



invested  
**In<sup>2</sup>**  
involved





# INfluence

Change the world and be changed in the process...

As decades of time and change unfold, the sounds of ministry at First Presbyterian remain the same. Babies cooing in the Nursery Cove, children reciting Bible verses at Vacation Bible School, youth laughing at the Galveston retreat and harmonic Chancel and Sanctuary choirs all attest to the hand of God at work knitting individuals and families together in Christ's love. Year after year, volunteers that invest countless hours to caring, preparing and sharing are building a legacy of compassion that INfluences thousands of lives – near and far. Some laymen teach class week after week, others care for special needs children in the WINGS program while fatigued parents enjoy much-needed spiritual renewal during worship. Whether going on a mission trip or chairing a project, thousands have answered

God's call in Ephesians 6 to "serve wholeheartedly, as if you were serving the Lord, not men."

What began in a small place of worship at Main and Capital in downtown Houston in 1845 has since INfluenced history, as the founding members laid the foundation for what is now a 5.5-acre museum-district campus dedicated to serve as a beacon of INspiration for many. Over the years, the people of First Presbyterian Church have stretched and sacrificed to reach milestones that will continue shaping lives for generations to come.

The INvested and INvolved (IN<sup>2</sup>) campaign will highlight past accomplishments and inspire faithfulness in gifts of time, talents and treasures. This experience will help our faith and feet become more closely aligned to continue First Presbyterian Church's tradition of giving from the heart as God gives.





# INvested

An INvestment signifies a commitment and devotion to a GREATER purpose.

Even in the toughest of economic times...we are far richer than our brothers and sisters living in impoverished countries – and in the very communities that surround our church. Closets and garages never seem big enough. Storage facilities on every corner indicate we have much more than we need as a nation, a city or family. However, as Proverbs 11:28 says, *“He who trusts in his riches will fall, but the righteous will flourish like the green leaf.”* Riches tempt us to trust in possessions rather than the creator. They foster self-centeredness. We have more than we need for a reason: using it to bless others is the ultimate spiritual experience.

Financial analysts in the natural world rarely offer “alternative Investments” with guaranteed dividends. These INvestments, however, are referenced in Matthew 6 and unrelated to earthly “net worth” requirements.

God’s sound financial advice is to *“store your treasures in heaven, where moths and rust cannot destroy and thieves do not break in and steal.”*

There are countless INvestments with eternal rewards. Taking stock in people’s lives is always a solid investment. IN<sup>2</sup> provides a way to show God’s love in practical ways right here in our own backyard and across the globe. By revitalizing distressed areas of the church, paying off debt and partnering with international mission organizations, First Presbyterian Church is bringing new hope to people of all ages and helping redefine a better future. First Presbyterian Church’s life-changing mission projects in global locations give new meaning to the concept of *offshore* INvestments.

The most basic principle of INvesting is getting started! When this basic principle is put into practice, your INvestment is much more than a purchase. This is the true definition of “an INvestment of life,” the promise of abundant spiritual wealth. Nothing is of greater value than the kingdom of heaven. The return on this INvestment is astronomical.

What’s in your INvestment portfolio? Is it time to diversify your *securities*?





# INvolved

It's time to Lead. Share.  
INspire. Do more.  
Be INvolved. Take a risk.  
INspire others.

With the Bible in one hand and the newspaper in the other, we are touched by compassion at the desperate needs in every direction. To be like Jesus means we cannot stop there. The stakes are too high to be unINvolved. We must be moved to action...prompted to become advocates of all who are without Christ. It is a journey that depends on more than financial gifts. When we INvest our time by getting INvolved in eternal matters, even *one* hour can have significant impact. Interim Senior Pastor Dave McKechnie says, "I know that things are happening as a result of these INvestments: things I cannot do and things I cannot control. I think God's hand is in all of this and that God will honor attempts at faith."

Many may hear his voice and sense his nearness, but need someone to

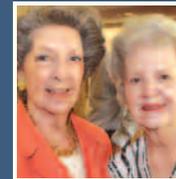
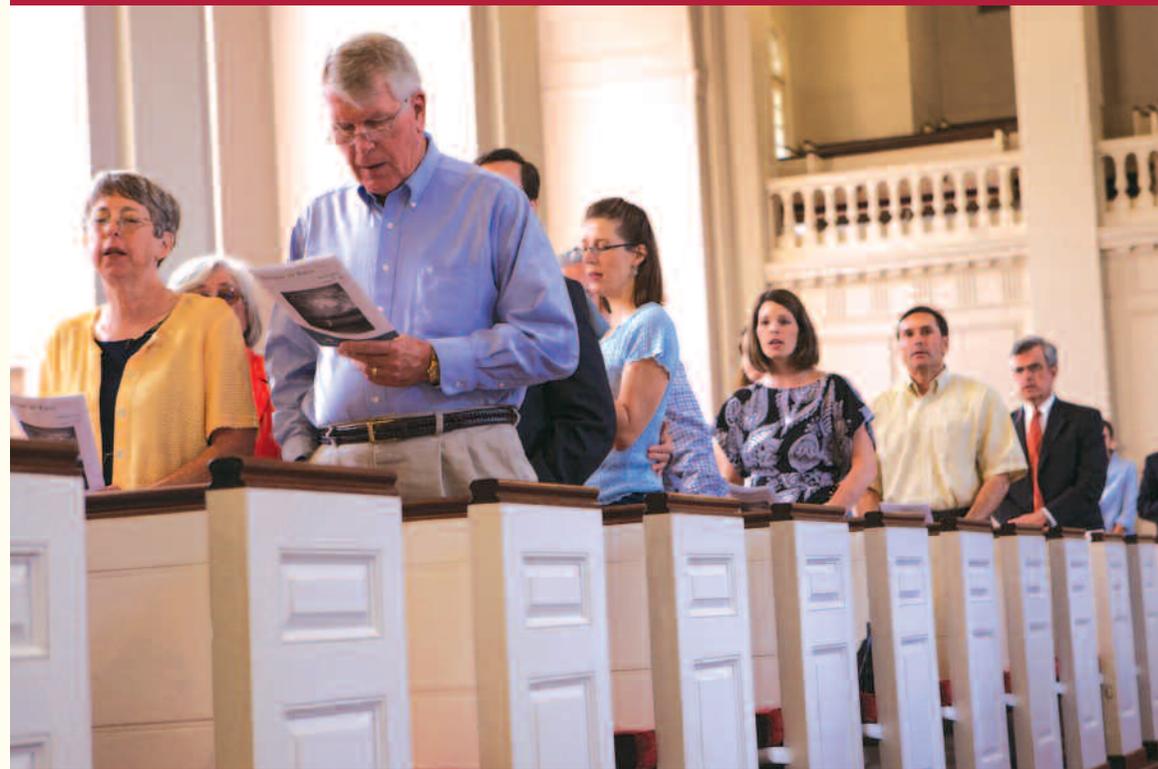
stand with them. Who will help them bridge the gap between the challenges, demands and transitions of this life and the promise and hope of the next?

By following your God-given passion, you can be a positive influence in a young life on the church campus, champion the homeless who wander city streets or engage in a mercy ministry across the globe.

The Good Samaritan took action when he encountered social injustice. The Apostles turned the world upside down when they got INvolved. We can do the same. In Colossians 3, the Apostle Paul reminds us to get INvolved knowing that our ultimate allegiance and service is to Christ: "*Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward.*"

While many Christians are opting out of being salt and light in a dying world, First Presbyterian Church is INvested and INvolved: serving the Lord and extending his kingdom. Members are focusing on neighbors rather than numbers, and people rather than programs. If we want the world to be different, we will start by loving "in here" before going "out there." We must be passionate, transparent, courageous and INvolved people in a fallen world.

Can you feel the sense of urgency to be transformed into the image of God as you witness lives transform through your INvolvement?





## Are You IN?

Our strongest INvolvements give back more than we put in. Explore the possibilities to get more INVolved during the IN<sup>2</sup> campaign. Goals have been prayerfully set to rebuild our house of worship, expand the small group ministry, dedicate millions to mission work, and improve stewardship of God's resources by eliminating debt. Your participation will also INVigorate the First Presbyterian Church Mission Center as a vital resource for equipping, encouraging and engaging members in hands-on ministry.

### Get ready for a faith adventure

The secret to becoming engaged in that supernatural relationship is being INvested and INVolved in God's kingdom. It is amazing to know that the God of the universe – the Creator of gravity and green beans, galaxies and the Grand Canyon -- loves us with a sacrificial, unconditional and radical love. And, what is our response? Culture often says that church attendance and occasional giving is enough. Are we truly resigned to singing a song from our favorite pew one or two Sundays a month? Bringing a box of crackers to the food pantry at Thanksgiving? Is that truly enough?

Something inside our hearts longs to break free of the status quo, encounter his love head-on, and share it effortlessly. The secret to becoming engaged in that supernatural relationship is being INvested and INVolved in his kingdom. Trust God at his word when he says, *"If you even give a cup of cold water to one of the least of my followers, you will surely be rewarded."*

First Presbyterian Church has demonstrated a missional mindset for over 100 years. These newest opportunities will accelerate the Great Commission as members become more INVolved and INvested in changing the world as they themselves are changed. Individually and collectively, First Presbyterian Church is poised to demonstrate commitment, passion, purpose and devotion.

INvesting one of every four dollars on mission ministries is a sacrificial and radical response that is fitting for a generous and unconditionally loving God. It is only possible if each individual personalizes this rallying cry.

Are you INspired? INVolved? INvested?





# IN<sup>2</sup> Projects

Individuals and families prayerfully becoming significantly more INVolved and INvesting a sacrificial gift above regular giving will help INfluence:

## CAMPUS RENOVATIONS

### **Sanctuary and Steeple**

For the first time since its construction 60 years ago, we are cleaning the exterior of our steeple and, more importantly, reinforcing the deteriorating structure inside. Additionally, we need to clean and renovate the HVAC system in the Sanctuary.

### **Children's Space**

Classroom areas are getting a much-needed update. IN<sup>2</sup> will make the area brighter, more colorful and easier to see the projects your children are working on.

### **Youth Ministry**

IN<sup>2</sup> will finish our youth space in Lancaster Center with the goal of getting our young people to feel more comfortable as they explore their faith. IN<sup>2</sup> renovates the space into classrooms with a living room feel by adding new furniture and multi-media capabilities.

### **Chapel & Welcome Center**

New paint, touch-ups and updates will give the Chapel and Bride's Room a needed facelift to last for years to come. Short-term changes to our Welcome Center will also be made as we look to the future reorientation of our campus.

### **Additional Renovations**

IN<sup>2</sup> includes dozen of projects to update and secure our campus: exterior lighting, replacing worn carpet, updating our kitchen, replacing chairs around campus, improving air conditioning systems, updating phone systems and more. Additionally, we are building a financial reserve for future campus needs.

## URBAN MINISTRY

### **The FORGE for families**

IN<sup>2</sup> helps construct a new facility for faith-based mentoring to at-risk children and adults trapped in poverty and hopelessness in depressed areas of Houston. Contributions will help add six new programs, provide a broader level of Bible study and serve 400 more clients.

### **College of Biblical Studies**

Help renovate a library facility that serves several thousand students representing over 1,200 churches.

### **FPC Mission Center**

We're creating a Mission Center to allow for more hands-on involvement of local members in mission work as well as facilities for mission partners

## GLOBAL MINISTRY

### **Galilee Outreach Center**

Helping to fund rent and equipment for this center which reaches Muslims with the life-changing message of Jesus, provides an active outreach to Jewish young people, and facilitates interaction between Christians and Muslim communities.

### **Africa Renewal Ministries (ARM)**

Contributions will enable ARM to purchase land and build a church, pay teacher salaries, help fund a medical clinic, and furnish new buildings. This will help provide hope to local people in desperate circumstances and develop the next generation of African Christian leaders.

### **Maranatha Community Church in South Africa**

Investments to children orphaned by HIV/AIDS will also provide food, clothing, shelter, schooling and medical care to the young and old.

### **Millenium Relief Darfur Clinic**

We can provide medical care, exams, vaccinations, training for midwives, hygiene orientations for villagers and micro-nutrient programs

### **Micah Project in Honduras**

IN<sup>2</sup> will supply scholarship funds to at-risk boys.

## THE ELIMINATION OF CHURCH DEBT

This will free significant resources for new ministries such as an expanded small group program. Rather than giving the Lord's money to a bank, we will use the money to get 80% of our members into small communities for friendship, life-changing learning, and spiritual support.

FOR MORE INFORMATION  
PLEASE VISIT  
[www.in2.fpchouston.org](http://www.in2.fpchouston.org)

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