewish Council. Their lives were literally at stake when they did what they did and said what they said in the name of Jesus. Where did their boldness come from?

2. What do you feel others would say about your boldness and commitment to the mission God has called us to? This is something we all can grow in. But notice what is said in verse 13... "they had been with Jesus." To grow in our boldness, we must remain connected to the source, Jesus Christ. Would people say that about you? Would people say of your actions and your words, "Wow, he/she must have been with Jesus in order to have done that."

3. After Peter and John's encounter with the Jewish Council, they could've gone back and told the other believers they needed to hunker down and keep their faith a little closer to the vest. Instead, what did they do?

4. Similar to the passage in Acts 2 from last week about the believers' generosity, these early believers in Acts 4 were boldly generous as well (vs. 32-37). Knowing what these believers had just encountered regarding the opposition from the religious leaders, their boldness in generosity certainly contains an unstoppable quality to it. As you think about your own generosity and specifically your commitment to RE/NEW, would you consider it bold? How so, or how might you need to ask for God's power in making it so?

PRAY (*talk and listen to God*)

Pray for what God will do in each one of us through this RE/NEW series and what He will do in our church. Reflect on answers from #4 above and pray for boldness as you make your commitment.

WEEK 4

RE/NEW OUR SURRENDER

CONSECRATE

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. **Psalm 51:10 ESV**

★ READ ACTS 9:1-19.

EXAMINE

1. It's quite remarkable that someone (Saul) who was seeking to do such damage to God's plan, to Jesus, and to His disciples would make such an incredible turnaround to be one of the most powerful voices for God and be used to write the majority of the New Testament. Do you know someone like this in your life who has made such a remarkable turnaround for God? Or is that YOUR story?

2. What role did the act of surrender play in the story you shared above?

3. To surrender means "to abandon oneself entirely to; to give up, abandon, or relinquish; to give oneself up, as into the power of another; submit or yield." Besides your salvation and surrendering your life to Jesus (if you have done that*), what else in your life have you surrendered?

*Note: If you are someone who has not yet surrendered your life to Jesus, we pray that this testimony of Saul's conversion to Paul is moving for you and your faith journey. We would love to walk alongside you in your journey with Christ and help you take the next steps. If you aren't in a Sunday School Class or have questions, please contact Kale Buckner at Kale@firstrockwall.org. We would love to help you take your next steps in surrendering your life to Jesus and living your faith in community.

4. As you think about your RE/NEW generosity commitment, consider your commitment in light of surrender and specifically considering this drastic surrender we see in Acts 9. Does your generosity commitment represent a relinquishment into God's power and leading? How so, or how might it be better?

PRAY (*talk and listen to God*)

Praise God for His movement at Advance Commitment Night and pray for the upcoming all-church Commitment Sunday, March 29. Reflect on answers from #4 and use it to guide your prayer time. Encourage everyone you know to continue praying through their commitment as we seek to help everyone actually follow Jesus in every area of their lives.

WEEK 5

RE/NEW OUR LEGACY

CONSECRATE

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. **Psalm 51:10 ESV**

★ READ ACTS 10:1-8; 24-48.

EXAMINE

1. What significant characteristics of Cornelius led to why he was chosen as someone to receive this message from Peter?

2. If God were to commend you for something you have done that is creating a legacy and being noticed by God, what would that be? Or what would you like for it to be?

3. Cornelius's commitment to generosity and to prayer ultimately led to his relatives and close friends understanding who Jesus is and becoming baptized. Have you ever thought of your faithfulness to generosity and prayer being something that God would recognize so clearly that He would use it as a means of bringing other people to Him? Have you seen this in your own life? In the lives of others?

4. As you pray about the commitment to generosity you're planning to make for RE/NEW this upcoming weekend, could it be said of you that you are leaving a legacy for God through this commitment? In other words, what does this RE/NEW commitment mean for you (and your family if applicable)?

PRAY *(talk and listen to God)*

Pray for what God will do in each one of us through this RE/NEW series and what He will do in our church. Reflect on answers from #4 above and pray asking God what it means for you to leave a legacy. Continue praying through your commitment and for the all-church Commitment Sunday **THIS WEEKEND**, March 29.

WEEK 6

RE/NEW OUR GENEROSITY

CONSECRATE

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. **Psalm 51:10 ESV**

★ READ ACTS 20:17-24; 32-35

EXAMINE

1. Paul is giving his final discourse to the Ephesian elders in this passage. What things is he reminding them of as he prepares to leave them for the last time?

2. Paul's last statement is about generosity, and it's one of the more well known statements Paul ever gave - "It is more blessed to give than to receive." What is the significance of this being the very last thing he says? What do you think he was trying to impress upon them as he departed?

3. What are some things you have learned about generosity and your faith during this RE/NEW series? (It's important to note that generosity is all-encompassing - extending to every area of our lives.)

4. Prayerfully, many have already made our RE/NEW commitments this past weekend. As those of us who have already made our commitments think about the next two years of living out this commitment, what are some encouragements we can give to one another about staying the course of faith, perseverance, and generosity?

PRAY (*talk and listen to God*)

Pray in gratitude for what God has done and is doing through the all-church Commitment Sunday for RE/NEW. Pray for anyone who has yet to make their commitment and pray for God to strengthen us as a church and as individuals over these next two years. Reflect on answers from #4 above and encourage those in your Sunday School class. Thank God for all He has done through this RE/NEW series and pray for perseverance and continued growth in generosity over these next two years as we see God continue to work in so many ways!

RE/NEW

What is God leading you to do?

Frequently Asked Questions

IF WE COMMIT TO RE/NEW, HOW DOES THIS CHANGE MY GIVING TO MISSIONS, THE GENERAL FUND, AND OTHER SPECIAL OFFERINGS OR DESIGNATED GIFTS?

During this two-year period, every contribution to God through First Baptist Rockwall* is a contribution to our **RE/NEW** campaign. Every aspect of the ministry vision God is calling us toward for the next two years will be funded through **RE/NEW**. There will not be separate funds. Every gift given to First Baptist Rockwall* will support the key components of this initiative – continuing to invest in our ongoing ministries, increasing our investment in our local and global community, and further expanding our outreach and impact through strategic facility expansions.

***This does not include the World Missions Offering.** Every year, we collect the World Missions Offering to support missionaries around the globe, and we are fully committed to continuing this vital ministry. The **RE/NEW** campaign will not affect the World Missions Offering in any way. We deeply cherish this offering and its impact—every single dollar goes directly out our doors to share the gospel with lost people in our world, our continent, our nation, and our state.

HOW LONG IS MY COMMITMENT?

We are asking that everyone make a two-year commitment. The fulfillment period for your commitment will begin with our First Big Give on **Sunday, April 19, 2026**, and will culminate in April 2028.

ARE THERE ADDITIONAL WAYS BESIDES CASH THAT I CAN GIVE MORE TOWARDS RE/NEW?

Be creative as you explore ways you and your family can give toward **RE/NEW**. You might have stocks, property, or other assets of that nature. Or you may have stored resources that God has blessed you with in the past that He might be calling you to give during this time. Please let us know if you need assistance with facilitating gifts of property or stock, and we would be happy to help you with that.

WHAT ARE YOU ASKING ME TO DO?

First and foremost, we ask that you pray and seek God's leading on what He is asking of you. Prepare your heart to hear Him and listen to what He says. Engage in a small group during this season if you haven't already joined one. Engage in personal reflection with God using this **RE/NEW** guide. Talk with your group, spouse, family, friends, or others about what this commitment will mean for this next exciting season of your life.

We are asking that you make a commitment to gospel-driven, surrendered generosity – whatever it is that God leads you to do. Follow His leading.

Finally, prepare to be in awe of the Lord. It is an awesome God that we serve, and we anticipate He will move in powerful ways as we seek an unprecedented impact from our collective **RE/NEW** commitments – something only God can do. Please mark your calendar for **Commitment Sunday, March 29**, and prepare to experience a life-changing worship service that will forever be remembered as a defining moment for our church and your own faith.

WHEN IS _____ HAPPENING?

Here are important dates for you to know!

March 8 - Advanced Commitment Night
March 29 - Commitment Sunday
April 16 - First Big Give



WHAT IF I'M MOVING WITHIN THE NEXT TWO YEARS, OR IF I AM UNCERTAIN ABOUT HOW LONG I'LL BE A PART OF FIRST ROCKWALL?

The truth is that none of us know exactly what our future will hold. That's the beauty and challenge of taking steps of faith! We want to encourage you that even if you're not sure you'll be part of First Baptist Rockwall for the entire span of the next two years, we invite you to still commit to generosity and be part of this life-changing endeavor God has for our church. If needed, you may modify your commitment at any time. However, even if you happen to move out of the area, we would love for you to continue to be a part of our story!

WHAT IF I AM SIGNIFICANTLY IN DEBT RIGHT NOW? AM I STILL SUPPOSED TO GIVE?

If you are currently seeking to make payments to pay off debt right now, we commend you for making progress on that, and you should continue to do so. Being in debt does not make someone "excused" from giving. Giving isn't about what God wants from you; it's about what God wants for you. So it should be our joy and privilege to give at all times, regardless of the amount or percentage.

WHAT IF I HAVE NEVER EVEN GIVEN TO FIRST ROCKWALL BEFORE?

RE/NEW was crafted specifically with you in mind. **RE/NEW** is a "one fund" generosity initiative, which is different from a traditional capital campaign in which you give an extra gift above and beyond your regular giving - thus creating two steps for people who aren't yet giving. **RE/NEW** is a call to surrendered, gospel-driven generosity for absolutely everyone at First Baptist Rockwall. If you have never given before, this is your invitation to get in the game with committed giving. We really hope you will!

WHAT IF I AM NEW AROUND HERE?

RE/NEW is about the vision for our church and our personal discipleship in giving as followers of Jesus. We believe that the local church is one of the most compelling missions to give toward, and we would love for you to make First Baptist Rockwall your home and join us in **RE/NEW**. If you are ready for it, this is a perfect time to put a stake in the ground and make this your church. We need you on the team!

WHAT IF I HAVEN'T BEEN BAPTIZED YET?

Great question. People take different spiritual steps at different times. Some people begin praying before attending church. Others start going to a community group before they begin talking to God in prayer. Giving is another spiritual step, and it comes at different times for different people. One thing is for sure, however: just like other spiritual disciplines, giving draws us closer to God. And God is calling all of us to give. Jesus says, "Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also" (Matthew 6:21). Whether or not you have taken the spiritual step of baptism, we would encourage you to still join us in this **RE/NEW** campaign. We firmly believe that it will draw you closer to God and hopefully to a place where you are ready to be baptized and fully surrender your life to the lordship of Christ.

HAVE MORE QUESTIONS?

Contact us at info@firstrockwall.org or call 972-771-8459.



From Generation to Generation

**“We will not hide them from their children,
but tell to the coming generation
the glorious deeds of the LORD, and his might,
and the wonders that he has done.”**

PSALM 78:4 ESV

RENEW.FIRSTROCKWALL.ORG