FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
AUGUSTA

CHURCH & PASTOR PROFILE 2026

By God's Grace and For His Glory, we are disciples making disciples of Jesus Christ.



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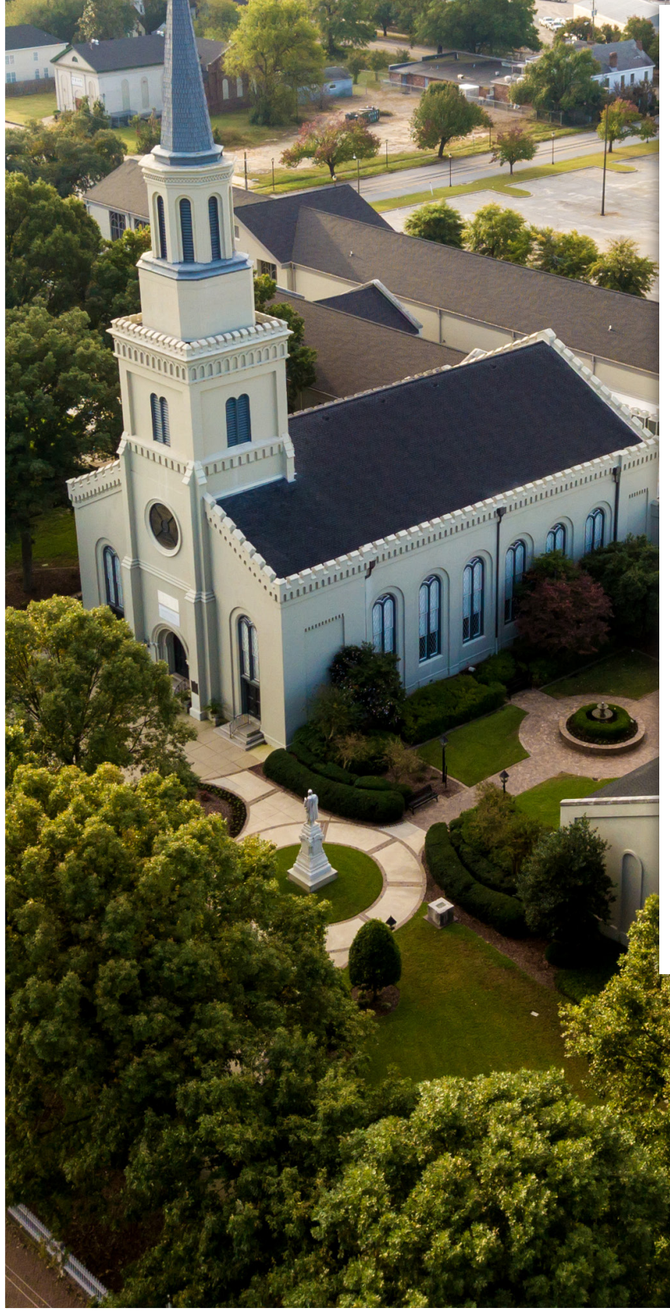


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Introduction

"We celebrate our past as we embrace our future by faith." *Dr. James Baird*

First Presbyterian Church (FPC), founded in 1804, is a church in the heart of downtown Augusta, Georgia. As a congregation in the Presbyterian Church in America (PCA), our commitment is to be faithful to the Scriptures, true to the reformed faith, and obedient to the Great Commission.

Throughout our history, God has faithfully sustained, protected, and provided for us. God has also repeatedly revitalized and revived us, and we pray He is leading us into a new season of renewal and revival and that as we look to Christ, times of refreshing will come from the presence of the Lord. (Acts 3:19-20).

While we have deep roots in the past, we look forward with great hope and expectation to the future, "waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works." (Titus 2:13-14). Our hope is in Him.

Once we were not a people, but now God is making us His people; once we had not received mercy, but now we have received mercy, and we are being built into a community of mercy and grace. (1 Pet. 2:9-10). We want to follow Jesus. We want to know Jesus and to make Him known. We want to proclaim Him—to bring His love to our neighbors downtown, across the Central Savannah River Area (CSRA), and around the world. As our current Mission, Vision, and Values Statements attest, by God's grace and for His glory, we are disciples making disciples of Jesus Christ.

MISSION, VISION & VALUES

MISSION

By God's Grace and For His Glory, we are disciples making disciples of Jesus Christ.

VISION

As a deeply rooted church in the heart of Augusta, we bear witness for Christ to our neighbors and the world, for generations to come.

First Presbytiarian Church envisions being a spiritually vibrant, gospel-centered church in the heart of Augusta where reverent worship, theological depth, loving community, and courageous mission converge. Rooted in our historic faith yet responsive to the present moment, we aspire to be a church where generations are discipled, leaders are formed, neighbors are welcomed, and Christ's transforming grace is visible in our city and beyond.





VALUES

Gospel-Shaped Worship

We believe God is holy and worthy of our highest devotion, and we confess our need for the saving grace of Christ as we enter into worship. Through the power of the Spirit, we delight in the Word, the Sacraments, and the praises of God's people.

Church & Pastor Profile 2026







Grace-Centered Discipleship

We are committed to making disciples of Jesus through grace-centered, Spirit-dependent ministry. Through expository preaching, shepherding, community, and intentional discipleship, we are shaped by the ordinary means of grace, including the ministry of the Word and fervent prayer. In doing so, we pursue transformed lives, reach the lost, and build up Christ's church.

Faithful Presence

God has placed us in the heart of Augusta to be a faithful gospel presence among our neighbors. Through prayer, service, generosity, and hospitality, we seek to bear witness to Christ in word and deed, especially among the poor and marginalized. We also join in God's global mission, living for the glory of Christ and the advancement of His kingdom.

Covenant Community

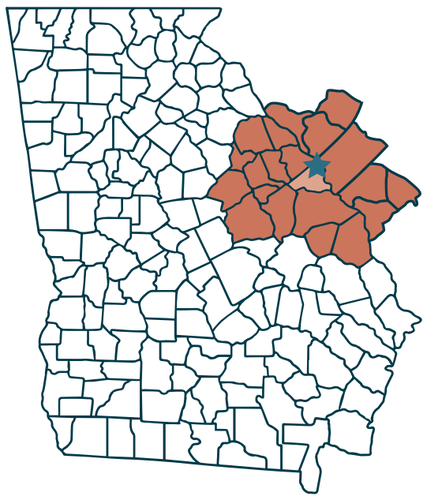
We are a covenant community marked by humility, hospitality, and mutual care, welcoming people from every background into a church family united in Christ. Across generations, we pursue spiritual maturity together, raising our children in God's Word, prayer, and faithful practice to know, love, and follow Jesus. Together, we seek to reflect the reconciling power of the gospel as Christ builds His church.

WHO WE ARE

Situated in downtown Augusta, Georgia, our church desires to fulfill the mission God has given us, to exist for God and for others, to be a church that is in the city for the city, and to proclaim the gospel here and around the world. Our church's ministry has attracted members from across the CSRA, and we long for the day when people of every nation, tribe, and tongue will worship together at the feet of Jesus our King.

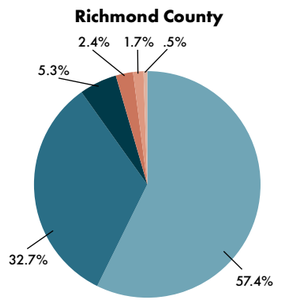
The larger Augusta area (consisting of 18 counties) has a population approaching 900,000 and is home to Augusta University, the Medical College of Georgia, the Dental College of Georgia, several large hospital centers, the Savannah River Site, Plant Vogtle, and several large manufacturing companies (like Textron/E-Z-Go, ClubCar, and Starbucks). And of course, Augusta is home to the Augusta National and the Masters Tournament.

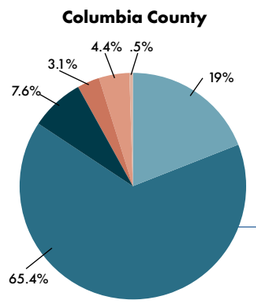
DEMOGRAPHICS

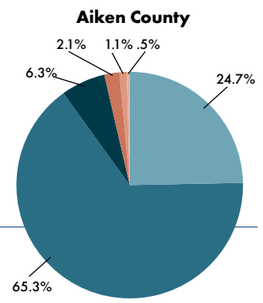


CSRA Population
900,000
in 18 counties

Augusta Population
200,000



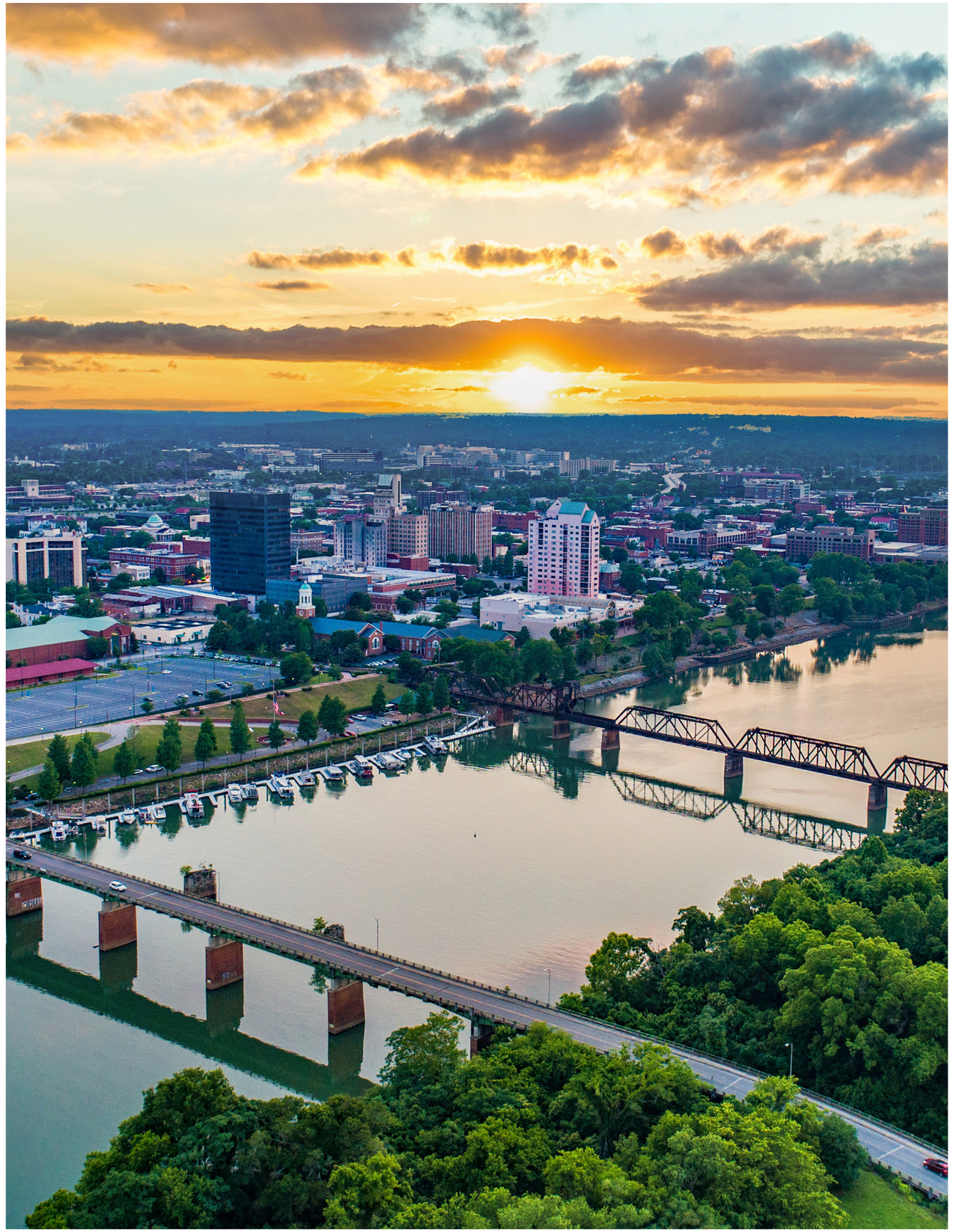






Augusta is centrally located. It is approximately 150 miles east of Atlanta, 60 miles southwest of Columbia, SC, and two and a half hours from the beach and the mountains.

Source: usafacts.org 2021 data



HISTORY

For over 220 years, FPC-Augusta has been a church committed to the authority of Scripture, the proclamation of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and service to the local community, the broader church, and the world. Our people have long believed in the power of prayer, realizing we can do nothing without God, trusting in God's promises to answer us. From monthly meetings to pray for the city of Augusta in the early 1800s to a group of faithful women in the 1960s who met around the kitchen table to pray for their next pastor, from scheduled prayer times to called days of prayer and fasting, we have sought to become a house of prayer.

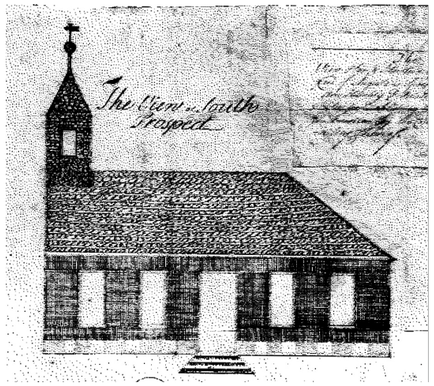
While much has changed over the past two centuries, our mission has remained constant: to glorify God by faithfully preaching His Word, making disciples of Jesus Christ, and serving Augusta and the world with the hope of the Gospel. We are grateful for God's faithfulness throughout our history and look forward with confidence to the work He will continue to accomplish through this congregation for generations to come.

TIMELINE

Late 1700s

Presbyterian Roots

Presbyterian believers in Augusta worship within the congregation of St. Paul's Church, establishing the roots of what would become First Presbyterian Church.





1804

First Presbyterian Church Organized

The Presbyterian congregation is officially incorporated.

1812

Historic Sanctuary Dedicated

With forty-seven members, the congregation moves into its present sanctuary. Robert Mills, architect of both the Washington Monument and the US Treasury Building, designs the sanctuary.





1863

Civil War

First Presbyterian Church is used as a hospital after the Battle of Chickamauga during the Civil War.

1904

Centennial Celebration

The church celebrates its 100th anniversary.



1969-1997

Dr. John Oliver

Dr. John Oliver becomes our senior pastor. Under Dr. Oliver's leadership and strong preaching and teaching ministry, the church experiences a revitalization as many young singles and families join the church, and the church grows in its commitment to both foreign missions and to becoming a sending church, FPC becomes a hub church for Campus Outreach and Medical Campus Outreach.





1972

Westminster School

FPC launches Westminster School, beginning a longstanding commitment to Christ-centered education.

1973-1977

Presbyterian Church in America

1973 - FPC votes to leave the Presbyterian Church in the United States (PCUS) because of profound doctrinal issues.

1977 - After four years as an independent Presbyterian congregation, First Presbyterian affiliates with the newly formed Presbyterian Church in America (PCA).

PCA®



1998-2003

Dr. Ray Ortlund

Dr. Ray Ortlund is called as senior pastor and brings strong expository preaching with an emphasis on the gospel of the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, bringing about renewal in our congregation.

2001

Heritage Academy

FPC members found Heritage Academy, a downtown school committed to providing quality, Christ-centered education to children of diverse economic, racial, and ethnic backgrounds.





2003

Church Split

FPC endures a painful, humbling church split. God sustains and grows us. He teaches us to be a broken, hopeful, expectant people during an interim period. We are prepared for the next phase in our church life.

2004

Bicentennial Celebration

FPC celebrates its 200th anniversary.



2005-2017

Dr. George Robertson



Dr. George Robertson is senior pastor. He brings us strong preaching and leadership skills. He emphasizes the urgency and necessity of racial reconciliation, and of local outreach to our immediate downtown community, while at the same time continuing the church's strong commitment to global missions.



2007

Christ Community Health Services

FPC members found Christ Community Health Services, a community health center created to demonstrate the love of Christ by providing affordable, quality primary healthcare to the underserved in Augusta.

2018-present

Dr. Mike Hearon



Dr. Mike Hearon becomes lead pastor, faithfully and lovingly shepherding FPC through the unprecedented challenges of the COVID pandemic and Hurricane Helene. By God's grace, under his leadership, FPC weathers these storms and emerges ready for a new season of growth and ministry and the calling of a new senior pastor.



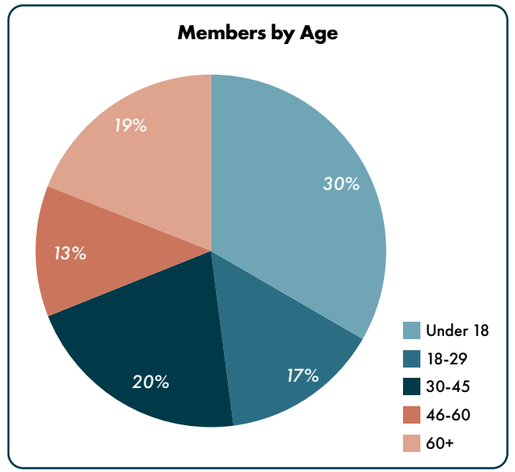


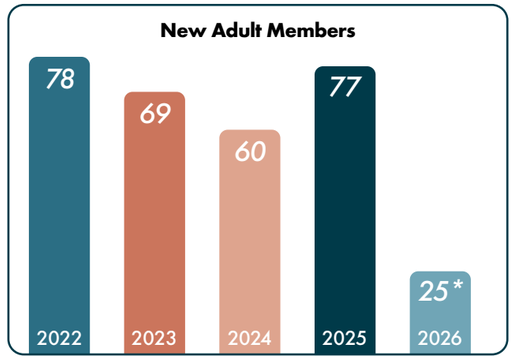
GOSPEL-SHAPED WORSHIP

We believe God is holy and worthy of our highest devotion, and we confess our need for the saving grace of Christ as we enter into worship. Through the power of the Spirit, we delight in the Word, the Sacraments, and the praises of God's people.

We are formed by worship that is marked by reverence and expressive joy, theological faithfulness, and beauty that is shaped in both content and form by Scripture and the richness of our liturgy, which is rooted timeless apostolic and Reformation doctrines. Each week in congregational worship, God gathers, renews, and sends us out for his glory once more.

FPC gathers for worship both morning and evening, and the worship style combines ancient and modern elements with a congregation spanning all ages. Services engage the minds and hearts of Christ-followers, skeptics, and seekers alike. We celebrate the Lord's Supper one Sunday morning and one Sunday evening each month.





Total Members	Total Families	Average Sunday Morning Attendance	Average Sunday Evening Attendance
2,007	743	1,045	345

*as of August 2026

GRACE-CENTERED DISCIPLESHIP

We are committed to making disciples of Jesus Christ through grace-centered, Spirit-dependent ministry. This includes expository preaching, intentional shepherding, connected community, and intentional pathways of discipleship that form heart, mind, and practice. As we are shaped by the ordinary means of grace including the ministry of the Word and fervent prayer, we seek transformed lives, to reach the lost, and to build up Christ's church. Discipleship is not merely instruction, but a shared life of repentance, faith, and growing obedience to Christ.

ADULT

Every member is encouraged to be involved in a Sunday Morning Community. We offer a variety of classes to appeal to various age groups and stages of life that meet Sunday mornings from 9:45 to 10:45 a.m.

Small Groups also meet during the week both on campus and in members' homes. These groups provide a place for Bible study, fellowship, life-on-life discipleship, and deep community.





YOUTH

First Presbyterian Church is home to a high energy, highly relational youth ministry that is expanding its staff team, mobilizing volunteers, and pursuing covenant kids and their friends across the CSRA.



CHILDREN

Next Gen Kids is a relational, partnering and equipping ministry that seeks to commend the greatness of God in Jesus Christ to the next generation. We do this primarily through our Sunday School and Impact classes as well as special events throughout the year. While Next Gen Kids has a ministry staff team to provide infrastructure, support and direction, it is implemented through faithful and passionate volunteers.



HAND IN HAND

Hand in Hand is a unique ministry that has allowed the church to faithfully come alongside individuals and families impacted by disabilities, where Christ-centered, grace-driven care and discipleship is offered to all. It has allowed our church body to grow in our understanding of what it means to be a community of believers that recognizes the God-given dignity of every person as an image-bearer and says, "You Belong Here!"

FAITHFUL PRESENCE

We believe God has deliberately placed us in the heart of Augusta. Therefore, we seek to live as a faithful gospel presence among our neighbors, bearing witness in word and deed through prayer, service, generosity, and hospitality. Our aim is to walk in obedience to Christ's mission, as we seek to love and serve those around us including the poor and marginalized, focused on loving the neighbors God has placed around us with Christ's love. We aim to do this not only through formal ministries, but with our lives: for decades, FPC has been equipping members to live as believers in our local community, using their unique gifts and vocations to proclaim the Gospel to our neighbors in word and deed.

We long to see Christ proclaimed both next door and around the world, to all nations and generations, as we seek to live not for ourselves, but for the glory of Christ and the advancement of His kingdom.











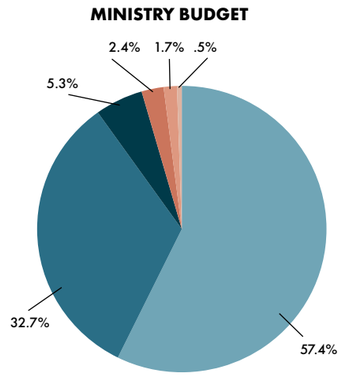


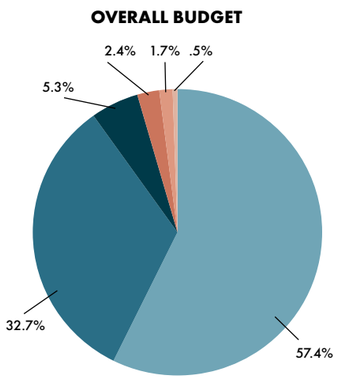
LOCAL MINISTRY AND MISSIONS

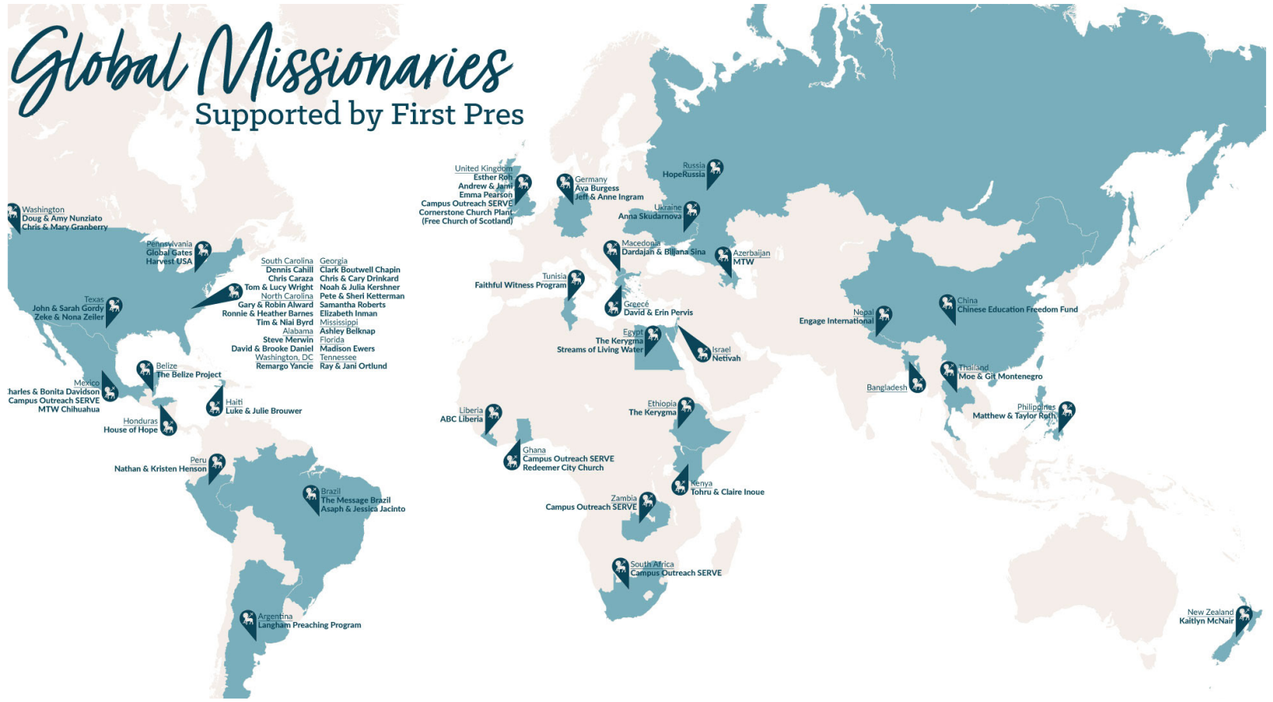
Isaiah 1:17 states, "**Learn to do good; seek justice, correct oppression; bring justice to the fatherless, and plead the widows' cause.**" After decades of strong commitment to global missions, in recent years members of our congregation have focused on outreach to the local community with a particular emphasis on the area in which the church is located. The church has founded, funded, and filled with its members numerous outreach efforts that promote the Gospel by addressing the needs of the community. These ministries can be distributed into three categories: Security, Purpose, and Fulfillment.

Local Ministry Partners
Supporting Our Community









GLOBAL AND NATIONAL MISSIONS

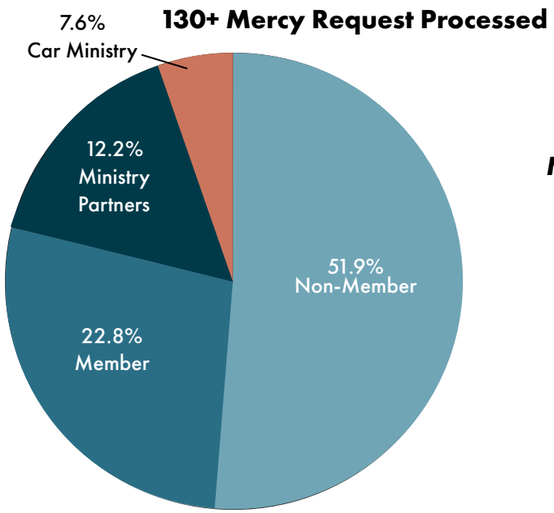
First Presbyterian Church of Augusta's vision for missions is based on the Great Commission in Matthew 28:19-20, and can be summed up in three words -- PRAY, GIVE, and GO. We are all called to PRAY that God will use us to make disciples and pray for our missionaries in the work they are doing locally and abroad. We are all called to GIVE of our time, talents, and treasures to advance the Kingdom. And while we are not all called to GO into full time ministry, we are all called to GO to our own Jerusalem where we live, work, and play.

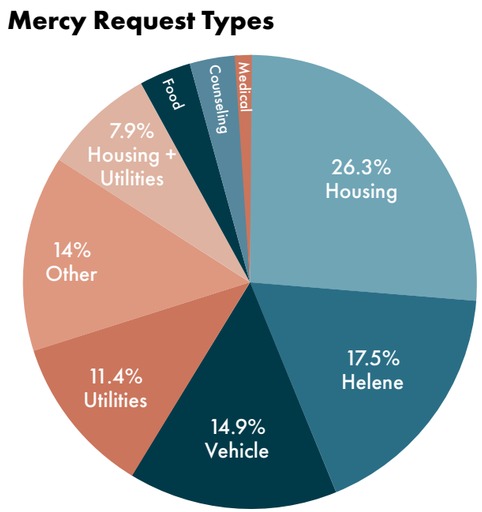
- 12 - Local Missionaries
- 16 - Local Ministries
- 9 - National Missionaries
- 17 - Global Stateside Missionaries (based in the States and itinerate)
- 20 - Global Missionaries
- 17 - Global Ministries
- 91 - missionaries and ministries supported
- 36 - countries impacted

DIACONATE MERCY MINISTRY

The Diaconate Mercy Ministry's mission is to help restore people and reconcile their relationships with God, others, themselves, and creation. We seek to declare the glory of God through the Deacon Relief Fund and acts of service to our church and community. Hebrews 13:16 reminds us, "Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God."

In 2025, FPC's Diaconate Mercy Ministry experienced an especially active year, processing more than 130 mercy requests while continuing Hurricane Helene disaster relief efforts and responding to a significant increase in housing needs. Assistance was provided to church members, non-members, ministry partners, and individuals. In total, the church distributed $251,498.72, while also helping meet transportation needs with donated cars through the Diaconate's Car Ministry.







COVENANT COMMUNITY

We are a covenant community who seek to be marked by humility, hospitality, and mutual care, welcoming neighbors from every background into a church family united in Christ. Across every stage of life, we pursue spiritual maturity together. We are committed to raising our children and youth in the truth of God's Word, guiding them through Scripture, prayer, and faithful practices so that they may grow to know, love, and follow Jesus. In all of this, we seek to reflect the reconciling power of the gospel as Christ builds His church.

CARING FOR THE FLOCK

We encourage participation in Sunday school and adult Sunday communities. Here, there are natural opportunities for shepherding our flock. Our parish structure includes every member and connects an elder to each member of the church. Elders are the first point of contact for any need a member may have. In addition, deacons help our people with physical needs. We also have women shepherds who assist our care teams and provide additional support for women in our church.

We have a large staff team supporting worship, music, discipleship, care, children's, youth, and outreach ministries.

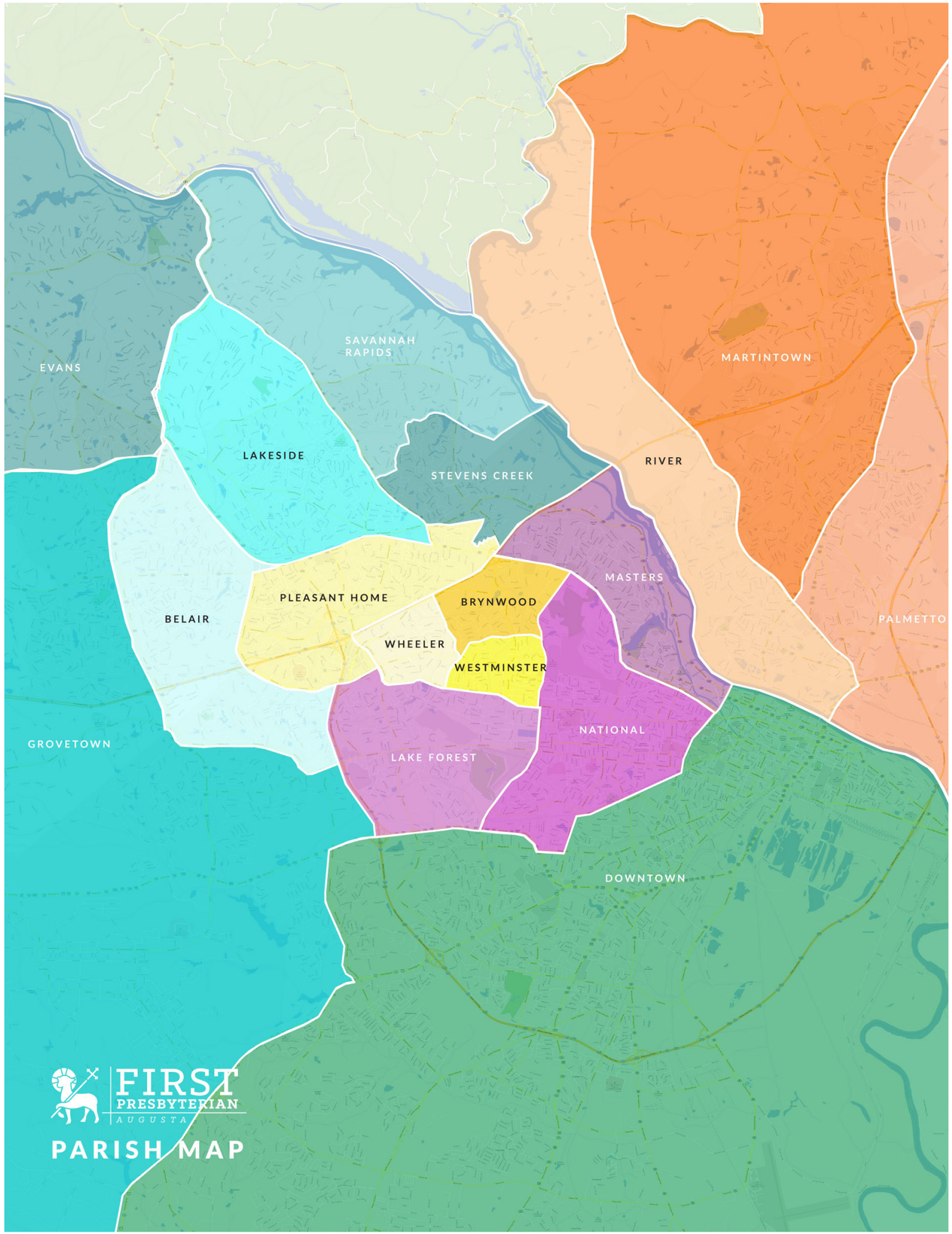
FPC Total Staff - **54**

- 9 - Teaching Elders
- 12 - Ministry/Assistant Directors
- 13 - Ministry Staff
- 6 - Admin Support Staff
- 14 - Operations Staff









PASTOR PROFILE

THE PASTOR'S HEART WE DESIRE

First Presbyterian Church desires a man to be our next senior pastor who is committed to gospel-centered preaching and Christ-exalting worship. We seek a man shaped by the power of the Word and the Spirit—one who preaches the whole counsel of God with full confidence that through his proclamation of the Word, the Spirit will draw our hearts to Christ each Sunday.

In Christ's care and under His headship, we desire a shepherd who will tend this flock and family with compassion, wisdom, and strength. Together we will be committed to building up true Christian fellowship and a community transformed by the Spirit—flourishing, unified in Christ, and welcoming to all—sustained by Christ's continuing work among us.

Our new Senior Pastor, fearing only God, will communicate and execute a clear vision through collaboration, building consensus, and equipping others to lead. The heart of his leadership will be in service to the Kingdom of God.

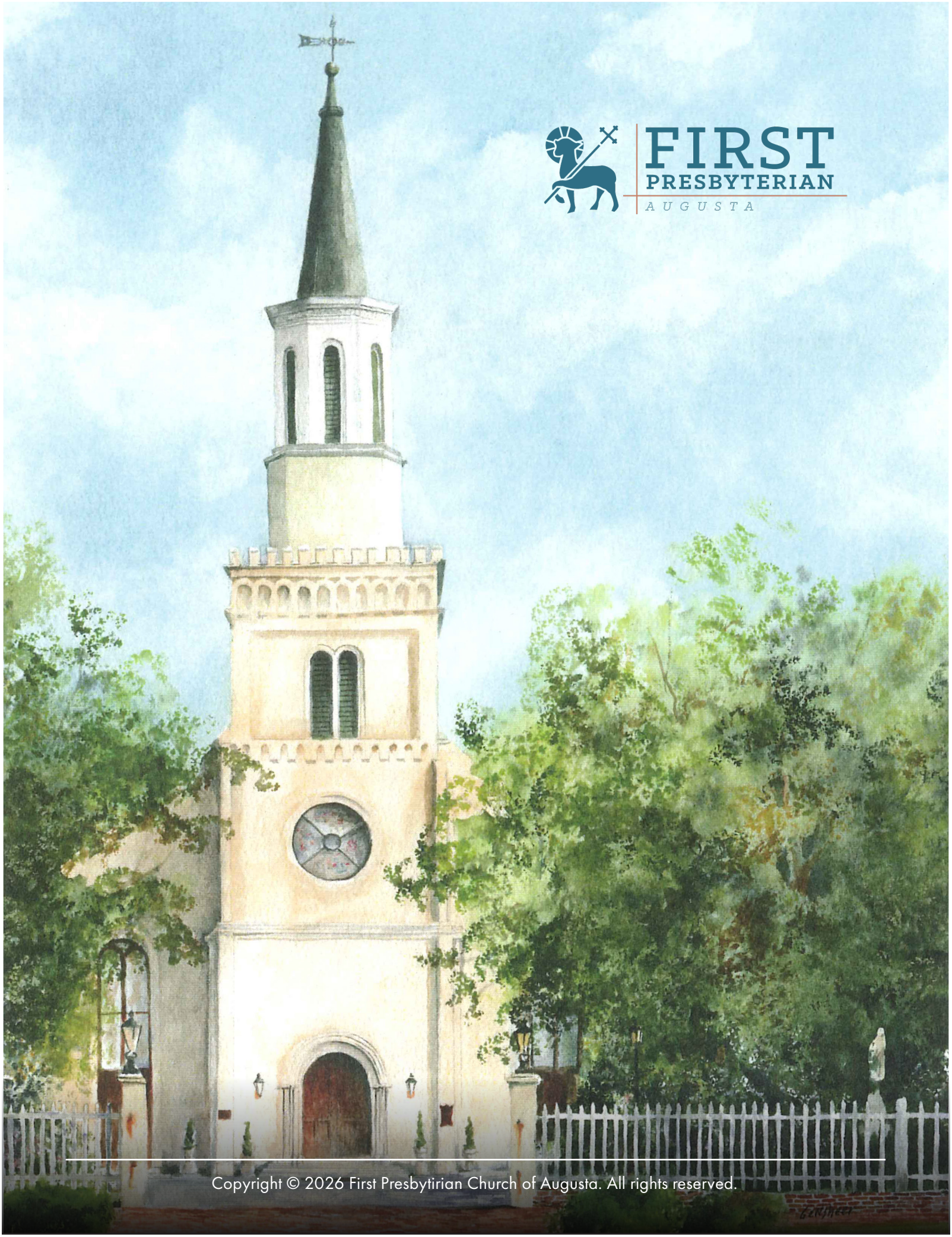
We look with joy to calling our next pastor, knowing that our confidence rests in Christ, who is Lord of his church and who faithfully provides shepherds for His people. We seek, therefore, not simply a gifted preacher or capable leader, but a faithful shepherd who will lift our eyes to Christ and lead us together toward our chief end: to glorify God and enjoy Him forever.

JOB RESPONSIBILITIES

The Senior Pastor will:

- Have primary responsibility for preaching.
- Work with the Executive Director to ensure that church staff are given clear expectations, feedback, encouragement, and regular evaluations.
- Be moderator of the Session.
- Serve as an ex officio member of the Board of Trustees at Westminster Schools of Augusta.





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