

STEWARDSHIP 2024

A NEW *Season*
SOUTHSIDE METHODIST CHURCH

SOUTHSIDE
jacksonville

Dear Beloved Members of Southside,

My love for the Church at Southside knows no bounds, and I'm hopeful your hearts resonate with that same deep affection. When we care for something so profoundly, it becomes our sacred duty to support it, to ensure it is maintained, and to provide it with the opportunity to flourish and thrive for not only our generation but also our children and grandchildren. Our love for Southside should inspire us to give, not out of mere obligation but out of a desire to see it grow and prosper.



You may have heard me share this story before; it is a story that has deeply influenced my perspective on giving. Giova and I first met at Peachtree Road United Methodist Church in Atlanta, GA. I was a youth intern, and she was diligently working in the church's accounting office. In that congregation, there was a young boy being raised in the church. It was evident that his father instilled in him the value of giving, as he received a mere dollar as his weekly allowance. Yet, what struck us most was that a dime found its way into the offering envelope every week, and the young boy insisted on designating his gift. He wanted his weekly dime to either contribute to purchasing cushions in the church or supporting preaching lessons for the pastor.

When Giova and I married, she said something that has resonated with us ever since: "If that little boy can give 10% of his allowance each week, we can do the same with our salaries!" From November of 1989 onward, we have faithfully tithed, and it has been an incredible blessing. It's a blessing I wish for each one of you to experience.

This blessing takes many forms. Firstly, it's the knowledge that your giving is instrumental in helping the church make a significant difference in our community, reach new disciples, and carry out vital mission work. Secondly, it helps foster a growing church community. And thirdly, it sets godly priorities by investing in God's Kingdom and walking in obedience.

Friends, I want to emphasize that Southside needs your giving now more than ever. Undoubtedly, we are all facing challenging economic times, and as a church family, we have just recently experienced a season of tremendous turmoil. Despite all of this and through the grace of God, we as a church community are continuing to grow and to share the love of Jesus with others. Your financial support is the lifeblood that sustains the Southside ministries and allows us to continue spreading the love of Christ throughout Jacksonville and the world.

If you have not yet embraced the practice of pledging and purposeful giving, I implore you to start. Let the love you hold for Southside and our wonderful family community guide your decision. Giving is not an obligation; it is a privilege, an act of love motivated by our devotion to Christ and our love for one another.

I am asking you today to give throughout the remainder of 2023 to bring our finances up to budget and to pledge your giving in advance for 2024. Pledging in advance allows us to strengthen our financial security and be even more fiscally responsible. Let us come together as a church family united in our love for God, each other, and Southside, and pledge to give generously. Let us ensure that our Southside community continues to thrive, that its light continues to shine, and that we play our part in building God's Kingdom here on Earth for generations to come.

Peace,

Phillip Short

Pastor Phillip Short
Southside Methodist Church

AT SOUTHSIDE, WE'RE MORE THAN JUST A CHURCH – WE'RE A FAMILY UNITED BY OUR FAITH IN *Jesus Christ*.

- The Southside community is experiencing **consistent growth**, with new attendees and members every week.
- The adult, kids, and Littlest Angel's children's **choirs have returned** this fall.
- Every Sunday, our space is **filled to capacity** with programs for children, youth, and adults.
- We had the **highest number** of volunteers ever for VBS at Southside, including adults and youth.
- Southside has provided **1,700 meals** to UCOM, making us their 2nd largest contributor of food in Jacksonville.
- With your help one of our mission partners has distributed **500,000 bibles** in South America.





SOUTHSIDE *Ministries*

CHILDREN



Southside Children is designed to partner with parents to help children move towards God. Children ages birth through 5th grade will enter a caring environment filled with amazing staff and volunteer members ready to teach them about God's love.

STUDENTS



We value students worshipping God, and connecting with one another where they can have fun and learn from friends and adult leaders about what it means to follow Christ. Students become leaders and volunteer their time at the Southside Pumpkin Patch and Children's Ministry.

FRIENDS



The Friends Ministry at Southside exists to transform lives by creating spaces where individuals with intellectual and developmental differences, their families, and volunteers can belong, contribute, and celebrate their God-given gifts.

WOMEN



Southside Women's Ministry is here to help you draw near to God. We strive to share life with one another and flourish right where we are planted in life. Together, we will focus ourselves on the Word of God and help each other live out our faith through the power of the Holy Spirit.

MEN



Our goal is to aid men in discovering Jesus Christ as their Lord. Join us on a quest to find out who God is and what He has to say about our struggles and life challenges. Learn life-transforming biblical principles that apply to us as men, husbands, fathers, and friends.

We believe that God designed us to be in community with one another. At Southside we strive to support, love, and challenge you in your faith. Our life groups meet regularly to connect, serve, and discuss biblical truths, allowing you to grow deeper in your faith. So whether you are just starting out on your spiritual journey or are a seasoned disciple Southside will be with you every step of the way.



Experience a Methodist church that's all about creating lasting connections with God and each other. Our mission is to guide you toward a meaningful and purposeful relationship with Jesus Christ.

We strongly believe in fostering an environment where families can grow in faith together. Join us for uplifting worship, engaging activities, vibrant kids and youth ministries, and special events that bring smiles to all ages.

“It is an honor to be part of a church with such a strong desire to help provide everyone with a sense of belonging.”

“We are a part of Southside for many reasons, but one of the main reasons being that Southside is such a welcoming community. You are welcomed with open arms, and no matter where you are in life, they are there to meet you and help you find your place.

It is an honor to be part of a church with such a strong desire to help provide everyone with a sense of belonging.” - The McInnis Family





"My name is Andrew Linn, and I grew up at this church. I have wonderful memories as a child being baptized and going through confirmation, and the Youth Group gave me a wonderful foundation."

I was fortunate enough to have my childhood pastor marry my wife and me in the church. This church's rich history of the Methodist tradition has blessed me and now my own family."
- Andrew Linn





YOUR SUPPORT HELPS EXPAND
OUR IMPACT TO SERVE THOSE IN
NEED IN OUR COMMUNITY AND
AROUND THE WORLD.

ENTERING THE *Mission Field*

You were made for a mission—an assignment that is unique to you and a responsibility that you share with every other Christian. We're saved so we can serve, and there's a unique role only you can play in changing the lives of others for the better.

Southside Methodist Church is committed to reaching people for Christ in our own neighborhood, across the region, and around the world.

Locally (Local Outreach)

We believe that giving of ourselves to others and reaching out to our community is really the heart of God. We support, financially and physically, local ministries that are meeting the practical and spiritual needs of people. With things such as food drives for UCOM, angel tree, manna bags, HAPI, and care for the homebound, we value others within our own community.

Around the world (World Outreach)

We are committed to world missions. Whether it's in the monthly support of missionaries and ministries across the world or support funding the construction of churches in Cuba, missions to Guatemala, bibles to some of the most dangerous countries in the world and other locations, our heart is to see the gospel preached everywhere to everyone.

To see all our missions and ministries

follow us    

Dear Southside,

It is a privilege to write to you today. I am incredibly honored to serve as your Finance and Stewardship Chairperson at Southside Methodist Church. God has blessed our church, and He is leading us into a new season of life and ministry together. This is the time of the year when we each have the opportunity to pledge our financial support to the church for the coming year.

In preparing this letter, I prayed that God would give me a word to focus on during this time of year. After a few days of prayer, the word “impact” kept popping into my mind. Your tithes and offerings have an “impact” on our church, on our community, and for the work of the kingdom of God. Through your gifts, we can sustain, grow, and pursue excellence in worship, Christian education, and missions. We are also able to maintain our facility, which is not only a blessing to our congregation but also to the community at large. Most importantly, through your generosity, people will come to know the saving grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and learn to be disciples to show others God’s love. As we enter into this new season together, I ask you to prayerfully consider your financial investment in Southside and the impactful work of our church.

Tracy and I were married at Southside in July 1990. I was working as a Mechanical Engineer and Tracy was teaching elementary school. Our budget was lean at that time, but we committed ourselves to tithe and give 10% of our income to the church. Some years we fell short but continued to work toward our tithing goal. Over the past 33 years, our family and budget have grown, as well as our time, talent, and resource commitment to Southside.

We have found great joy in knowing that our giving has an impact on the missions and ministries of our church.

Humbly, I ask that you prayerfully consider setting the same tithing goal for yourself and your family. For our family, our giving to Southside on a regular basis has helped us to grow spiritually in many ways. Our story is far from unique, and I believe that it could be multiplied many times over within our congregation. God will finish the good work He has begun, and I believe He wants His people to be involved with the process. I am so excited to be on this journey with you! Will you join us? Regardless of your level of giving, making a commitment of your resources to your Southside church will allow us to continue seeing God’s purpose unfold.

Author C. S. Lewis wrote regarding Christian charitable giving:

“I do not believe one can settle how much we ought to give. I am afraid the only safe rule is to give more than we can spare. In other words, if our expenditure on comforts, luxuries, amusements, etc., is up to the standard common among those with the same income as our own, we are probably giving away too little. If our charities do not at all pinch or hamper us, I should say they are too small. There ought to be things we should like to do and cannot do because our [giving] excludes them.”

In His Service,

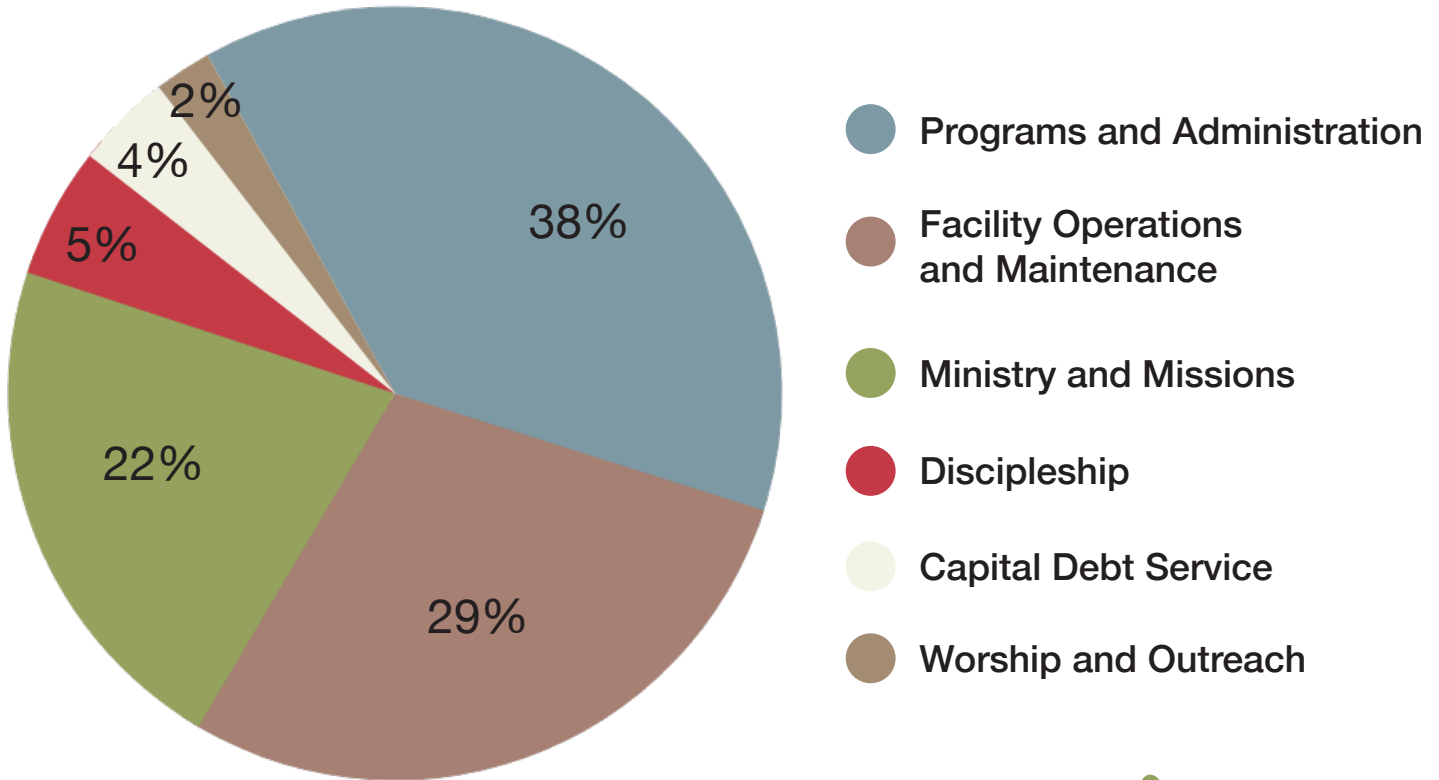
Bill

Bill Langley
Finance Chair
Southside Methodist Church



PROJECTED FUND DISTRIBUTION IN 2024

Based on an estimated budget goal of \$1.45 million.



SOWING INTO *Good Soil*

"We are a part of the Southside family because the Church is committed to improving the lives and faith of children and their parents. Southside embodies Jesus' words of "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these." Matthew 19:14. The children lead worship, read scripture publicly, work on missions and learn together. It builds a strong community from the ground up, starting with those little feet.

I immediately saw where we could plug in when we joined, and we have loved getting more and more involved in spreading God's word all over San Marco. Whether it's VBS, the Hendricks Partnership, the preschool partnership or all the public, fun events we can have in our park on the point, Southside is a leader in opening its door and hearts to all families." - Liz Morgan





WE ARE *Southside*

“Carlie and I had been attending the church off and on for the last 11 years. Our faith and proximity to the church initially drew us in, but the culture and staff of the church has kept us close. As we began having children it was important for us to raise them in the church, and all four of our children have attended the preschool.”

Carlie joined the board at the preschool years ago and has helped guide the preschool through some difficult times. More recently we’ve both been called to leadership positions within the church on the Admin Council and Staff Parrish Committee.

Leading within the church has deepened our understanding of the administrative processes that drive the church, and have given us an appreciation for the dedicated and tenured staff that really are the lifeblood of the church. This community and service has brought our whole family closer to God and we love being a part of it.” - Zach & Carlie Peyton



“This community and service has brought our whole family closer to God and we love being a part of it.”



“Southside has become our church home - not just because we attend regularly but because we have been embraced by its community. Our children are loved and poured into in a protective and scripture-based manner; as parents we are led by the example of multiple generations of Christ-like parents who share the same values as us. Southside cares about the faith our family is growing.”
- Adrienne Sooriash



WAYS TO PLEDGE YOUR *Giving*

Yes, I want to sow seeds into good soil and be part of this new season at Southside Methodist Church!

DIRECTLY ONLINE

Scan the
QR Code



USE OUR NEW SOUTHSIDE APP

1. Visit our website at www.smcjax.org/mobile-app/
2. Download “Church” by MinistryOne in the app store
3. Search for Southside Methodist Church
4. Select as your church and explore the app!



OR YOU CAN MAIL OR CALL US

3120 Hendricks Ave., Jacksonville, FL 32207 | (904) 396-2676 | www.smcjax.org

You can leave a lasting legacy for our future through an estate or planned gift to Southside Methodist. Donors 70.5 years of age can enjoy the tax benefits of a direct charitable IRA rollover from a qualified retirement plan.

For more information about Stewardship 2024 and ways to give to Southside Methodist Church, contact Bill Langley at (904) 396-2676 or b.langley@southsidemethodist.org



Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you. - Luke 6:38