

## First Baptist Church 2018 Vision Statement

January 6, 2018 Board Orientation Day

By Pastor Scotty Robertson

Pastor Scotty presented all Board members with his Goals and Vision for a vibrant, healthy Middletown First Baptist Church that is filled with God's light and spirit and will take this Good News Message out to our community. To go where God is at work to fulfill our calling as followers of Jesus. All of our 2018 and beyond efforts for growth, outreach, and aide to those who need our help are outlined in the following concepts, scripture, and vision:

Pastor Scotty puts his vision into a simple straightforward acronym called: EDFJ!

Pastor Scotty laid out the following explanation:

**E** vangelism: Our call as Christians is to go proclaim the word of God in spoken word and in our actions. We are to tell others what it means to be a follower of Jesus, and show them this good news by our actions.

Mark 16:15 Preach the gospel to ALL creatures. "Proclaim the Gospel" in all you say and do.

1 Peter 3:15 Let people know we are Christians and be able to tell them why we follow Jesus.

**D** icipleship: Once we come to the Lord or bring people to the Lord then what? We need to find ways to grow/teach and continue to always learn more from the scripture. Don't let ourselves stagnate.

John 8:31-32 know the scripture to be a better Christian & become a congregation of "lifelong learners".

2 Timothy 2:2 YOU are the teacher to someone in your life. Take this role seriously. We all learn from one another.

**F** ellowship: Come together to meet and "love on each other" with no agenda or set plan. Live in the "radicalness of the Christian Gospel" and enjoy the fellowship of love. This is what pastoral care is all about. Provide events and a place for people to love on each other. Love is organic! The Spirit is organic!

John 13:34-35 Love one another unconditionally. This will show everyone you are my disciples.

Ephesians 5:2 Walk with God and be committed to one another, and sacrifice for one another.

**J**ustice: Stand up for those who are persecuted and cannot defend themselves. Stand up for all who need to be protected and defended, this begins with the unborn. Let the Church be the defender of good, not the Government.

Matthew 7:12 Golden rule. Love your brother and sister as you would love yourself.

Micah 6:8 Do justice with love and mercy, walk humbly with God, lend a hand to those who are persecuted and in need.

Pastor Scotty will work on these goals and vision himself by studying several books that he recommends to any/all of us to also read:

**E** – “Be My Witness” The great commission for preacher’s book by Marvin McMickle

**D** – “Culture Shock” A biblical response to today’s divisive issues by Chip Ingram

**F** – “Never Call Them Jerks” A healthy way to respond to bad behavior by Arthur Boers

**J** – “Follow me to Freedom” – Leading & following as an ordinary radical by Shane Claiborne and John Perkins

Pastor Scotty left us with the following questions in each of the four main areas of goals and vision:

**E** – How can we encourage people to share their faith more?

**D** – How do we better teach people the fundamentals of faith?

**F** – How do we create more opportunities where people can come to love on each other and share fellowship?

**J** – How do we best stand up for the downtrodden especially the unborn and the elderly? How can we offer a hand up to those who are the least in our society?

After the Visioning and Goal setting session was over all Boards dispersed to their individual meetings and were charged with developing a 2018 vision keeping in mind Pastor Scotty’s vision and goals for 2018. Goals developed were as follows:

**Deacon Board:**

Develop a strong Shepherd Program

Better communication with our Community

Create a new Church Directory

**Trustee Board:**

Create a new electronic LED Church sign

Develop a welcome center in our Narthex

Reach out to our Daycare Families

Pump up the FBC live stream and internet presence

Better communication with congregation about financial needs

Create better security for our Church Campus

Develop an Endowment program

**Christian Education Board:**

Promote our educational opportunities by way of social media

Create more educational opportunities for time challenged people ; such as “Moms”

Make an intentional outreach to daycare children and families

**Mission Board:**

Continue School supplies and other outreach programs

Highlight our missionaries efforts and our support to them

Visit a local mission and share the experience with the Church

Donate to the Mathew 25 ministry program

Create a Mission Board handbook

Set FBC Social Media policies