

I have a question!

What is our Possess the Land capital campaign?

It is a three-month effort to challenge our congregation to give sacrificially to provide funds to help pay for our relocation and expansion within the next three years. Campaign gifts are to be in addition to any present support of our Church's budget and missions. The communication phase of the campaign begins March 31 and concludes with a special Vision Banquet, April 27. Families are encouraged to seek God's leadership as they determine a three-year, weekly or monthly, commitment for their giving. Though people involved in campaign leadership will make their commitment decisions before Vision Sunday, most families will be invited to make their commitments during the two weeks following that event

Why don't we just borrow and make payments on those projects?

Some interim borrowing may be needed. This campaign will help us make those payments. However, our ideal intention is to pay for those projects from campaign gifts and avoid taking out a loan. A dollar given is worth 2 to 3 borrowed dollars. That is money we can re- invest in our ministry which is so important to our future growth!

Do you have a question?

There are no secrets about any aspect of **Possess the Land**. If you have a question, don't hesitate to ask any member of the steering team. They will answer your question or direct you to someone with an answer. A campaign manual is also available for all to view in the Church office.



POSSESS THE LAND

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
OF FESTUS, CRYSTAL CITY
107 N TRUMAN BLVD
CRYSTAL CITY, MO 63019



ANNOUNCING OUR CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

Equal Sacrifice, Not Equal Gifts

First Baptist Church is launching a capital stewardship campaign to provide funds to fulfill the vision of relocating our Church home without the undue burden of expensive debt. **Possess the Land** is the name we have chosen for this campaign. This name acknowledges a tremendous opportunity to magnify Christ and minister to this region and future generations of people God brings to us. We can do this by being the Church that invests in the future of our ministry. Consider all the ways we can utilize our new Church facilities for ministry and outreach. This is an opportunity to invest and make a difference for our Church, our community, and eternity.

Those who first envisioned this relocation knew the importance of

providing adequate buildings as the single most effective tool we have to do ministry. Fulfilling that vision is much more than just a “step of faith” or even a “leap of faith”—it is a “journey of faith.” And indeed, it is a journey. Our **Possess the Land** capital campaign is an important step in continuing that journey.

Possess the Land officially began February 25, when our campaign steering team began work to lead this capital campaign effort. The first major step in the campaign is the Spiritual Emphasis that begins **Sunday, March 16**. (See article inside)

The goal of **Possess the Land** is to pay for as much of our relocation and expansion as possible, allowing us to save many dollars in interest

and preserve the ministry commitment reflected in our budget. Those saved dollars can then be used to strengthen and expand the ministry to which God has called us. All of us who give in this campaign will be doing more than donating—we will be investing. Not just in the future of our Church, but we will be investing in people’s lives, in our community, and in the Kingdom of God for generations to come.

Our **Possess the Land** capital campaign concludes May 18, Celebration Sunday. This day will be a time of rejoicing for all that God has led us to accomplish through our commitment and all He promises to accomplish in the ministry of First Baptist Church for the future.

FROM VISION TO REALITY



This building is the future home of First Baptist Church, a wonderful working tool for all aspects of our ministry. The generous giving by many members and friends through the years has provided our current facilities.

Our new Church home will be a testimony that God is faithful. And, God has blessed our ministry in countless ways in the past. May He also find us faithful in the great plans He has for the future of First Baptist Church.

Meet Our Capital Campaign Consultant



John Hessel is founder and CEO of John Hessel & Associates, a capital stewardship consulting firm that was established in 1995. John lives in Oakville, Missouri.

John has been in the ministry of capital stewardship since 1982. For eleven years, he worked for the Southern Baptist Convention. John has led over 250 successful capital stewardship campaigns in churches all across the Midwest. Our Church has selected John to direct the capital campaign.

John is a native of Alton, Illinois, and a graduate of Oklahoma Baptist University and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. He has pastored churches in Oklahoma, Texas, Illinois, and Missouri. He has a pastor's heart and a passion for assisting churches to fulfill the vision of their ministry through his ministry of guiding capital stewardship campaigns.

John recently retired as pastor of First Baptist Church of Oakville, in South St. Louis County, where he served for 15 years. He has also served on the Executive Board of the Missouri Baptist Convention, as a trustee of Missouri Baptist University, a community hospital, and in several denominational positions on both the state and national levels. He has taught at Hannibal LaGrange University and

Southern Baptist Seminary. John has written numerous articles for national publications. He enjoys golf and traveling with his wife.

You will have the opportunity to meet our consultant if you participate in any phase of **Possess the Land**. He will make several trips to our Church during the course of the campaign conducting training meetings and assuring that our capital campaign functions as intended. With a heart for ministry, he is certain that our campaign experience will be both a spiritual blessing and a financial victory for First Baptist Church

With Thanksgiving...

Do you remember the challenges and victories our Church family has experienced through the years in providing a place to worship and gather together? Families of our Church have been dreaming of and praying for the day that we could do even more in a new Church home. Those same families have been giving sacrificially to pave the way for making this building possible. Without the generous response of all those who have continued giving through the years, our current building would not exist. And without our continued giving, the vision of a new and expanded Church home could be unfulfilled.

This campaign, **Possess the Land**, has now begun. As we take this next step in our journey of faith, we want to pause to say THANK YOU

to our Church families who have given sacrificially through the years. They believe in this ministry. In this three-year campaign, some will continue to give faithfully as they have through the years. This campaign provides an opportunity for the rest of us to rise up and stand alongside those faithful givers as we add our gifts to theirs. By doing so, we honor the sacrifices of the past and we help ensure that our future Church home will be an attractive and effective ministry tool for many years to come. Whatever the response, we will always be grateful to those who led the way and who had the vision, the courage, and the example of sacrificial giving in the past to help us along on this journey

VISION BANQUET TO BE SUNDAY, April 27

Be sure to make plans to attend our Vision Banquet on Sunday evening, April 27. This special event will focus on the ministry we share at First Baptist Church celebrating our wonderful past and the promise of an exciting future. Please circle this date on your calendar. Make sure that every member of your family is aware of this special banquet event and reserves that date to participate in this important occasion.



Special Prayer Ministry to Begin

Soon, you will hear about the most important part of our **Possess the Land** capital campaign—a ministry of prayer that begins Sunday, March 16. The objective of this spiritual emphasis is three-fold: First, to seek God’s help and blessing on our capital campaign effort; Second, to undergird the many ministries that First Baptist Church is doing; and Third, to unite our Church family in a “concert” of prayer. We want to generate a spiritual atmosphere of prayer that God will continue to bless our Church, this capital campaign, and our vision of a new Church home

Leading this ministry of prayer is Karen Vaughn, the Spiritual Emphasis Director for **Possess the Land**. She and her team will work with our Pastor and others to assure that this prayer emphasis is a great blessing to the Church and an effective spiritual foundation for the capital campaign. The Possess the Land prayer team will contact every church family through a personal call in the next few days to magnify the importance of intercessory prayer.

In Colossians 4:2, Paul urges, Continue in prayer and watch in the same with thanksgiving. As we covenant together to pray for the continued growth of our church, let us heed this Call to Prayer with expectant faith that God has blessings in store for us.

Meet the Steering Team

Our **Possess the Land** campaign is being directed by a group of volunteers. These people are giving sacrificially of their time to help assure success of the campaign. Please pray for them. Please respond if they ask you to assist them in their work.

Pastor Mitch Jackson is the inspirational leader of the capital campaign. Through his preaching and pastoral leadership, he will guide us to understand the Lord’s vision for the future of our Church.

John Stockton, Campaign Director, will guide our campaign through each phase and share leadership of the campaign with our Pastor. He also serves as chairman of the campaign steering team.

Shannon Stockton, the Campaign Secretary, provides essential support services for the steering team members and other campaign workers. Shannon will also coordinate some important meetings, provide needed information, and other activities through the Church office.

Caleb Heitmann serves as our Promotion Director. Caleb will design and produce promotional and printed materials for our campaign.

Karen Vaughn is our Spiritual Emphasis Director and will coordinate the prayer ministry that provides essential prayer support for the capital campaign. Karen’s work will provide a spiritual foundation for our capital campaign.

Larry Goodwin is our Advance Commitment Director and will coordinate the effort to enlist the support of leadership families in our church to set an inspiring example for the rest of the Church by making their commitments before the April 27 Vision Banquet.

Lori Andrews is our Commitment Director. She will oversee the distribution of commitment cards to each Church family. The intent of that distribution is to give members the right to complete their commitment card in the privacy of their home, and the option to return their commitment in person or by mail.

Ruth Hudson and Linda Roth serve as our Fellowship Directors and will provide essential support for the Spiritual Emphasis team and for the Advance Commitment Event later in the campaign.

Katie Glaze is our Banquet Director and will coordinate the Vision Banquet on Sunday, April 27.

Carey Jones serves as the Follow-up Director for **Possess the Land** and will encourage continuing commitment during the three-year giving period that begins June 1. Carey also will invite new families who come into our fellowship during the three-year giving period to join us in commitment.

Important Campaign Dates:

March 17 - March 29
Spiritual Emphasis in Worship and Outreach

March 30
Announcement Sunday

April 14
Advance Commitment Event

April 27
Vision Banquet

April 28 - May 17
Commitment Response Phase

May 18
Celebration Service

June 1
First Fruits Sunday (Three-year Giving begins)