

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
MISSION AND VISION 2013-2015

The mission of First Presbyterian Church is to go and make disciples, bringing people into a close, personal, loving relationship with Jesus Christ.

We, the members of First Presbyterian Church, are a loving, joy-filled Christian congregation seeking to share the Good News that God, through God's Son, Jesus Christ, has reconciled us to Himself. As His disciples, we strive to grow in our relationship to God and each other through worship, prayer and study, under the leadership of the Holy Spirit. We patiently and intentionally carry out the Great Commission to make disciples of our Lord Jesus Christ accepting the responsibility to be His ambassadors in our world. Our joy leads us to serve other and the earth remembering Christ's desire to redeem all things to Himself.

Over the next three years, we urgently seek a path to continue the Reformed witness of FPC through unity within the congregation toward the vision and sustainable use of the resources God has given us.

- In order to promote unity during this transitional period, we value the leadership of a permanent pastor as a priority for our resources.

Because worship is at the center of our congregation's relationship to God, we worship together in one service which values strong preaching, vibrant music, and a welcoming culture to all those seeking a relationship with God. Our one service begins September 1, 2013, with full music staff through December 2013.

Because prayer is at the center of our personal relationship to God, our congregation commits to daily personal prayer and to expand and enhance small groups devoted to prayer and study.

Because God has promised Love through eternity, we share this Good News intentionally with others.

- We conduct a study to equip ourselves to share the Good News beginning September 2013.
- We have a process to welcome visitors and members that
 - invites persons to Christian discipleship at every worship service.

- members introduce themselves to all visitors during the time of passing the peace of Christ.
- reaches out to visitors the same day they visit the church.
- reports to the Session monthly as to the various contacts made to every visitor.
- offers welcome to all who profess faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior and are searching for a closer relationship to God.
- We conduct an outreach campaign to increase the visibility of the congregation in the community through
 - a robust web site presence.
 - traditional media sources such as print, television, radio, and billboards.
 - Utilization of social media such as Facebook, Twitter, Instagram.

Because God has provided FPC resources with which to seek our vision, the congregation is committed to the best practices of stewardship.

- FPC will sell the current church building in order to right size our church meeting place to the size of our congregation. The asking price will be lowered, and the church property will be aggressively marketed.
- FPC will secure another meeting place no later than January 1, 2015.
- FPC utilizes recurring income (pledges and plate offerings) for recurring expenses (staff, benevolence and program expenses) effective January 1, 2014.

Because FPC is committed to serve others in need,

- FPC vibrantly serves the ministry at Oak Park Elementary.
- FPC is a local mission partner to the New Life Church International.
- FPC is a mission partner to the Oak Park Food Pantry.
- FPC is an international mission partner to the Dora Valentin Presbyterian Church and the Presbyterian Church in Cuba.
- FPC offers a home to visiting mission groups in Southwest Louisiana.
- FPC organizes mission trips.
- FPC will provide special opportunities to physically and financially support various ministry outreaches.