



VISION

Baptist Church

Dear Vision Family,

2021 has been quite a year and one that none of us will forget. The world is changing and most things look and function differently. Even at Vision, we have had to adjust the way we minister to you and to our community. Through all the adversity and challenges, we continue to see the faithfulness of God and still continue to see many miracles. This year, despite many people choosing to continue to worship from their homes, we have seen **65 salvations, 18 baptisms, 52 new members**, and countless others taking their next steps in their faith journey in Christ! As I write this letter, there are families that are planning to join, planning to be baptized, and planning to join the Dream Team in serving. Our **live stream services are reaching** people each week all across the world. We are in the middle of revival at Vision and we know that this is just the beginning!

Now, more than ever, people need hope and it is our responsibility to be a light in the midst of a dark world. In order to do this, we must expand our reach and continue to grow our church to make disciples.

This is what our **BEYOND Offering** is all about. It is a special, end-of-year offering we give to make a difference in people's lives here in the church, the 919 community and around the world. It's a sacrificial step of faith. It's a time to worship. It's a time to be generous. It's a time to be obedient. And, it's a great opportunity for us to give what God puts on our hearts in order to accelerate the vision of our church and reach more people with the Good News of Jesus.

I've been blown away at the generosity you have demonstrated as the Church. In the last three years, you have given over \$65,000 through our BEYOND offering. Many of you have sacrificed much, sold possessions, cashed in bonds, and gave expectantly and the fruit has been seen. We have seen SO many come to a saving faith in Jesus because of your generosity. We have seen burdens carried, needs met, and the Gospel reach people and places that were made possible through your giving.

I want you to know that our staff, deacons, and board of directors have been fervently praying, discussing, and anticipating what's to come at Vision. Here's what we realize - we are growing at Vision. God is bringing more and more people and we are excited.

Last Sunday, we had **41 kids** with **23 Dream Teamers** serving during Candypalooza. This was our largest attended Vision Kids service of the year (apart from Easter)! Our youth group is quickly approaching **40 students** and continues to add more every week. What's even more amazing about that is many of these students are unchurched and have been invited by your children!

All this growth brings amazing potential, but also brings opportunities to see where we are and what we may need. Here's what we realize: we are quickly outgrowing our NextGen building and we must plan for future growth and expansion that meets our needs but also helps our community.

This year's **BEYOND Offering is Sunday, December 12th**. We're encouraging everyone to gather at Vision on this special day. Our goal is not for a certain amount to be given, but for everyone to participate in some way. It's not about equal giving, but equal sacrifice. Remember – when you give, we give! We give so that others may experience the life changing Gospel of Jesus Christ.

This offering will bless people in three areas:

1. **Vision Baptist Church.** This offering accelerates the vision that we share here at Vision—capital improvements, new building projects, plan for the future, and expand Vision to reach more people with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We have been dreaming about a new facility; a place where our church and our community can experience and see the love of Jesus! In addition, we'd like to do more as a church body to meet critical needs you may have. I'd love to see an Acts 2 type of church, where we meet each other's needs to the point that no one has a need. Then, people outside of Vision will see and hear about what the Lord is doing! Let's pray together. Let's dream together. Let's reach together.

2. **Local Missions.** We love the cities and towns in the 919 area. We have more opportunities than ever before to impact the people in our community. We already do a lot, but this offering will allow us to do even more. Each year we have **#FOR919** week where we intentionally serve people, organizations and places in efforts to reach them with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Last year, we saw people come to Christ, join Vision, and grow in their relationship with the Lord as a result of **#FOR919**. Some of you are at Vision because of this week. We also **partnered with nonprofits** to help them serve more people and gave to them as well! We want to do even more to reach our community!

3. **International Missions.** Through our strategic ministry partnerships and the SBC, this offering reflects the heart of our God, who loves the whole world (John 3:16) and responds to the cry of Jesus to "go into all the world" (Matthew 28:19). This past year we were able to give to people and organizations that support international missions. We were also able to partner with Operation Christmas Child and send shoe boxes to children who needed Christmas presents, but more importantly needed the Gospel of Jesus! I have heard that many of you are interested in going on mission trips, so I have been praying about that as well.

We know that God has been, and continues to be, so generous to us. In response, we worship Him with our generosity. Please pray, prepare, and plan to give to our BEYOND Offering—you can make all the difference. Let's stretch our faith this season. Let's dream big. No matter the amount, you play a crucial part in building the future generations and leaving a legacy. Every gift matters. Everything counts. The more we give, the more we can do to reach people far from Christ – your family, your friends, your community. There is no better investment than investing in your local church to reach people with the Gospel of Jesus and to disciple them.

There are several ways you can participate:

1. Bring your offering Sunday, December 12th, and give during the worship service.
2. Give online at visionbaptistchurchnc.com/give. Designate the gift to the BEYOND offering
3. Give on our app. Designate the gift to the BEYOND offering.
4. Mail your gift to the church (7633 Buffaloe Rd. Raleigh, NC 27616)

I love you church. I'm proud of your faithfulness, commitment, and obedience to Christ. I'm excited about the future and I truly believe the best is yet to come!

Serving Him and you,

