

# OUR STORY IS ONE OF TRANSFORMATION: NURTURING LIVES, SHAPING THE CITY, AND CHANGING THE WORLD



This work of transformation is supported through the time, talent, and treasure of our church family. The ministries here described invite your participation through your means to be part of this important mission. As we move into our 2015 Stewardship Campaign, celebrate with us the amazing work of our ministries and pledge your resources to this work.

# OUR STORY

DEMONSTRATES THAT GIFTS OF FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP CAN MAKE A POSITIVE IMPACT IN OUR LOCAL, NATIONAL, AND INTERNATIONAL FAITH COMMUNITY



On the next pages you will see how we at the First Christian Church of Decatur use our income to sustain our four ministry areas of Worship, Church Community Life, Christian Education, and Outreach. Our property, administration, and personnel all support these four ministry areas, and their expenses have been divided according to the portion used for each ministry area. The sources of the Church's income are also highlighted. We try hard to be creative in our fundraising and to diversify our sources of income, but you will see that the greatest source of income is from our own faithful giving.

As we begin our Stewardship Campaign for 2015, please prayerfully consider your pledge for the continuing ministry of our Church. If you give regularly, but do not pledge, please consider pledging this year, as it helps with the budgeting process. Pledges are exactly what they describe. The pledge indicates to us your plans of contributing over the year--nothing is required of you. Your pledges are confidential, only the treasurer has access to pledge information.

On Sunday, October 26, 2014, we will dedicate pledges for 2015 to the missions of our Church. We look forward to seeing you on this important occasion and to continue the transformative work of the First Christian Church of Decatur in 2015.

A proposed line-item budget for 2015 is available by the doors to the Sanctuary or upon request.

Your Stewardship Ministry Team

## 2015 BUDGET INCOME:

\$ 176,000	PLEGGED OFFERINGS AT 2014 LEVELS
<b>\$ 15,000 -</b>	<b>INCREASED GIVING NEEDED FOR 2015</b>
\$ 29,000	CHRISTMAS TREE SALES
\$ 3,000	OTHER FUNDRAISERS
\$ 26,000	UTILITY OFFSETS
\$ 5,000	PERPETUAL FUND PROCEEDS
\$ 15,000	CHALICE THRIFT PROCEEDS
\$ 1,000	DISCIPLES MEN'S FELLOWSHIP
\$ 2,000	DISCIPLES WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP
<b>\$ 272,000</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>

## 2015 BUDGET EXPENSES:

\$ 249,000	GENERAL BUDGET EXPENSES
\$ 5,000	SPENDING FROM PERPETUAL FUND
\$ 15,000	CHALICE THRIFT DONATIONS
\$ 1,000	DISCIPLES MEN'S FELLOWSHIP
\$ 2,000	DISCIPLES WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP
<b>\$ 272,000</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>

## SPENDING IN MINISTRY AREAS:

\$ 88,000	WORSHIP MINISTRY
\$ 47,000	OUTREACH MINISTRY
\$ 56,000	CHRISTIAN EDUCATION MINISTRY
\$ 81,000	CHURCH COMMUNITY LIFE MINISTRY

# OUR STORY IS ONE OF FAITHFUL STEWARDSHIP



*At First Christian Church of Decatur, we set our goal to understand what we do with what we have in light of a biblical model of ideal stewardship. This document narrates our church “budget” with an understanding that real biblical stewardship is far more than just money and building projects.*

## *Four principles of biblical stewardship should be held in our hearts and minds:*

### *1. The principle of ownership.*

“The earth is the LORD’s, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it.” (Psa. 24)

“Remember the LORD your God, for it is he who gives you the ability to produce wealth.” (Deut. 8:18)

### *2. The principle of responsibility.*

“. . . The Bible constantly asks, What about your responsibilities? Owners have rights; stewards have responsibilities. (Bill Peel)

“Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much, and whoever is dishonest with very little will also be dishonest with much. So if you have not been trustworthy in handling worldly wealth, who will trust you with true riches? And if you have not been trustworthy with someone else’s property, who will give you property of your own?” (Luke 16:12-14)

### *3. The principle of accountability.*

“Like the servants in the Parable of the Talents, we will be called to give an account of how we have administered everything we have been given, including our time, money, abilities, information, wisdom, relationships, and authority.” (Bill Peel)

“For whoever has will be given more, and they will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what they have will be taken from them.” (Mtt. 25:29)

### *4. The principle of reward.*

“Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving.” (Col. 3: 23-4)

“Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master’s happiness!” (Mtt 25:21)

*We believe that Christians living in the culture today, a culture which is broken and full of need, model the spirit of Jesus by living out this multi-faceted view of true stewardship. Stewardship, in this sense, is a vocation where “our deep gladness meets the world’s deep need” (Buechner). Through planning the work we do with our resources -- physical, spiritual, emotional -- we endeavor to meet the needs of our church, community, and world. - Bill Peel*

# OUR STORY

FOCUSES ON MINISTRY



**MINISTRY OF WORSHIP**

**MINISTRY OF OUTREACH**

**MINISTRY OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION**

**MINISTRY OF CHURCH COMMUNITY LIFE**

**WORSHIP**

**OUTREACH**

**CHRISTIAN EDUCATION**

**CHURCH COMMUNITY LIFE**

# OUR STORY

SUSTAINS AND BUILDS A VIBRANT AND DYNAMIC WORSHIP LIFE – RELEVANT AND DEEPLY SPIRITUAL



## WORSHIP

*STORY-FORMED WORSHIP SERVICES*

32%  
\$88,000

**Some of the Worship Ministry's plans for 2015 include:**

- Innovative worship services
- Chrismon service
- Holy Week services
- Chancel & Handbell choirs
- Special music

The story-formed worship experience enacts a synergy in the preaching of God's message. In our worship the Divine, the community, and the message continually shape our lives through hearing God's story and sharing our own stories. This is the working of divine grace and love in our midst. The liturgical arts and music enhance our expression of this grace. The shifting demographic of our church has had an impact on us. As we celebrate the lives and work of our past church, we now seek to live into our new calling.



**WORSHIP**

**OUTREACH**

**CHRISTIAN EDUCATION**

**CHURCH COMMUNITY LIFE**

# OUR STORY IS GROUNDED IN COMMUNITY SERVICE – THE BELIEF THAT FAITH CAN IMPACT THE WORLD



**OUTREACH**  
*UNITED TO SERVE*

17%  
\$47,000

**Some of the Outreach Ministry's plans for 2015 include:**

- Financial gifts for local, regional and global missions
- Chalice Thrift
- Decatur Toy Park
- Hygiene kits for Atlanta's homeless
- Fight against Human Trafficking
- Disciples Women's outreach projects (Reloom, Christmas shoeboxes, etc.)
- Disciples Men's outreach projects

Young people, men, women--everyone can serve in some way within our outreach ministries. The circles of influence of our outreach include local efforts which not only serve area needs but also sustain our other larger national and global missions. God has called us to take up the cross and address the great needs in Atlanta and the world in regards to human trafficking in 2015. This we do in addition to already thriving initiatives--Chalice Thrift, Decatur Makers, hygiene kits, Decatur Toy Park, and meals for homeless families.



OUTREACH

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

CHURCH COMMUNITY LIFE

WORSHIP

# OUR STORY

DEEPENS AND GROWS DISCIPLES  
OF CHRIST TO LIVE OUT GOD'S LOVE IN OUR LIVES



**CHRISTIAN EDUCATION**

*NURTURING RECONCILIATION*

21%  
\$56,000

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

CHURCH COMMUNITY LIFE

WORSHIP

OUTREACH

Some of the Christian Education Ministry's plans for 2015 include:

- Elf Workshop
- Easter Butterfly Release
- Vacation Bible School
- Christmas Pageant
- Youth-a-Palooza
- Children's Sunday School (Godly Play and Jesus Junction)
- Youth Sunday School
- Adult Sunday School

Developing and nurturing people of wisdom contributes to the great pool of agents of reconciliation in the world. Our ministry is blessed by offering weekly Bible studies and opportunities for children, teens, and adults. Offerings include classes in fun Godly Play and Jesus Junction for kids. And for adults, classes such as Pathfinders, Great Awakenings, Baptism and Belonging, and History and Polity of the Christian Church are offered. We've ordained over two dozen ministers in this church and commissioned over 60 into various ministries of service.



# OUR STORY

REFLECTS AND RESPONDS TO  
DECATUR AND THE SURROUNDING METROPOLIS



**CHURCH COMMUNITY LIFE**

*INTENTIONAL INCLUSIVITY*

# 30%

# \$81,000

CHURCH COMMUNITY LIFE

WORSHIP

OUTREACH

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

**Some of the Church Community Life Ministry's plans for 2015 include:**

- Telling our stories
- Disciples Women's Fellowship
- Disciples Men's Fellowship
- Wisdom Weavers
- Christmas Tree Sale
- 4th of July on the lawn
- Carnival/Fall Festival
- Fellowship dinners/continental breakfasts

Intentionality about remaining open and inclusive is key to our identity. We challenge ourselves to "agree to disagree." We have a covenantal relationship with sister Disciples churches and partner with Gentle Spirit Christian Church in their mission to the homeless and LGBT community here in Decatur. We intentionally work to learn and share the stories of our members, deepening the community and relationships we cherish. Our church family includes people of diverse backgrounds, beliefs, understandings, attitudes, and geography. Everyone is welcome to this church home.



*“THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE CHURCH AT THIS TIME CALL IMPERIOUSLY FOR THE ACCOMPLISHMENT OF SOME OF THE MOST IMPORTANT PURPOSES FOR WHICH THE CHURCH HERSELF WAS SET UP IN THE WORLD.” (ALEXANDER CAMPBELL)*



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