

State of our 2021 Finances

As we have concluded the first 7 months of 2021, the Finance Team is reporting to our congregation the financial results for the period ended July 31, 2021, as compared to last year for the same period and our 7 month budget:

July 2020	July 2021 Budget	July 2021 Actual
Contributions, other		
\$ 145,495	\$128,468	\$190,666
Expenses		
\$ 152,250	162,593	149,288
Operating (Loss) Income		
\$ (6,755)	\$(34,125)	\$ 41,378
Investment Increase (decrease)		
\$ (20,866)	\$ 0	\$110,606

We are well ahead of our budget for the first seven months of the year. Many of our congregation have accelerated their pledge payments which is not uncommon for our church. Additionally, we sold the church bus for \$16,010 and received an estate gift of \$35,000. Our expenses are below budget because we have not yet paid any of our insurance (it's not due until December) as well as some scheduled maintenance. We have funded all missions.

The market value of our investments increased dramatically during the first half of 2021. As you know, we do not consider this spendable cash as our investments are our long-term savings and can be very volatile. Our cash and investments total \$1,534,000 with \$1,180,000 in unrestricted funds.

Our congregation has remained faithful to the church, and we are truly grateful! As always, it is important that we all continue to remember the church, with our participation, offerings, and prayer.

If you would like more information, you may obtain detailed financial statements from the church office or contact me with questions.

Amy Ray, Treasurer

From the Formations Class

The Formations Class meets each Sunday at 9:45am in the church parlor. COVID precautions are in place. We are a Bible-based study group, using published material from the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship. Our September unit is a study of the Sermon on the Mount (the Ethics of the Kingdom), taken from the Gospel of Matthew. We are eager to “rebuild” our class, and invite any adult or older youth to join us for study, discussion and to learn what the Bible has to say to us and for us today. Our “study hour” leads into the “worship hour” at eleven. This is a ministry of Peakland Baptist Church.



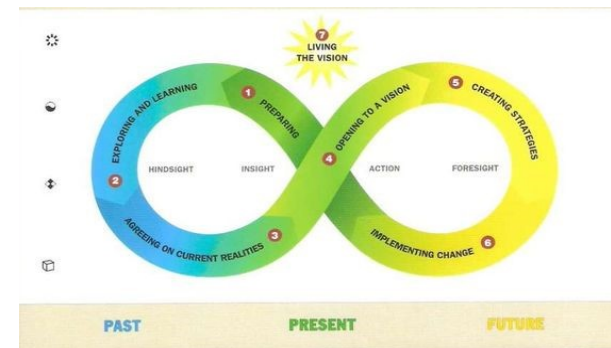
Leslie Willman has been working on our 2nd floor spaces to organize and neaten them—they look amazing! Thank you, Leslie!



The Messenger

September 2021

Agreeing on Our Realities



We have been moving through the stages of our PBC Vision Process exceptionally well.

Using the rubric shown above, we have spent time preparing, talking about what we care about in this church and what we are looking for in our faith community; we have done some exploring and learning (although we have more to do there). Before we can do anything that brings us into motion toward the future, however, we must finish our explorations, answering questions like, “What do people need from church in 2021 that is different than it has been in the past?” and “What are we willing to do to create a true *zeitgeist* in our community—a true sense of purpose and shared values that bring us together and provide a sense of identity for us as a church?”

The next step might be the hardest one. It is called “Agreeing on Our Realities.” This step requires that we confront truth, answering

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Camp Caring Wildly

Camp Caring Wildly took place August 2-5 this year and was a fabulous, fun success for all of us! We had nine young people, ages 9-15, who learned:

- the 7 principles of Leave No Trace (ask them—they will tell you);
- how to build a safe shelter;
- how to build a bear bag (to keep the bears from eating your food or stomping through your campground);
- what the mission at Parkview Mission involves and how to serve dinner to 100 people (and bake 300 cookies and 6 large pans of mac and cheese in order to do so);
- how to make a leather-bound book from scratch;
- principles of safe climbing;
- and how to stay silent for 20 minutes every day.

Monty, Martha and Anna Kearsse led the camp and we partnered with Susan Williams and the youth program at Holy Trinity Lutheran church in several events.

We talked about care for the planet and the creatures we encounter on it, about caring for those in our community who are most vulnerable, and about caring for ourselves. We’re all grateful to have had such a wonderful week

together!

Pictures:
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CHOIR RETURNS IN SEPTEMBER—FURTHER INFORMATION ON PAGE 3

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Agreeing on Our Realities cont'd

questions like “Where are we right now? What resources can we expect to be able to count on? What resources will we need to commit to in order to be able to move to the next step of our vision process?” All good questions, in addition to which, there is the question, “What will we be able to do while the pandemic still affects our daily lives and our psyches?” Good questions.

How can you be part of answering those questions?

1. You will receive an email survey (which will also be sent as a printed copy to those who receive Messenger by mail). The survey has ranked choice answers—complete the survey as honestly as you can and return it by the end of September.
2. Join us on **OCTOBER 10TH** for Investment Sunday—what is Investment Sunday? Glad you asked! On Investment Sunday, we will talk about what we’re willing to commit to as individuals and as a church body, to breathe life into a vision for our near present and future. Things like:
 - Care groups
 - Leadership
 - Theological dialogue
 - Personal spiritual formation
 - Listening and believing
 - Financial support

We want to build a church community that fulfills the needs of our people, that protects the most vulnerable in our midst, that is inviting to the many, many people who need a church like ours and that answers the call we have been given to help each other access the Love of God described for us in I Corinthians 13. While some of that may sound daunting, be assured that we do not begin from zero—we have been doing this work for a while now and this church has strong ethics on which we are building. And we do not do this work alone.

The **Searchers** Class have returned to a Zoom meeting at 9:45am on Sundays. Contact Parks Snead or Deborah Raessler if you would like to join them.
The **Formations** Class continues to meet in our Parlor on Sunday mornings at 9:45am.
The **Forum** Class is checking in with each other regularly.

September Birthdays



1	Sam Johnson
3	Laura Arrington
5	Linda Williams
7	Max Brochon
8	John Riordan
11	Sylvia List
11	Bill Thomasson
15	Pat Flemming
16	Dan Raessler
16	Susan Spencer
18	Susan Clapp
18	Jeff Riley
21	Linda Webb
22	Devon Clapp
22	Dwayne Lewis
22	Cooper Zulauf
23	Nathan Brooks
24	Livvy Flippin
25	Ed Burnette
25	Jack Wilson
28	Pat Shahrokhi
30	Lynda Russell

September Events

5—Communion and Blessing of the Hands
12—Second Sunday—11am in Sanctuary—
CASUAL SUNDAY
19—Regular Worship
26—Rev. Nathan Brooks—Pulpit Guest
Anniversary Celebration
30—Return surveys by email or mail or in person
In **October**:
3—Fellowship Hall Communion
10—Second Sunday—11am in Sanctuary—
INVESTMENT SUNDAY

Caring Wildly Mini-Camp



Bible Study

Our Wednesday Bible Study meets weekly via Zoom to discuss and unpack scripture. Beginning on **September 8th**, we begin in Galatians, Paul’s letter about unity and balance. Join us via Zoom at:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87046006745?pwd=NU11dHpSdHFhdK8yOWgwK1V0L2RSUT09>

Meeting ID: 870 4600 6745

Passcode: 423040

Dial: +1 301 715 8592

Choir is Back!

One of our greatest losses during the pandemic has been the loss of our ability to sing together in groups. As more people have been vaccinated, Debbie Burton has been working to consider what might make it possible for us to return to a system of having choir practice and offering songs for worship together on Sunday mornings. On September 9th, the choir will return to its weekly practice with the following protocols in place:

- Those participating in choir must be fully vaccinated;
- Participants will wear masks;
- Participants will stay a socially distanced from each other during practice and performance.

Hopefully, by staying careful, we can offer a chance for those of you who would like to be part of a choir to join in this important element of our corporate worship and we can receive the blessing of the work of our choir as part of our worship services again.

We have all been very grateful for the ways Debbie and Allan Heer have continued to offer special music for us whenever possible through these hard months. **If you would like to participate in our choir program, let Debbie Burton know so that she can prepare.**

CHOIR PRACTICE:

**THURSDAYS, 7:30PM,
FELLOWSHIP HALL
SUNDAYS, 10:30AM
SANCTUARY**