



**PREPARING for the FUTURE**  
**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH**  
**COLUMBUS, INDIANA**  
**1957**



Stanley E. Mugridge  
Pastor

DEAR PEOPLE:

Yesterday is past. We recognize the sacrificial labors of the members of First Baptist down through the more than one hundred years of the life of this church. We rejoice in their faith and in their works for God's Kingdom.

Tomorrow is before us. With it comes the privilege of participating in further growth for God's Glory.

Our Building Fund Program is directed toward an adequate ministry in this community. At the present time our work is handicapped by inadequate facilities. Our church school is attempting to meet the needs of today with the worn out tools of yesterday. Every other area of our church is trying to do effective work under extremely difficult conditions.

Sacrifice is the way of Christian life. Jesus said, "For whoever would save his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it." If our church is to save or serve its generation it cannot save itself.

I am thankful to God for permitting me to be your Pastor in this thrilling hour. It is a privilege to work with a people of vision who desire to move forward for Christ in this community and thereby move forward in service to the world.

It is with faith that the challenge is given to you to invest your time and talents and resources so that out of our sacrifice will come a church with the full message of Christ, and a program that will meet the needs of the entire family.

This brochure speaks of the faith and vision of our church. I commend it to you, that you might read it and then let God lead you in the part you shall take in making our church a better witness for our Lord.

Sincerely,

Stanley E. Mugridge



# OUR NEED IS NOW!

We face a decisive hour in the progress of our church. Ours is a dynamic church but the lack of space and modern facilities limit the spiritual growth of our children and the membership growth of our Sunday School.

Today we stand at the crossroads. One road leads toward a policy of refusing to face up to our responsibility as Christians. The other leads towards the glorious realization of our dreams.

Our need for a new church is especially acute among our children when we consider the necessity of developing young minds in the atmosphere of a Christian Community. God's place is strengthened in the hearts of our children when proper concepts of the Church and Christianity are obtained.

We all recognize that the future of the First Baptist Church will rest more and more in the hands of our children than in ourselves. Should we not then consider our part in this present program an obligation to provide the kind of facilities to help adjust and mold young lives?

Because our need is now, our church is accepting the challenge by entering into this combined Building Fund and Budget Canvass. Our willingness will be a measure of our faith—a measure of our gratitude that He has seen fit to entrust us with the resources for serving Him.



MENS CLASS IN CARPENTERS HALL



# ***Canvass Plan***

IN ORDER to raise our goal of \$150,000, it has been agreed that we will conduct between now and Nov. 20

**An Organized**

**Intensive**

**Face-to-Face**

**Solicitation in the Homes**

**For Building Fund Pledges**

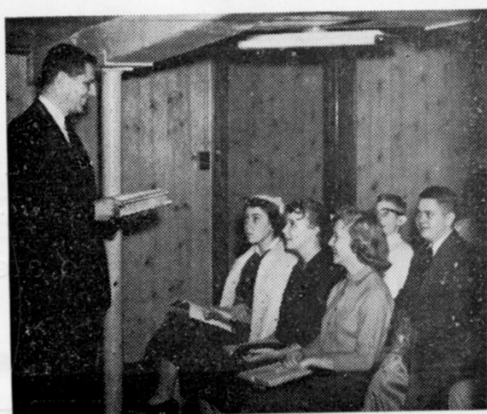
**Over 150-Week Period**

Solicitations will be limited to member families, prospective Church members, parents of Sunday School children, and any other persons and families who consider themselves affiliated with our Church, but who are not technically members.

Individual face-to-face solicitation means that there will be no group—no meetings—nor will any solitations be conducted by mail. Instead, a sufficient number of our Church-men have been enlisted, qualified and organized as canvassers to visit and solicit each family of the Church individually and privately. The intensive aspect of this Canvass means that we will concentrate our efforts to obtain pledges from every member family during an intensive two-week solicitation period, which will avoid the necessity for a long drawn out follow-up program.

This will be primarily a Canvss for 150 week pledges. Families pledging more than \$1,500 may consider semi-annual or annual payments, but all families pledging \$1,500 or less will be encouraged to use the 150 week payment method. Contributions and even initial cash payments on pledges will be discouraged during the Canvass period.

The use of pledges over a 150-week period is a basic requirement of this Canvass, because it has been proven many times that the only manner in which the members and friends of a Church of this size can provide \$150,000 for a new church is not by cash contributions, but by subscription to the payment of sacrificial amounts weekly over a three-year period.







OUR CHILDREN deserve better Sunday School facilities than these. Our building program will eliminate crowded classrooms, unsightly rooms and corners... An adequate building will bring to an end the constant interruption of classes, the constant turmoil of our inadequate facilities throughout the Church.







# *Our Responsibility*

THERE IS nothing complicated or high pressure about our financial plan.

We are simply asking that every member and friend of the church set aside a generous and sacrificial portion of their income each week for a period of 150 weeks and that they give the church a true priority on their contributions during that period of time.

These gifts must be OVER AND ABOVE OUR PRESENT CONTRIBUTIONS to the regular operating budget. The program of the church must go on, and a curtailment in the budget giving would be a short-sighted churchmanship.

Beginning about the time you receive this booklet, every family in any way affiliated with our church will be visited and given an opportunity to invest in this great program.

It should be remembered that making a pledge in this canvass is not like signing a note for the amount subscribed. We are simply asking that you indicate on the pledge card how much you feel you will be able to give during the three year period.

IF YOUR FINANCIAL CIRCUMSTANCES CHANGE, or if you should suffer any misfortune which would make the continuation of payments an undue hardship on you, your pledge may be decreased or discontinued simply by notifying the church office. If your financial circumstances change for the better, we hope you will want to increase your pledge. It is our hope to provide for the future generations in proportion to our giving ability.

Payments on pledges of \$1500 and under should be made in weekly installments for 150 weeks. For example:

Weekly Payments of	Amount to
\$10.00 for 150 weeks .....	\$1500
7.00 for 150 weeks .....	1050
5.00 for 150 weeks .....	750
3.00 for 150 weeks .....	450

Payment on pledges for more than \$1500 can be made in annual, semi-annual, quarterly, or monthly payments. For example:

Annual Payments of	Amount to
\$10000 for 3 year years .....	\$30,000
5000 for 3 years .....	15,000
3333 for 3 years .....	10,000
2500 for 3 years .....	7500
1666 for 3 years .....	5000
1000 for 3 years .....	3000
666 for 3 years .....	2000

# *Substantial Pledges Required*

THE CANVASS Committee knows there are no secret formulas or patented procedures that will guarantee success to our Building Fund Canvass. However we are unanimously agree that, up to now, everything within reason has been done to insure the best possible returns on our combined efforts.

There has been much preparatory work accomplished on sound organizational lines. For instance, in this particular field of actual pledges expected, your Committee is just not guessing. In stating that our congregation can achieve the minimum campaign goal of \$150,000.00 we know that members of the First Baptist Church are capable of raising this amount.

Your campaign committee has agreed that no member of the church will be solicited by any person who has not first made his own generous pledge. Only after making their own pledge will members of the campaign committee call on other campaign workers.

Of our total membership of 470 families, 50 men in the church will be working and all church families will be solicited. "Make your own pledge—then solicit others" will be a general instruction observed by all who participate in the campaign.

Our prayers will be that we have the strength and the faith for this test of devotion to our church.

## *What Is My Part?*

THE CHRISTIAN Standard of Giving begins with \$2.00 per week for each \$1,000.00 of annual income or the tithe, using this Biblical principle as a guide for giving. Many with capital resources feel that they want to give 5% to the Building Fund. This kind of giving calls for strength of will and courage to sacrifice.

Only Sacrificial Giving will enable our church to raise \$150,000 in the next 150 weeks. Invariably, this kind of giving strengthens faith and brings the kind of interest that permits a church to grow and render greater Christian service.

Sacrificial Giving results in a pledge for a larger amount than we thought would be possible for us. In our Church Building Fund Canvass our pledge should be for the largest amount we have ever given.

There will be no high pressure solicitation, but instinctively we will not pledge more than a fraction of the amount to be raised unless we recognize that:

- (1) "Giving" is a habit, usually a weak taken-giving habit.
- (2) "Pocketbook-protection" is an instinct, usually a strong one.
- (3) Our interests follow our dollars; better-than-token giving will help increase our interest in our Church and even more important, in our spiritual lives.
- (4) It is easy to criticize, but it takes courage to give sacrificially.





## Our Sunday Church School Leaders Agree:

"The teachers in every department of our Church School have done and are doing a remarkable job. They have conducted their classes in crowded and poorly lighted rooms; classes are being held in such close proximity to one another that proper attention to the subject matter is virtually impossible. Our teachers are carrying on bravely under these conditions, but with a sense of inadequacy if not of futility. The crowding is obviously an imposition both on the student and on the teacher preventing either from enjoying a sense of accomplishment and obviating any growth whatsoever."

## Meet Your Church Canvasser

A long-awaited day has come to the members of our Church. Very soon now, one of your neighbors will be calling on you to talk about our new Building Fund and Budget program. We all know that a project of this size and importance will demand our very best efforts.

It means sacrifice of time and money as well as consecration. It means prayer for guidance. It means that each one of us must look into his own inner self and decide how much he can do for the cause. It means faith in the other fellow and faith in ourselves. The volunteer worker who calls at your home is one of many. He has spent many hours training himself for the task. He has given generously of his own money. He has pledged himself to give more in the future. He believes in the worthwhileness of our Church and its work, and is proving his faith by calling others. His is not an easy job. But YOU can help him by extending your welcome when he comes, and by listening to his story.

The responsibility for our Church and the opportunity to sacrifice for it are ours. Let us face the challenge with determination and give our best.

Don Tull  
General Chairman

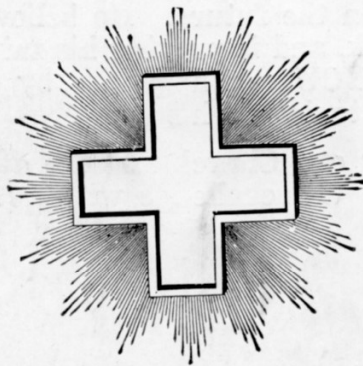
## Canvass Leaders

General Chairman .....	Don Tull
Initial Gifts Chairman .....	Dr. W. S. Fisher
Canvass Committee Chairman .....	Francis Galloway
Special Gifts Chairman .....	Norman Devening
Team Chairman .....	Eugene Paul
Division Leaders .....	Eugene Finchum, Harley Greenlee, and Hugh Condon
Hostess CO-Chairman .....	Mrs. Margaret Stearman and Mrs. Barbara Campbell
Arrangements Chairman .....	Mrs. Frieda Fye
Publications Chairman .....	Lotus Alexander



Some of Canvass Leaders





"One Life to live 'twill  
soon be past Only what's  
done For Christ will last"