



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF PRINCETON, WV



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH IS LOCATED IN THE
HEART OF PRINCETON –
WITH PRINCETON IN OUR HEARTS

PURPOSE OF
FBC
PRINCETON

Our Purpose is to ...

Exalt Christ

Encourage Christians

Evangelize non-Christians

WHO WE ARE, WHY WE CAME, & WHY
WE STAY

THE CHURCH FAMILY

MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

CHURCH PROGRAMS

SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT

THE CHURCH FAMILY



Caring fellowship



Many came to
because they were
invited and felt
welcomed



Feel “comfortable”



Like a family



Small groups provide
support and help as
needs arise



Desires to improve on its
strength - become the
most welcoming and
caring fellowship we can
be

MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES



Decline in the coal industry has produced unique needs and opportunities



Members want to be part of the fellowship because of many opportunities for ministry that are part of our Church



Current ministry involvement takes place within our church as well outside of our church within the community

The Baptist
General
Association
of VA

The WV
Convention
of Southern
Baptists

East River
Baptist
Association

Mountain
State
Baptist
Association

BUDGETED
FINANCIAL
SUPPORT FOR
REGIONAL
MINISTRIES

SUPPORT OF
LOCAL
MINISTRIES

-Operation Christmas Child

-Heaven Sent Ministries

-Appalachian Teen Challenge

-Crisis Pregnancy Center

-Fellowship of Christian Athletes

-Tender Mercer Ministries

-The Local Salvation Army

-Union Mission

OUR MEMBERS ARE
ACTIVE IN
MINISTRIES



Bland Ministry Center



Mercer Street Ministry



Annual Community Thanksgiving Meal



Live Nativity



Several Food Drives Throughout the Year



Celebrate Recovery



Bible School

CHURCH PROGRAMS

Variety of programs for all ages

Purpose: experience God's love,
grow in faith, and build relationships

Avenues for inviting others to be
part of the Church.



FAMILIES WITH YOUNG CHILDREN

Our Family Ministry Center includes a new area to provide for the needs of babies and preschoolers.



CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS

Part-time Minister to Children oversees a variety of programs - both spiritual teaching and fun activities.



YOUTH MINISTRY

Led by our Associate Pastor

Offers a variety of programs and activities for our youth - both spiritual teaching and fun

Youth are also involved in leading worship through song and other roles



MANY GATHERINGS
AND CHURCH WIDE
EVENTS FOR FUN
AND SPIRITUAL
NOURISHMENT



SPIRITUAL NOURISHMENT

FBC members remain in the fellowship for spiritual nourishment and growth

Members made comments like “The Bible is taught” or the Church is “Bible centered.”

We encourage taking the Bible seriously, reading it regularly, and applying it daily.

**LOOKING AT
FIRST BAPTIST
CHURCH
BY THE NUMBERS**



11 YEAR
HISTORY
OF
BUDGET
GIVING

2009-\$667,825

2010-\$676,000

2011-\$672,097

2012-\$680,860

2013-\$580,757

2014-\$583,249

2015-\$557,206

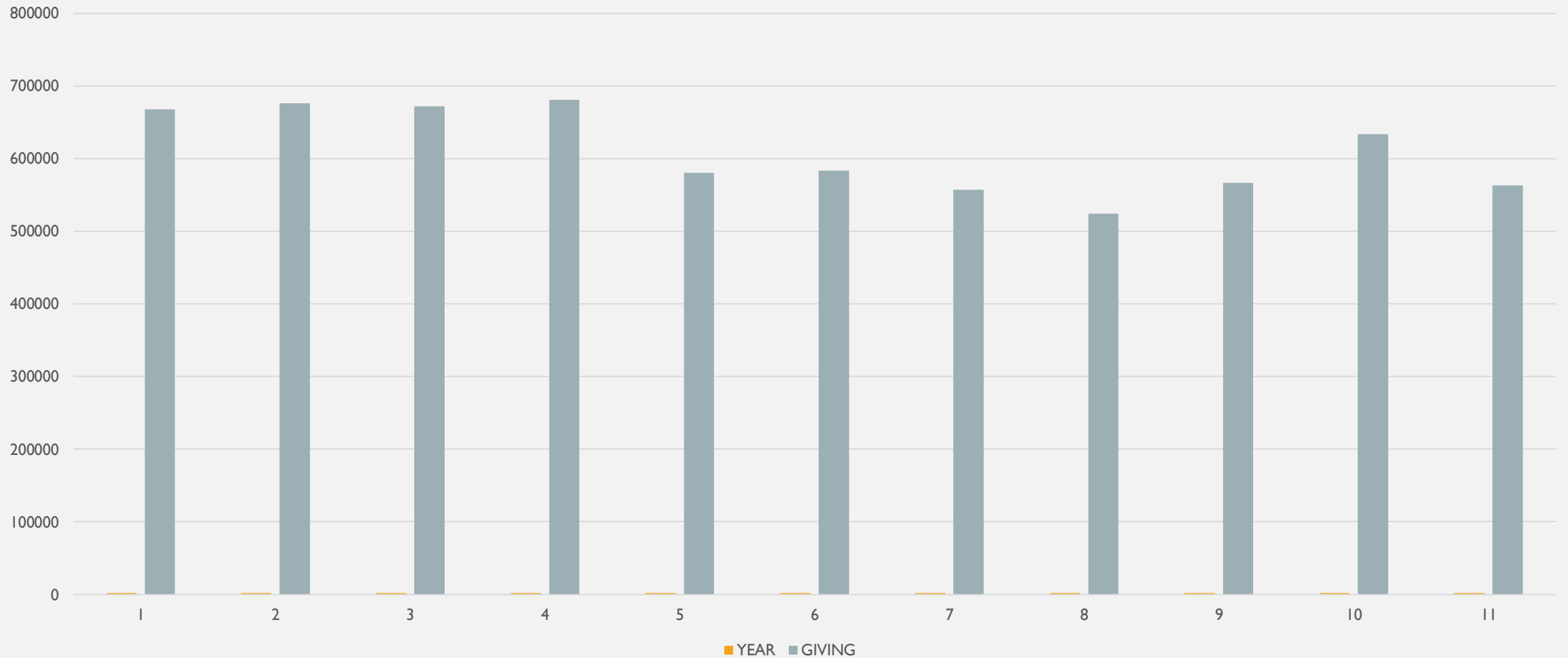
2016-\$524,473

2017-\$566,416

2018-\$633,771

2019-\$563,130

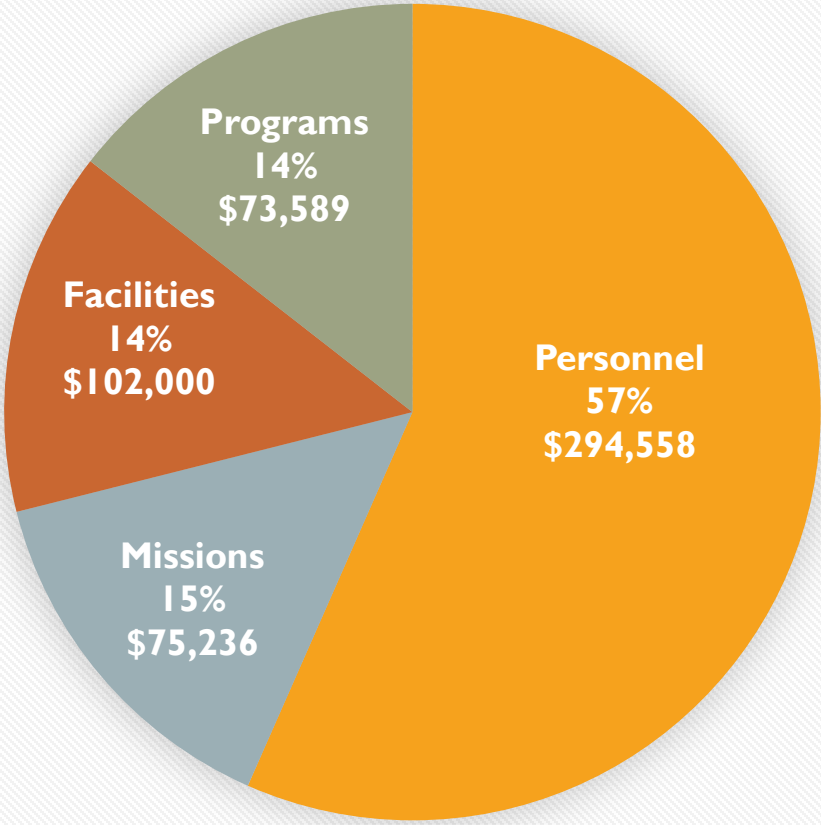
GENERAL BUDGET GIVING: 2009 - 2019



	January	April	July	October
2012	253	233	168	160
2013	243	223	194	233
2014	233	236	163	218
2015	192	263	217	201
2016	167	200	175	205
2017	179	182	222	236
2018	262	229	203	232
2019	188	190	205	204
2020	192	Corona Virus closes church		

**A 10 YR RECORD OF WORSHIP
ATTENDANCE**

2020 Church Budget at a Glance



■ Personnel ■ Missions ■ Facilities ■ Programming

WHERE WE LIVE

THE CITY OF PRINCETON

AND

MERCER COUNTY


WEST VIRGINIA

24740

**THE CITY OF
PRINCETON
AND MERCER
COUNTY, WV**



- Princeton is the County seat for Mercer County
- Lies in the Southeastern corner of WV only 9 miles from the VA line - intersection of Interstate 77 and US Highway 460
- Moderate climate
- Residents enjoy four seasons in nearby parks and State recreation areas.
- Population of Mercer County was 61,785 in 2015, - approximately 10,500 of those residents in the city of Princeton.
- Numerous restaurants and several motels.
- County seat, the local seat of government, courthouse, and hospital are in the city
- Mercer County has 26 public schools - 4 high schools with a total enrollment of about 9,200 students.
- The area also has technical training, Concord University, Bluefield State College, and Bluefield College



THE CITY
OF
PRINCETON
AND
MERCER
COUNTY, WV

The Princeton Health & Fitness Center - (owned by the hospital) - exercise and fitness, including a therapy pool, lap swimming pool, and exercise pool

The Chuck Mathena Center - variety of performing arts

The downtown area is being revitalized - now hosts several small businesses including a coffee shop and donut shop

The Princeton Rays - rookie league minor league team for the Tampa Bay Rays, play their home games at Hunnicutt Stadium in Princeton

Skiing/snow tubing is available in the winter months at the nearby Winterplace Ski Resort

CENSUS POPULATION FOR ZIP CODE 24740

	<u>2000</u>	<u>2010</u>	<u>Current (estimate)</u>
Male	14,289	14,398	14,641
Female	16,086	16,037	16,344
Total	30,375	30,435	30,985

WHERE WE CAME FROM

**A HISTORICAL SUMMARY OF
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
PRINCETON, WV**

1837 - 1862

MARCH 17, 1837 – PRINCETON,
VA INCORPORATED

OCTOBER 30, 1840 – GREENBRIER
ASSOCIATION OF VA ESTABLISHED
THE PRINCETON BAPTIST
CHURCH IN PRINCETON, VA WITH
35 MEMBERS AND UNDER THE
LEADERSHIP OF CIRCUIT-RIDER
MATTHEW ELLISON AS PASTOR.

SEPTEMBER 6, 1850 – PRINCETON
BAPTIST CHURCH PURCHASED A
LOT ON MAIN STREET

MARCH 4, 1854 - CHURCH HELD
FIRST MEETING IN THE BASEMENT
STORY.

MAY 1862 - CHURCH BUILDING
WAS BURNED BY THE
CONFEDERATE ARMY, ALONG
WITH ALL BUT 2 OF PRINCETON'S
BUILDINGS. CHURCH MET NEXT
15 YEARS IN VARIOUS HOMES OR
COUNTY COURTHOUSE, UNTIL
1881.

1863 – 1919

1881 – 1885 - Princeton Baptists and Methodists constructed a Union Church on West Main Street, with Matthew Ellison preaching the Baptist sermon of dedication. In 1885, Baptists sold their interest in the church to the Methodists.

October 31, 1886 - FBC dedicated a new building on Main Street (present site of Memorial Building).

1907 – 1909 - The VA Railroad came to Princeton and town growth was moving toward the east end.

1911 - 1912 - To move closer to the growth area, under pastorate of Rev. J.W. Kinchloe, it was decided to build a church building on Mercer Street, on land donated by H.W. Straley, Jr.

August 8, 1915 - Church building at current location was dedicated and named First Baptist Church. The old building on Main Street was sold to Mt. Calvary Baptist and moved to High Street, where it's still in use.

1920 - 1949



1920's

Church growth was apparent. In 1924, a pipe organ was purchased by the WMU. The women's T.E.L. Class had approximately 135 members.



Apr. 1949

Sanctuary was remodeled and rededicated in April 1949.



1930's & 1940's

Church fostered the Goodwill Center in east Princeton, which later developed into Mary Burke Memorial Baptist Church, on June 17, 1945.



1949

In 1949, church sponsored another mission church, known as the Davis Baptist Chapel, later commissioned as Immanuel Baptist Church.

1950 – 1969

1950's - Additional churches were started by church members, including Lilly Grove Church, dedicated on January 16, 1952.

1954 - The Church observed groundbreaking for the Educational Building, adding classrooms, church office, nursery, and fellowship hall. Average SS attendance was 400+.

1960's - FBC sponsored additional church plants. In March 1961, the Silver Springs Church was organized and in July 1961, the Willowbrook Baptist was organized.

The VA Railroad shops began closing, negatively impacting area employment.

1964 – Church experienced a membership split, with Fellowship Baptist Church forming.

1970-1989



Under the leadership of Jim Copenhaver, Choir Director, a church youth choir and band formed, called the Sounds of Conviction. This resulted in an explosion of youth involvement from the Princeton area

The Grace West organ was dedicated.

June 1976

1970's

25 Oct. 1985

Church experienced another split

1990 - 1999

150th year celebration of ministry. Theme - "A Heritage to Appreciate – A Future to Anticipate". Church welcomed new Pastor, David W. Dockery, who served faithfully for the next 29 years.

1990

Church voted to do a Together We Build Program, adding several renovations to the building.

1995

Church voted to add dual alignment with WV Southern Baptists, while maintaining alignment with Baptist General Association of VA.

Dec. 1996

1 Jan. 1993

Rev. Craig Stout began ministry as Associate Pastor / Youth & Education. Church was experiencing new growth, adding an average of 30+ new members each year through the 1990's.

Mid 1990's

Church had two morning worship services over the next ten (10) years or so. Attendance at early service averaged over 100 at times.

2000 – 2009

2001 - Church along with MSBA & WVCSB called Sam & Bobbi Cox to begin mission in the Athens area & to work with Concord College (University) students.

Began involvement with Heaven Sent Ministries & their annual Hunger Challenge.

2005 - G-R-O-W visitation & outreach ministry on Tuesday evenings over the next several years, resulting in significant increase in new members.

2007 - Began outreach ministry on Mercer Street to serve a free meal two Sunday evenings a month and minister to their spiritual needs.

- Began annual involvement with Operation Christmas Child

2009 - Church took out notes to purchase Pine & West St. properties, further expanding their physical boundaries.

2010 - PRESENT

Additional property expansions, - Douglas Center & Casey house acquisitions.

September 19, 2010 - Sun Valley Baptist Church, Lerona, constituted, with Sam Cox as Pastor.

November 2010 - Initial Community Thanksgiving Eve meal served.

March 27, 2016 - Groundbreaking ceremony for new multi-purpose building.

December 18, 2016 - Church commissioned Campbell family to go to Morocco on a teaching mission for 6 months.

December 2017 - Initial Live Nativity performed on church grounds.

August 26, 2018 - A commissioning service to send David Kephart and family back to the mission field was held.

2019 - Church began Celebrate Recovery outreach program.

October 9, 2019 - David W. Dockery, our Pastor for 29 years, went to be with his Lord.

December 2019 - David Adams was called as interim pastor.



WHERE/HOW WE SEE OURSELVES TODAY

At a congregational meeting at FBC in June 2020, members present participated in completion of survey questions regarding how members see our church today...

- All respondents felt current worship services are traditional
- 73% of survey participants felt worship services offered an appropriate diversity of music and presentations;
- 78% indicated they were personally involved in some form of mission efforts in Princeton and beyond; and
- 84% felt they were appropriately challenged to become a better disciple of Jesus.

- As a congregation, we have been slow to accept change
- We have been more internally focused
- We have relied on strong lay leadership;
- We have been focused on attracting people to church.

FURTHER
RECOGNITION
OF WHERE FBC
IS TODAY

FOR THE FUTURE, FBC ACKNOWLEDGES
THE NEED TO....

Embrace

Embrace
innovation &
creativity

Be

Be more externally
focused

Have

Have strong clergy
leadership working
alongside lay
leaders

Be

Be more mission
focused by sending
people out into the
community



FBC has been in existence for 180 years. For that to happen, the church answered calls in the past to change and adapt by following the Holy Spirit's direction. Today is no exception. Our congregation recognizes that it must be open to change and innovation as the Holy Spirit leads it, and this will pave the way for FBC to remain a vital part of our community for many years to come.