



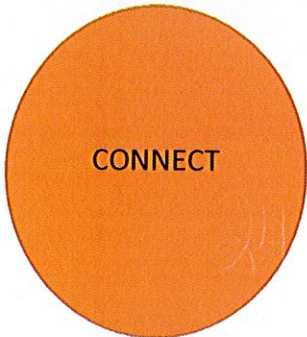
VISION 2022

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“Experience, Connect And Discover God With Us”



We invite you to **EXPERIENCE** Florence Baptist Church as we glorify God through worship and fellowship.



CONNECT through a personal relationship with God. Become part of a Bible study group and draw close to Him through studying His word and prayer.



DISCOVER what God has in store for you. Use your talents, spiritual gifts and what you learn through your daily walk and relationship with Him to further God’s kingdom through discipleship and missions.

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VISION 2022 COMMITTEE

Lori Cudd

Steve Herndon

Pam McKeithan

Chester Melton

Karen Moore

Tommy Wilson

VISION STATEMENT

EXPERIENCE, CONNECT AND DISCOVER GOD WITH US.

EXPERIENCE Florence Baptist Church as we glorify God through worship and fellowship.

“Come let us worship and bow down, let us kneel before the Lord our Maker; for he is our God and we are the sheep of his pasture.” Psalm 95:6-7 (KJV)

CONNECT through a personal relationship with God. Become part of a Bible Study Group and draw close to God through studying His word and prayer.

“Jesus answered, ‘I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you really knew me, you would know my Father as well.’” John 14:6-7 (NIV)

DISCOVER what God has in store for you. Use your talents, spiritual gifts, and what you learn in your daily walk and relationship with God to further His kingdom through discipleship and missions.

“You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.” Matthew 5:14-16 (NIV)

INTRODUCTORY REMARKS FOR VISION PLAN:

Florence Church is very blessed. We have wonderful facilities, an outstanding staff, and a caring congregation. Missions and the ministries of our church have always been important to our people. This is certainly evidenced by the number of mission teams and trips we have supported, the many churches we have helped with building projects, community groups we have supported such as Relay for Life, Yokefellow, Grace of God Mission, Rutherford Housing Partnership, Habitat for Humanity, etc. However, it is not okay to pat ourselves on the back and be satisfied with what we as a church have accomplished. God still calls us to be his hands and feet in our world. I Peter 2:9 tells us, "...you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who has called you out of darkness into his wonderful light."

The Vision Committee began the process of seeking God's vision for Florence in February, 2012. Bobby gave each of us a copy of Max Lucado's book, Out Live Your Life, which is based on the history of the early church from the book of Acts. So we began to look at our future by examining the past. As we were reminded through our studies about how God used a handful of very ordinary people to accomplish great works, we started to hear God's call for the people of Florence to "re-up"(a military term which calls us to re-enlist, to reinvest ourselves in God's mission to share his gift of love and grace to our world). We began to imagine what could be accomplished if ALL of us became actively involved in God's work at Florence.

Ninety-two years ago Florence Church began with a small group of very ordinary people who were mostly "mill village" folks. This group of thirty-three people did not have special talents and abilities. In fact, they did not appear to be equipped to start a church. However, they were willing to be used by God. He equipped them and prepared them for the tasks they would face. God heard their prayers and took notice of their love for each other, and he richly blessed them. We are a strong congregation today because of the foundation of faith that God laid through our charter members.

God is not through working with the people of Florence. He is calling us to pray first (James 5:16), to practice hospitality (Romans 12:13), to discover our spiritual gifts and use them for His glory (1Peter 4:9-10), to love our neighbor as ourselves (paraphrase of Mark 12:31a), and to follow his directive to go and share his wonderful gift of salvation with our world (Matthew 28:19-20).

Those of us who have worked on developing this Vision for our church view it as a living document. It will change; it will be altered as our future brings challenges we have not considered. However, to be a viable plan, it must be reviewed periodically. We recommend that the Church Council do this on a quarterly basis. This, of course, will be determined by our Pastor and the Church Council.

The following Vision is not all inclusive. We realize that the success of this plan demands the active involvement of our entire congregation-deacons, teachers, committee members, etc. Paul spoke of this in I Corinthians 12 when he urged the church at Corinth to share in the ministry as lay leaders and lay people assuming roles for which God had equipped them. He says in I Corinthians 12:27, "Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it." The possibilities of what God can accomplish through a praying congregation that is willing to follow his lead are exciting. "For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do." (Ephesians 2:10)

MISSIONS & MINISTRIES

Since her founding in 1922, Florence Baptist Church has embraced The Great Commission, “Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.” (Matthew 28:19-20 NIV) Through the years Florence has had a steady growth in mission involvement at the local, state, national, and more recently at the international level. Each one of these mission opportunities involved people who used the gifts God provided them, whether it was one of the gifts mentioned in Romans 12:6-8 or a learned skill such as construction or medicine. Behind each of these individuals was a congregation who prayed and provided financial support.

The next ten years will require an even greater participation from the members of Florence. Locally, we see needs on almost every corner. These include not only physical things like food, clothing, and housing, but also spiritual needs. Nationally the weather has created great disasters causing tragedies for thousands of families. Those families, along with non-believers, have tremendous spiritual needs. Our eyes have only begun to be opened at the international level by the poverty, hunger, housing, and lack of the Gospel.

VISION:

The Vision 2022 Committee feels Florence is ready for the challenge. Florence is blessed with loving people who have a multitude of gifts. It is a goal of the committee to challenge each person at Florence to be involved in the missions and ministries of our church. We all need to do something other than be on the sidelines. To quote Max Lucado: “No one can do everything, but everyone can do something.”

ACTION PLAN:

1) Our first step is prayer. An organized approach to our Prayer Ministry needs to be developed.

A. Become Prayer Warriors.

B. Continue the Prayer Ministry recently started by our Pastor and Deacons

ACCOUNTABILITY: Deacons

Time Line: 2014-2022

2) Finances will be our second focus. We will promote missions giving on all levels.

ACCOUNTABILITY: Missions Committee

Time Line: 2014-2022

3) Continue giving 10% from our Capital Campaign receipts to Building Churches.

ACCOUNTABILITY: Deacons

Time Line: 2014-2022

4) Identify mission opportunities. Begin at the local level with our membership and then expand to our community and county. At the state, national, and international level the North Carolina Baptist Men have and continue to be a source of many opportunities. Our relationship with this group will continue along with establishing new relationships with other mission organizations. Once these opportunities are identified, preparation for a Mission Team or individual will take place. These opportunities and training will include our Youth. Preparation should include the following:

A. Teaching of the skills needed (how to build a ramp, sheetrock, roofing, etc.)

B. Providing support for our teams in the planning of their work, with health issues, with spiritual needs, and with cultural challenges they may face (especially at the international level)

C. Training on presenting the Gospel and being a witness

D. Organizing prayer support of our mission teams and projects

ACCOUNTABILITY: Volunteer Missions Coordinator or Missions Committee

Time Line: 2015-2022

5) Evaluate the possibility of having a Food Pantry/Clothes Closet on our campus.

ACCOUNTABILITY: Missions Committee

Time Line: 2015

6) Encourage each Sunday School Class (Preschool – Senior Adults) to do a mission project-Invest ourselves in Missions at all levels, and encourage families to participate in missions.

ACCOUNTABILITY: Sunday School Director

Time Line: 2016

7) Join with community groups already involved in local missions. Participate with our time and not just our finances. Investigate the possibility of hosting an annual Missions Fair and/or Skills Fair.

ACCOUNTABILITY: Missions Committee

Time Line: 2016

8) Buy and equip a construction trailer for use in Missions and in the renovation of our Adult Education Building.

ACCOUNTABILITY: Missions Committee

Time Line: 2016

9) Make a difference in our own country by providing support (outreach) for our military.

ACCOUNTABILITY: Missions Committee

Time Line: 2015

10) Re-energize our Visitation/Outreach Program.

ACCOUNTABILITY: Pastor

Time Line: 2014

11) Because hospitality has always been a part of the body of Florence, a Hospitality Committee will be established. Care groups need to be established to welcome, orient, and encourage new members. Try something like Dessert with Deacons and Staff for new members, inviting people into our homes to share a meal, or other ways to show the love of Jesus by being His Body.

ACCOUNTABILITY: Deacons & Hospitality Committee

Time Line: 2014

12. Fellowship and interaction among our members is important, especially with two separate Sunday Morning Services. The possibility of a Meet & Greet time between First Light and Sunday School could be considered.

ACCOUNTABILITY: Church Staff

Time Line: 2014

13. Provide valet parking for senior adults and parents of infants and/or small children.

ACCOUNTABILITY: Hospitality Committee

Time Line: 2015

BUILDINGS & PROPERTY

Buildings and Property were essential pieces of the vision God laid on the hearts of the people of Florence Baptist Church in her early years. We, the people of Florence, have been blessed with a worshipful environment which lends itself to studying the Bible, hearing the word of God, growing in our faith, and enjoying fellowship with each other.

As a church, we have the responsibility and the honor of caring for and maintaining our buildings and property. We must be good stewards of the land God has entrusted to us. Although Vision 2022 does not contain any large building projects, we must not be content with where we are. We must look to the future and trust the leadership of the Holy Spirit. As needs arise, Florence Baptist Church must be obedient to what God is calling us to do for his glory.

VISION:

To make the best use of the space and property we have to provide both for our current and also for our future needs

ACTION PLAN:

- 1) Have a master plan for renovating our Adult Education Building to serve current and future needs.
 - A. Refer to the Gifts and Talents Survey of our membership.
 - B. Train volunteers to do as much of the work as possible.
 - C. Make use of a church-owned construction trailer as mentioned under Missions & Ministries.

ACCOUNTABILITY: Deacons

Time Line: 2014-2016

- 2) Interview and hire architects to do a master plan for our entire church campus. As part of this plan, provide and equip a Media/Conference Room which could accommodate a large number of people.

ACCOUNTABILITY: Deacons

Time Line: 2016

3) Organize current space for storage and add storage space as needed. This should include the following:

- A. Add space adjacent to the LEC for storage of tables and chairs
- B. Expand the stage area in the LEC
- C. Provide a covered space for our church-owned vans and bus
- D. Add utility storage as needed

ACCOUNTABILITY: Facilities Committee

Time Line: 2016-2022

4) Update furnishings in our current buildings-especially the LEC Dining Room and Parlor.

ACCOUNTABILITY: Facilities Committee

Time Line: 2014

5) Evaluate the security of our facilities.

- A. Develop a reasonable plan to provide for the safety of our members.
- B. Look closely at security issues in our Christian Growth Center.

ACCOUNTABILITY: Security Committee

Time Line: 2014

6) Develop an Emergency Action Plan and provide training on the use of emergency medical equipment.

ACCOUNTABILITY: Health Council

Time Line: 2014

7) Purchase additional properties for future growth and development.

ACCOUNTABILITY: Trustees

Time Line: 2014-2022

TECHNOLOGY

Most of us have come to realize that we live in a very technologically advanced society. We move towards the next generation of advances in technology as each day passes. Our world, our country, our state, and even our community is rapidly adapting to these changes. Florence Church is situated within the "Small Town Friendly" atmosphere of Forest City and its surrounding communities allowing us as a church to keep things somewhat simple. However, we still have a need to create a church environment and worship experiences which make use of a wide range of technology enabling us to better meet the needs of our congregation.

We have compiled a list of suggestions voiced by you, our church family and staff, as areas which need to be developed or improved to enhance the quality of our church programs. Each suggestion listed will need the combined input from our Pastor and Staff, our Deacons, the Media/Video/Sound Committee, the Sunday School Director, and others to be successful.

VISION:

To use technology to enhance our ministry efforts and reach people of all ages.

ACTION PLAN:

- 1) Consult a Media-Sound Specialist and establish a Technology Committee
 - A. To help develop a plan for updating our sound and video equipment
 - B. To improve the broadcast quality of our video feed and our DVD production
 - C. To help train the committee and volunteers to use equipment properly and efficiently
 - D. To provide training for Sunday School Teachers and others on the use of technology for teaching

ACCOUNTABILITY: Deacons & Technology Committee

Time Line: 2014

- 2) Equip our classrooms to provide for a variety of teaching methods.

ACCOUNTABILITY: Technology Committee

Time Line: 2016

- 3) Create and maintain an up-to-date website that will clearly show the character of Florence Church. This could include the following:

A. Video Clips showing activities of the church as a marketing tool. (ex. – Choir Rehearsal, Fellowship Suppers, Children’s Church, etc.)

B. Training Video Links for Sunday School Teachers

C. A list of helpful resources for teachers and leaders

ACCOUNTABILITY: Technology Committee & Church Staff

Time Line: 2014

4) Make sermons available on our website.

ACCOUNTABILITY: Technology Committee

Time Line: 2015

5) Develop a plan to communicate activities and specific needs of classes and groups within our church.

ACCOUNTABILITY: Church Staff

Time Line: 2016

6) Provide an updated, well-maintained, on-line Calendar of Events.

ACCOUNTABILITY: Church Staff

Time Line: 2015

7) Implement a college-connect program using internet connectivity with our Florence college students as well as with other college students in our community.

ACCOUNTABILITY: Technology Committee & Sunday School Director

Time Line: 2016

MARKETING

Our message about the love of Jesus Christ gives us the opportunity to market the Florence Baptist Church “brand” using multi-media outlets to share the message with all people within our region. We will make others aware of the availability and opportunities to connect with Florence Baptist Church and grow their faith and Christian lifestyle.

We carry the greatest message ever and it deserves the greatest marketing, creativity, and storytelling. Marketers spend millions of dollars every year to tell us that our lives would be better or enhanced with the products, services, or ideas they are selling. We are not about selling salvation as a product, trying to woo people to our services, or trying to convince them to convert to what we think. We are about seeing people’s lives changed and hearts surrendered to the Gospel.

With every generation comes the challenge of communicating the unchanging, timeless message of the Gospel in a way that is relevant and compelling to the culture of its time. We live in a generation that has been influenced and shaped by marketing. God is the author of creativity. The first glimpse we see of Him in creation is that He is a creative God. We are called to reflect that same creativity in whatever it is that we do for Him...and how we communicate that message to our community.

As part of our marketing plan, we will use our church logo. We will take opportunity to make reference and standardize its visual identity. We will produce clear, crisp, color- printed materials sized for proper placement on all printed materials.

Marketing is not what you say- it’s what people hear....Jesus was a pro at this. He used everyday terms and ideas to express the most significant spiritual truths. We have created our own language in the church world, and we must be sure that we are good interpreters to the world. Language is oftentimes our first impression. Does what we say make sense to the outside world that we are trying to reach. Our message must be clear, back to the basics, and filtered through the perception of others.

Jesus told us to go, and make disciples, and to proclaim the message of the Gospel. The parable in Luke 14:16-20, 23, tells of a man whose invitations to his banquet were not well-received. Our job is to provide an invitation to our community to hear the story of Jesus in a way that captivates and engages people so much that they want to respond positively and bring a friend so that the Kingdom of Heaven may be full.

VISION:

To develop a marketing plan that effectively supports the Christian-lifestyle message and provides a measurable outcome.

ACTION PLAN:

1) Introduce and promote our new Vision Statement with our church family and integrate it with our overall Mission in every program of our church.

ACCOUNTABILITY: Pastor

Time Line: 2014

2) Establish a Marketing Committee who will develop an overall marketing plan for Florence Church. Develop individual micro marketing plans specifically targeting age groups for Children, Youth, Adults, and Seniors.

ACCOUNTABILITY: Deacons & Marketing Committee

Time Line: 2014

3) Redesign our newsletter to adapt both a friendly online and print copy format for hard copy distribution. Make available an on-line weekly calendar of events for all age groups.

ACCOUNTABILITY: Church Staff

Time Line: 2014

4) Develop a campaign with a local radio station using a "Thought for the Day".

ACCOUNTABILITY: Marketing Committee

Time Line: 2015

5) Implement mobile phone marketing that provides members with personalized information customized for their age group, committee affiliations, class memberships, and general church information.

ACCOUNTABILITY: Marketing Committee

Time Line: 2016

6) Develop social media engagement for the various marketing plans.

ACCOUNTABILITY: Marketing Committee

Time Line: 2015

7) Plan and promote the 100th Anniversary for Florence Baptist Church in 2022.

ACCOUNTABILITY: 100th Anniversary Celebration Committee

Time Line: 2020

STAFF

Florence Church is blessed with a staff that is committed to serving God and leading this church as He directs us. As new ministries and programs are added to our church, new staff members may be needed to lead our congregation.

VISION:

To add staff positions to enhance our present ministries and equip us for the future.

ACTION PLAN:

1) As finances allow and as need increases add the following:

- A. Minister of Education
- B. Full-time Children's Minister

ACCOUNTABILITY: Deacons

Time Line:

EDUCATIONAL MINISTRIES

2 Timothy 3:16-17 says, “All scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

VISION:

To equip and train our members to do the work God has called us to do.

ACTION PLAN:

- 1) To make Bible Study a priority
 - A. Offer teacher training classes and provide technical support for new teaching methods.
 - B. Provide short-term Bible studies during Sunday School time –possible topics could include:
 1. Discipleship training
 2. Spiritual Gifts
 3. How to Pray
 4. How to Study the Bible
 5. How to Witness

ACCOUNTABILITY: Sunday School Director & Church Council

Time Line: 2015-2022

We believe that fellowship and interaction among our members is important, especially since we have two separate Sunday Morning Worship Services. We feel the following suggestions could help strengthen relationships between our members.

- 2) Promote interaction among Sunday School Classes. Some suggestions are:
 - A. Flip/Flop Adult Sunday School Classes on 5th Sundays (Adults will be encouraged to visit other Sunday School classes on 5th Sundays to encourage interaction. A structured way of doing this will need to be developed.)

B. Plan social activities with another class

C. Offer in-home small group Bible Studies

ACCOUNTABILITY: Sunday School Director and Sunday School Classes

Time Line: 2015

3) Develop a program of mentoring –Youth/Senior Adults, Youth/Children, New Parents/Experienced Parents, Experienced Teachers/New Teachers, Newly Married Couples/ Experience Married Couples, etc.

ACCOUNTABILITY: Church Council

Time Line: 2016

4) Provide special-interest classes. These could include:

A. Financial Planning

B. Estate Planning

C. Health and Wellness Issues (exercise, nutrition, CPR, etc.)

D. Marriage

E. Parenting

ACCOUNTABILITY: Church Council

Time Line: 2015-2022

In order for new members to be connected to Florence Church, it is important to know the history, background, and services provided by the church.

5) Begin a structured New-Member Orientation Program. This should include the following:

A. Brief history of Florence Church to help new members understand who we are and how we became a church

B. How we handle the business of our church

1. Church Constitution

2. Deacons (election process and duties)

3. Staff-roles and responsibilities

4. Member responsibilities

5. Church Finances

C. Programs offered by our Church

D. Opportunities for service in the Church

ACCOUNTABILITY: Pastor & Church Council

Time Line: 2014