# VISION 2035 STEP OUT IN FAITH

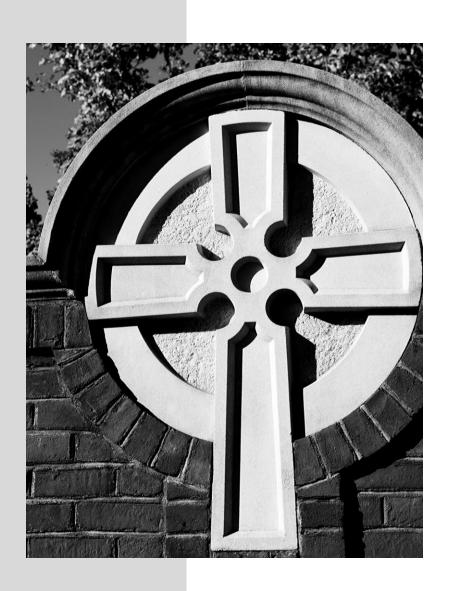


#### Vision 2035 Feedback Meetings

# Outline of Meeting

- Presentation
  - 1. Review of Planning Process
  - 2. Community Inventory
  - 3. FPC Vision, Status, & Inventory
  - 4. Feedback Process & Next Steps
  - 5. Questions
- > Brainstorming in Small Groups
- ➤ Wrap-up





# 1. The Planning Process

### Vision 2035 & the Planning Process

- Formed in 2017 as The Long-Range Planning Committee
- Became a part of The Planning Council in 2021
- Its function is to facilitate as we:
  - Look at the broader needs of our church
  - Define what our church is to be as we go forward
  - Develop a strategic plan for our church
  - Implement that plan

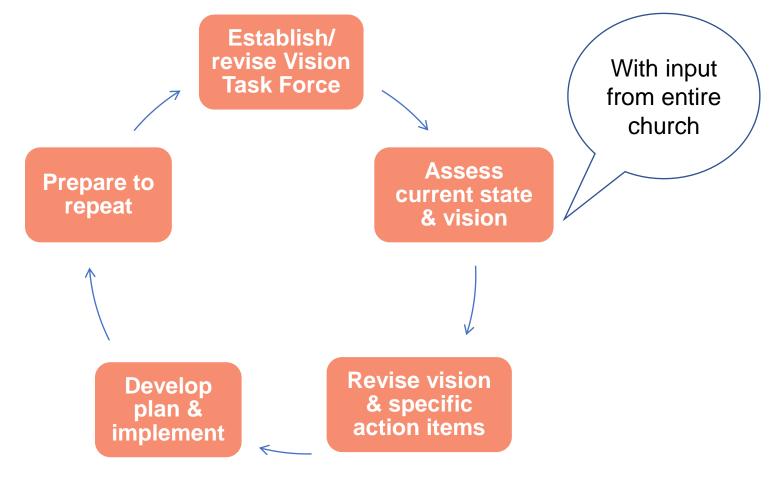


# The Planning Cycle (A Nine-Step Process)

- Determine the current state of the church
- Look at our community
- Define a vision
- Take inventory
- Gather feedback
- Structure the plan
- Review/Approve the plan (Session)
- Communicate the plan
- Implement & monitor the plan



### Repeat the Planning Cycle Every 3 to 5 Years\*



\*Note: Cycles & stages are subject to change due external & internal influences.

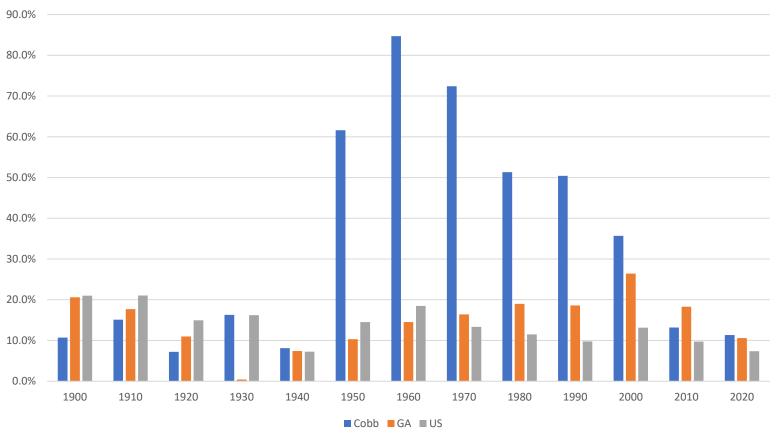




# 2. Our Community

## Our Community Growth is Stabilizing



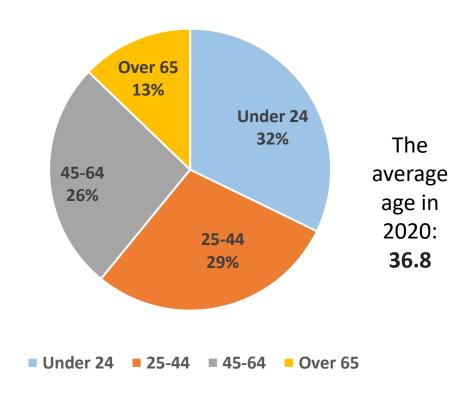




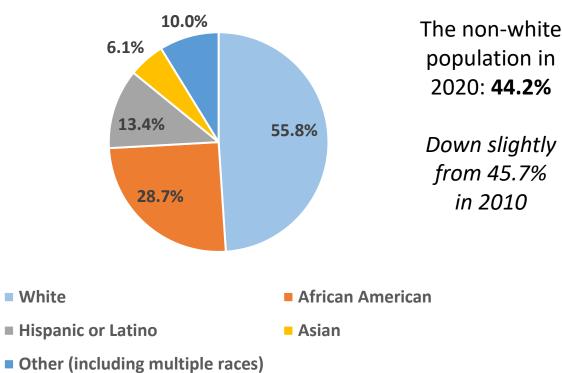
2020 Population: 766K

## Our Community Is Young & Diverse

#### Age of Cobb County 2020



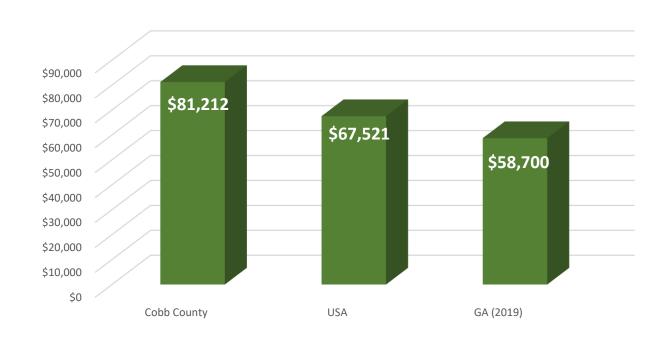
#### Race in Cobb County (2020)

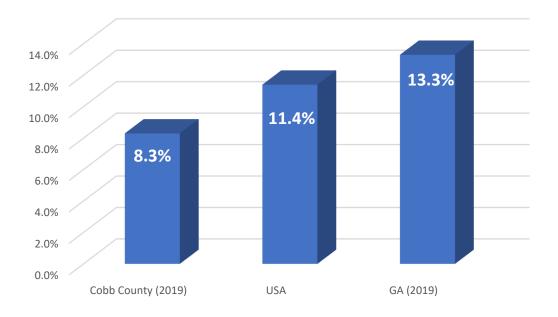


## **Our Community Is Fairly Affluent**

Median Income
Cobb County vs Georgia and US

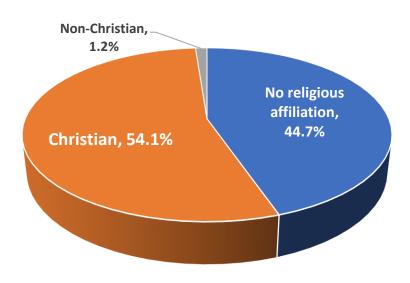
Poverty Rate
Cobb County vs Georgia and US

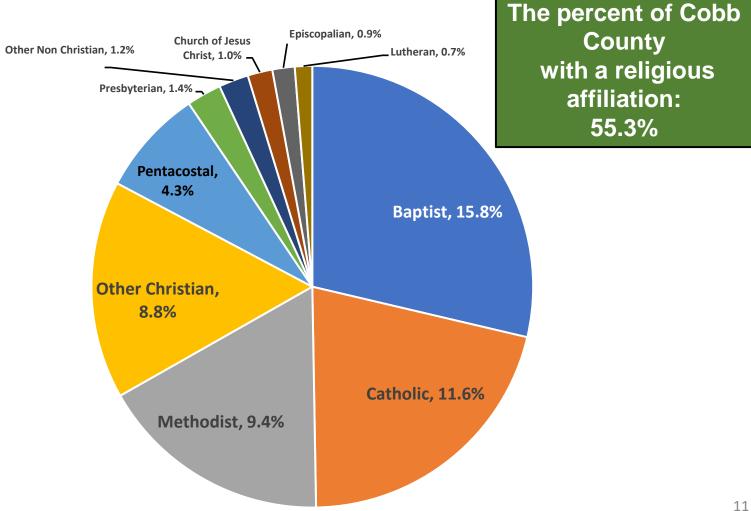




### Religion In Cobb County

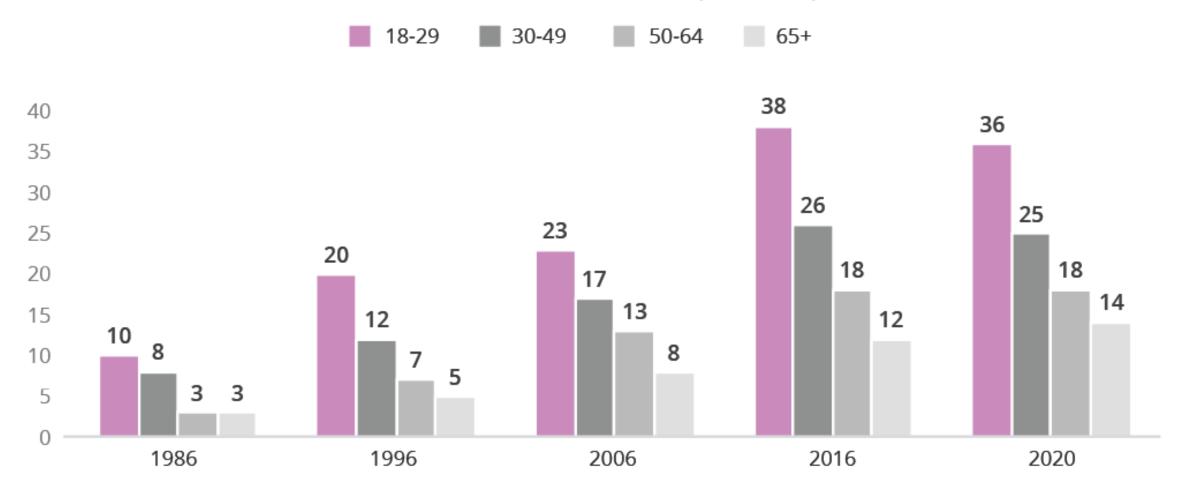
The percent of Cobb County with NO religious affiliation: 44.7%





# Percentage of Young Adults in the USA Not Affiliated with a Church

(Note: The Upward Trend is Slowing/Stabilizing)

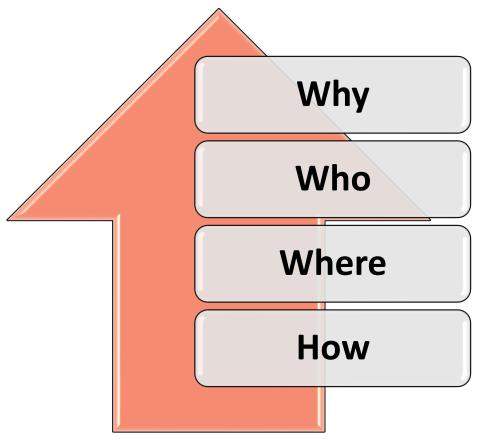


Sources: General Social Survey, 1986, 1996, 2006; PRRI American Values Atlas, 2016, 2020.



# 3. Our Church: Vision, Status, & Inventory

### **FPC's Vision**



We seek to be a place where God changes lives with faith, hope, & love.

We are a community-based, multi-generational, long-established church.

We are in 21st century metro-Atlanta, a place of expanding diversity, which values its traditions yet strives to be forward-thinking.

We will celebrate & build on our traditions of worship & praise. We will focus on education & impactful programs for all ages. We will love our neighbors with justice, mercy, & humility.





#### **Our Time with COVID-19**

Has saddened us: we have lost family, friends, neighbors, & togetherness

Has made us stronger: we have learned new ways to worship & serve

Has impacted our work: completing the Long-Range Plan has been delayed by COVID

But our halls & gatherings are again being filled with love & laughter

# The Current State of the Church

- Our church is fiscally sound, with strong & capable leadership
- We are developing our Vision & Plans for our 3<sup>rd</sup> Century
- We work together as we continue to follow & serve the Lord!



### Taking Stock-An Inventory

A. Membership

**B.**Councils

C. Facilities

D. Programs & Activities









# Church Inventory: Membership

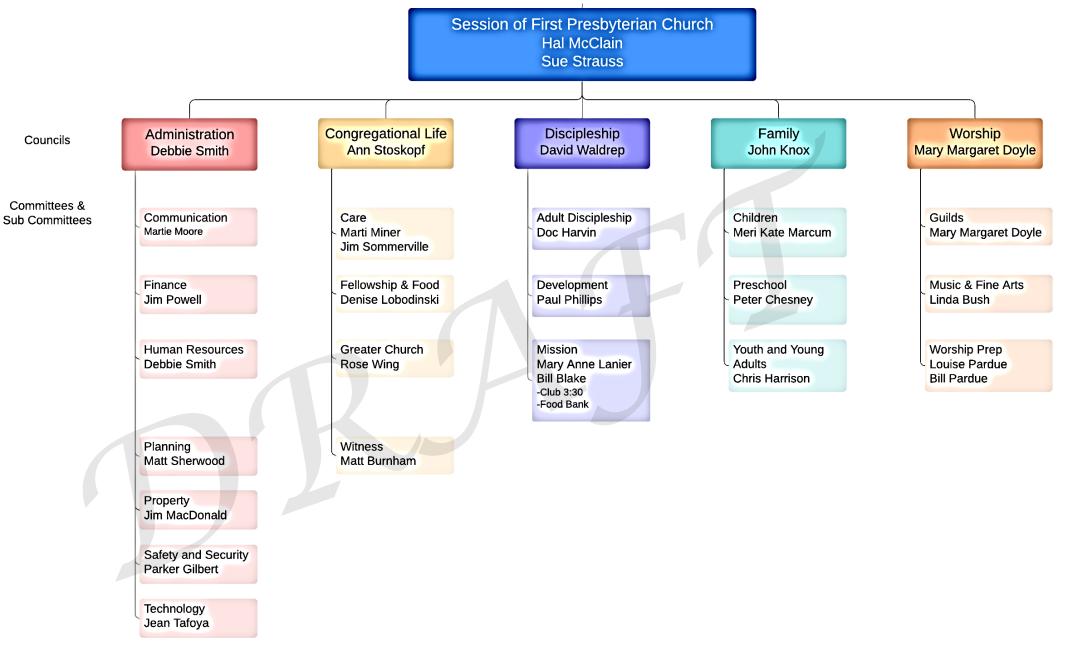
As of December 31, 2021

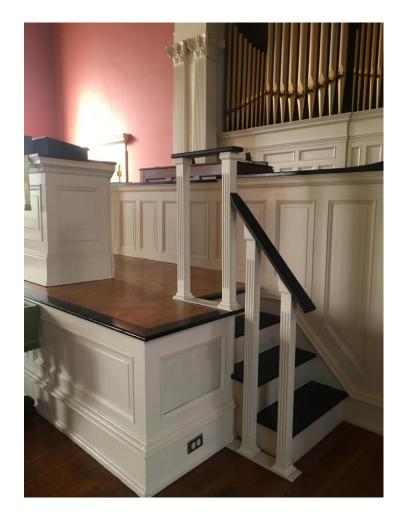
**Current Members: 1,093** 

**Giving Units: 513** 

Councils

Committees &







# **Church Inventory:** Facilities & Property

- 5 Buildings
- 3 Worship Halls
- 30 Classrooms
- 20 Offices
- 1 Library
- 24 Bathrooms
- 4 Parking Lots (348 Spaces)
- 2 Vans





The following are of some of the programs and activities we offer (details on following slides):

- a) Worship
- b) Music & Fine Arts
- c) Mission
- d) Outreach
- e) Christian Education
- f) Children
- g) Youth
- h) Congregational Life and Care



# **Church Inventory: Worship Programs**

8:30 AM Sunday Service

11:00 AM Sunday Service

Special Services for Christmas & Easter

Healing & Wholeness Service

The Longest Night (together with Stephen Ministry)







# **Church Inventory: Music & Fine Arts**

The Music & Arts Institute: (7)

Friday Funday Art

Painting

Piano Lessons

Spirit of Dance

Trumpet Lessons

**Violin Lessons** 

**Voice Lessons** 

**Special Music Programs:** 

Hymn Festivals Concerts & Recitals Carol Sing **Youth: (4)** 

Joy Choir (PreK & K)

Alleluia Choir (Grades 1-2)

Youth Bell Choir (Grades 3-5)

Youth Worship Leaders

**Adult: (6)** 

The Chancel Choir

The Carillon Ringers

The Kirk Ringers

**Church Street Strings** 

**Atlanta Chamber Brass** 

(Brass in Residence)

**Arts Team** 

# **Church Inventory: Mission Programs**

Matthew 25:31–46 calls all of us to actively engage in the world around us, so our faith comes alive...

FPC Marietta has been serving the Lord through its many ministries & projects through the decades.



# The pandemic presented a whole new vision for

#### Mission & Outreach:



#### **Alleviating Hunger**

Food Bank & Pantry
MUST Summer Lunch
4th Monday @ the Women's Extension
Rise Against Hunger food packing event
Thornwell's Lush Acres Farm

#### **Serving the Poor**

Habitat for Humanity build
Extreme Mission winter clothing drive
Medshare Clean Birthing Kit event
MUST Ministries Presbyterian "family room"
Back packs for Hickory Hills Elementary

#### **Loving the Stranger**

Club 3:30 After School Program
Missionaries serving college students in CA & GA
The Extension
Refuge Coffee

# Church Inventory: Outreach Programs Our Church is Growing!

#### **Worship Attendance**

Average worship attendance has increased each year for 4 years in a row

#### **New Members**

Since 2017 more than 200 new members have joined our church

#### **Loving our Neighbors**

Our Christian service makes the Gospel tangible to the local community

#### **Community Presence**

We are frequently featured in the local paper & have been named the Best Place to Worship in Cobb County for 3 years in a row

#### **New Member Assimilation**

Those who joined the church are becoming active members thanks to intentional ministry

# **Church Inventory: Christian Education**

#### **Sunday School for all ages**

150 participants across 4 classes

#### **Bible Studies**

50 weekly participants
Tuesdays & Thursdays
+ Sunday and Monday evenings

#### **Preschool**

155 students enrolled for 2021-22 (103% capacity)
Monday through Friday

#### Club 3:30

23 students registered Plan to ramp up when full volunteer support is available









#### Church Inventory: Youth Programs

#### **Local Events**

Family Picnic
Parents vs. Youth Football
Christmas Party
Spring Family Picnic
End of Year Party

#### **Retreats / Missions**

Collide Winter Retreat
High School Summer Mission
Middle School Summer Mission
Montreat Youth Conference

#### **Fundraisers**

Taste of Marietta Chalktoberfest Fourth of July Officer Dinner

Milestones Confirmation Sunday Youth Sunday Senior Sunday







#### Church Inventory: Children's Programs

#### **Local Ministry**

Nursery Children's Church Sunday School Journey Children in Worship Class Acolyte Ministry Family Picnics

Milestones Baptism

#### **Community Outreach**

Vacation Bible School Live Nativity Trunk or Treat Family Christmas Service Preschool
Parents Day out
Blessing of the Backpacks

3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Bibles Communion

# **Church Inventory: Congregational Programs**



Book Clubs
Church Picnic
Neighborhood Groups
Dinner & Wine Groups
Writers Group
Presbyterians with a Purpose

#### Care

Stephen Ministry
Support of Foster Care Families
Congregational Health Initiatives
Visiting members in their homes

History Committee, Oral History Projects, & Genealogy







# 4. Feedback Process & Next Steps

# Creating the Vision 2035 Plan

- 1) The current state of the church
- 2) A look at our community
- 3) Define a vision
- 4) Take Inventory
- 5) Feedback
- 6) Structure the plan
- 7) Review the plan
- 8) Finalize the plan
- 9) Implement & monitor the plan



### 5) Feedback & Benchmarking

- Get feedback by asking:
  - What's going well at FPC?
  - What changes are needed?
  - What would you MOST like to see happen at FPC?
  - What is your vision for FPC, short term & longer term?
- Get feedback from: (taking notes each time)
  - Elders & Deacons
  - The Staff
  - Youth
  - The Congregation
    - Hold a series of feedback meetings (brainstorming sessions)



## 5) Feedback & Benchmarking, Cont.

- Feedback will also come from:
  - Councils & Committees
  - An Online Questionnaire (also available as a paper survey at the church)
- Benchmark with other churches to see what they do well
- This is the final phase of the Feedback Process



### 6) Structuring the Plan

- Feedback will be sorted into categories & priorities using a 3-step process:
  - 1. Sort into categories: Vision, Objectives, Values & Method
  - 2. Refine the list by: Primary & Secondary Topics
  - 3. Outline the Plan: Primary, Method, & Next Steps



### The Final Steps...

- 7) Review & Approval of the Plan
  - Review the plan with the Session & Staff
  - Get the plan approved by the Session
- 8) Communicate the Plan
  - Introduce the plan to the congregation
  - Explain how the plan will be implemented
  - Outline action items & working groups assigned to each action segment
- 9) Implement & Monitor the Plan



### The Timeline

March: Senior Staff Feedback

March: Officer Feedback

March: Receive Feedback from Youth, Congregation, & Stakeholders using:

- Townhall-format feedback meetings in person and via Zoom
- Online/paper questionnaire

#### **April-July:**

- Benchmark with other churches
- Review feedback & begin to structure the plan

August-September: Finalize & approve the plan with the Session

October: Communicate the plan to the Congregation

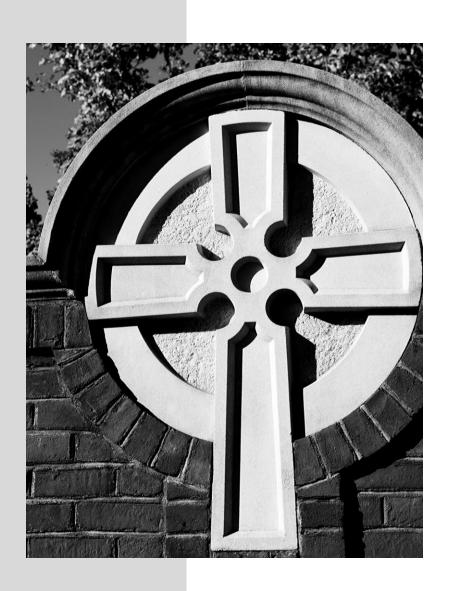


## **Expectations**

- Focus our mission
- Build on our strengths
- Create excitement
- Establish accountability
- Discover new ideas for a bright future
- Prepare FPC for our 3<sup>rd</sup> Century







# 5. Questions?

### Now, Lets Get to Work!

- 1. What's going well at FPC?
- 2. What changes are needed?
- 3. What would you MOST like to see happen at FPC?
- 4. What is your vision for FPC Marietta:
  - In the next 5 years?
  - In 10 -15 years? (for our 3<sup>rd</sup> Century)