

be **BOLD**

— SOUTHSIDE METHODIST CHURCH —

STEWARDSHIP 2025



Thank you for your unwavering love and support for Southside Methodist Church! As we approach our 75th anniversary in 2025, we are filled with gratitude for all that God has done through this congregation—and even more excited for what lies ahead. God is moving powerfully among us, and we are seeing incredible strides in discipleship across all ages. Our Alpha Course has become a wonderful space for people to reconnect with the beautiful basics of faith. Southside continues to shine in our mission work, even most recently, with outstanding generosity and love shown to those recovering from hurricanes Helene and Milton, in addition to our ongoing missions.

Our worship services have been a welcoming source of encouragement and inspiration, with new faces joining us every week. Lives are being touched, hearts are being transformed, disciples are being made, and the Gospel is being shared in ways that are making a real impact.

As we celebrate 75 years of God’s faithfulness, we are stepping boldly into the future—“be BOLD” is more than a simple phrase; being bold for Christ, for Southside, for our missions, and for each other is our goal moving into this exciting upcoming year. It is an opportunity for us to live out our faith like never before: Promising to “be BOLD” for Jesus with our prayers, presence, service, witness, and gifts!

With this bold momentum, generous stewardship, and a God-filled vision for the future, we are looking ahead to a season of deeper discipleship, courageous faith, and powerful community. Whether you’re a longtime member, returning after some time away, or new to Southside, we invite you to be part of this exciting journey!



Phillip Ghort

Peace,
Pastor Phillip



be **BOLD**

This past year at Southside Methodist Church has been filled with growth, service, and incredible impact. Through your dedication and generosity, we've been able to touch countless lives within our church family and across our community and world. From worship services to outreach initiatives, our ministries have flourished in 2024, and we are deeply grateful for all we've accomplished together.

But as we look forward to 2025, we are called to do even more. The "*be BOLD*" campaign is not just about reflecting on what we've done, but about stepping out in faith to achieve even greater things. We are committed to being bold in our prayers, bold in showing up for one another, bold in serving others, bold in sharing our faith, and bold in giving generously.

We invite you to be part of this exciting mission. Whether it's through attending worship and bible studies, volunteering, or making a financial pledge, there are so many ways you can begin to boldly step into 2025, trusting that God will do amazing things in you, at Southside Methodist Church and throughout our community and world.



look **WHAT GOD HAS DONE IN 2024!**



18% 
Increase from 2023

326 Average Sunday Attendance

15% Increase
in the number
of families
pledging to
give 

20+ 
Year
Record
Number of kids &
families engaged
in Children's
Ministries at SMC.



435 YouTube Subscribers
844 Hours watched

18 Littlest
Angels 

50+ Adults and Children serve every Sunday

150  People growing in
faith through Life
Groups & Bible
Study

600 Google search clicks in 28 days*
*September 19 - October 16, 2024



BOLD presence



our MINISTRIES

God designed us to be in community with one another, and at Southside, we are committed to supporting, loving, and challenging each other in our spiritual journeys. Our life groups meet regularly to connect, serve, and discuss biblical truths, providing a space where you can grow deeper in your faith.

Whether you are just beginning to explore your faith or are a seasoned disciple, Southside will walk with you every step of the way as we seek to live out our calling together.

Men

Our Men's Ministry is dedicated to helping men grow in their relationship with Jesus Christ and discover what it means to follow Him in every aspect of life. Together, we explore who God is and seek His wisdom on the challenges we face as men, husbands, fathers, and friends.

Women

Southside Women's Ministry is a place where women of all ages and stages of life can come together to grow in their relationship with God and one another. We are committed to creating a supportive and uplifting community, where we can share life's joys and challenges, and encourage each other to live out our faith boldly.

Children

Southside Children & Family Ministry is designed to partner with families as they grow toward a deeper relationship with God. We support parents as they navigate the joys and challenges of parenthood while nurturing their own faith and the faith of their children. We also offer a welcoming, nurturing and fun environment for children, birth through 5th grade. Our goal is to create a safe and engaging opportunities where we can support children as they develop a relationship with Jesus, learn biblical truths, grow in faith, and experience the joy of being part of a loving church community.

Students

At Southside Student Ministry, we value students worshiping God and building strong connections with each other. Our students are encouraged to have fun, form meaningful friendships, and learn from both peers and adult leaders about what it truly means to follow Christ. This year, we've seen students step into leadership roles, volunteering their time and talents in various areas, including the Southside Pumpkin Patch and Missions. Through service and discipleship, our students are growing in faith and making a lasting impact in our church and community.

Friends

The Friends Ministry at Southside creates a welcoming space for individuals with intellectual and developmental differences, along with their families and volunteers. Our goal is to help everyone feel a sense of belonging, contribute meaningfully, and celebrate their unique, God-given gifts.

BOLD service

At the heart of Southside Methodist Church are our ministries, which serve both our church family and the broader community. We believe in being the hands and feet of Christ, offering opportunities for everyone to get involved, grow in their faith, and make a difference.

God designed us to be in community with one another, and at Southside, we are committed to supporting, loving, and challenging each other in our spiritual journeys. Our life groups meet regularly to connect, serve, and discuss biblical truths, providing a space where you can grow deeper in your faith. Whether you are just beginning to explore your faith or are a seasoned disciple, Southside will walk with you every step of the way as we seek to live out our calling together.



look WHAT GOD HAS DONE IN 2024!



\$141,201.12
Given for Missions

300+

Children
reached at
VBS 2024

200+



Pounds of
medicine delivered
personally to our
sister church,
Santiago de las
Vegas in Cuba

34%

Increase in
International Mission
giving since 2023



1,216



Pounds of food
donated which
allowed UCOM to
serve 3,648 meals

70



Men Attended
Men's Night Out

150



Children in HAPI
after school
enrichment classes
led by SMC Pastors,
Staff & Volunteers



1,400 Bibles to Venezuela

35

Traveled on the Mission
trip to Guatemala - the
largest group ever to go



50 Bags of food given out

500



Attended SWM
Summer Salads

MISSIONS



LOCAL

Boy Scouts Troop 35
Capernaum of Southside Jacksonville
Giova's Kids - Greenfield Elementary

HAPI - Hendricks Ave. Partnership Initiative

Happy Brew

JOYFUL - SMC Preschool Partnership Initiative

PEACE - Wolfson HS Partnership Initiative

UCOM

"UCOM is blessed to have Southside Methodist Church as a faith partner. This year the members of Southside have been very generous and donated 1216 lbs of food which allowed UCOM to serve 3648 meals. Southside held two amazing food drives and donated: 1637 boxes of mac & cheese. Mac and cheese is one of the most requested food items. 133 Entire Thanksgiving meals, along with \$1,825 in gift cards for needed extras. Members of Southside have contributed of their times also with over 500 volunteer hours."

Dale Bolton, Southside Methodist Church Member and Director of Volunteer Experience at UCOM



REGIONAL & NATIONAL

Hurricane Relief Efforts

Kairos Prison Ministry

Madison Youth Ranch

Residing Hope Children's Home

"We completed a Kairos Inside Spring weekend last April with 36 inmates attending and are coming up on our Fall weekend Nov. 7-10th and planning on the same. We continue to have Kairos small groups / prayer and share grouping twice a month and a Saturday Kairos reunion each month as well at the Annex. This year we had over 50 inmates attend a monthly reunion, the chapel is filling up!

In addition, all this year we have started small group prayer and share time twice a month at the Barker Re-Entry Center, an additional correctional institution just a few miles from Columbia CI near Lake City. We continue to add a few volunteers each weekend and have leadership planned for Spring and Fall weekends again in 2025.

Thank you to all of Southside for your prayers, agape, and support of this ministry. I've not found a place more in need of hearing the good news of Jesus Christ than inside our state prisons. This mission is a blessing to all involved and I invite anyone interested in finding out more to just let me know."

Mark Thiele, Southside Methodist Church Member and Volunteer Kairos Prison Ministries

INTERNATIONAL



Cuba Santiago de Las Vegas
Dominican Republic Food from God
Guatemala

"Our relationship with Iglesia Metodista Santiago de las Vegas in Havana, Cuba goes back to the 1950's when our very own Carl Shafer was their pastor. We see God doing a mighty work of revival in and through this church and the whole Island of Cuba as they faithfully share the Gospel. Even in challenging circumstances they continue to grow and see God provide in miraculous ways. Pastor Armando Cruz, his wife Nidia and their two girls are all very involved in in the leadership of the church. Pastor Armando now teaches at The Evangelical Methodist Seminary as well."

Ian Stake, Director of Evangelism, Worship Leader
Southside Methodist Church



Please visit smcjax.org to learn more about all our missions.



To be **BOLD** in prayer as a Christian is to approach God with confidence, not because of our own merit but because of the access we've been given through Jesus Christ. Hebrews 4:16 encourages us to *"draw near to the throne of grace with confidence"* so we can receive mercy and find grace in our time of need.

Boldness in prayer doesn't mean demanding from God or speaking irreverently, but it does mean coming with the full assurance that God is both willing and able to hear and answer according to his will (1 John 5:14). This boldness grows from a deep trust in God's character, knowing he is our loving Father who invites us to come to him, no matter our circumstances (Matthew 7:7-11).

"Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened." - Matthew 7:7-8

How can we be **BOLD** in our prayer lives?

- **Start each day with prayer**, lifting your concerns, joys, and decisions to God with confidence that He is listening.
- **Pray expectantly**—not just for answers, but for the peace that comes from placing your trust in God's will.
- **Pray for others with bold faith**, asking God to work in their lives in powerful ways.
- **Be persistent in prayer**, even when you don't immediately see results. Trust that God is at work, even in the waiting.
- **Pray for courage** to step into situations where God is calling you, knowing He will provide the strength and wisdom you need.

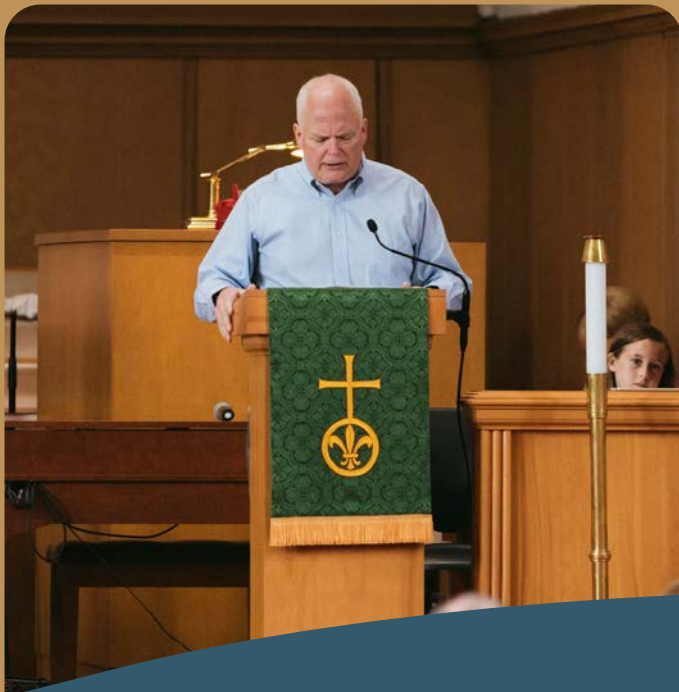
We invite you to take your prayer life to the next level by being bold in approaching God—whether it's in moments of joy or struggle, in big decisions or everyday worries. Let's draw near to God together, trusting Him to work in mighty ways as we pray with confidence and faith.

BOLDprayer

BOLD witness

A bold Christian witness is rooted in the conviction that the gospel is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes (Romans 1:16). Being bold in our witness means not being ashamed of proclaiming Christ, even when we face opposition or rejection. In Acts 4:29-31, the early church prayed for boldness to continue speaking God's word in the face of threats, and they were filled with the Holy Spirit to carry out that mission.

Boldness does not mean being abrasive or forceful, but rather, having the courage to speak the truth in love (Ephesians 4:15) and being ready to give a reason for the hope we have in Christ (1 Peter 3:15), trusting that God will use our faithfulness to advance his kingdom.



BOLD giving

Dear Southside Family,

As we approach our 2025 Stewardship Campaign, I want to take a moment to reflect on the incredible journey we've shared in faith throughout 2024. United by our love for Jesus Christ, we have witnessed remarkable growth—not just in numbers, but in spirit and impact. Each of you have played a vital role in our mission, and your commitment has allowed us to reach out to our community and extend our missions programs.

C.S. Lewis once said, *"The measure of a man is what he would do if he knew he would never be caught."* This profound insight challenges us to consider the essence of our generosity and the heart behind our giving. When we give, we not only contribute to the church's work but also to the lives transformed by God's love through our actions.

As we look forward to 2025, we are excited about the opportunities to deepen our outreach, sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ more widely than ever before. We believe that our collective efforts can bring hope and healing to those in need, embodying the very essence of Christ's love.

John Wesley beautifully emphasized this calling by stating, "Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can, in all the places you can, at all the times you can, to all the people you can, as long as ever you can." This spirit of selfless giving is what we aspire to embody as a church family.

If you made a commitment in 2024, I encourage you to consider doing the same for 2025, perhaps with a small increase, reflecting the growth we've experienced together. And if you were unable to pledge last year, we hope you feel God's call upon your heart this year. Please prayerfully consider how you can contribute to Southside's success in 2025.

This is not just a call to give; it's an invitation to be part of something greater than ourselves. As we contribute our time, talents, and treasures, we are sowing seeds of faith that will flourish and bear fruit in the lives of those around us.

Imagine the families we can uplift, the youth we can inspire, and the hearts we can touch through our missions. As C.S. Lewis reminds us, "It is in giving that we receive." Let us open our hearts wide, embracing the joy and fulfillment that comes from being a part of God's work in the world.

Together, let's embark on this journey of stewardship with faith and purpose, knowing that every act of generosity is a step toward transforming lives. I encourage each of you to prayerfully consider how you can support our mission as we move into this exciting New Year.

With love and gratitude,

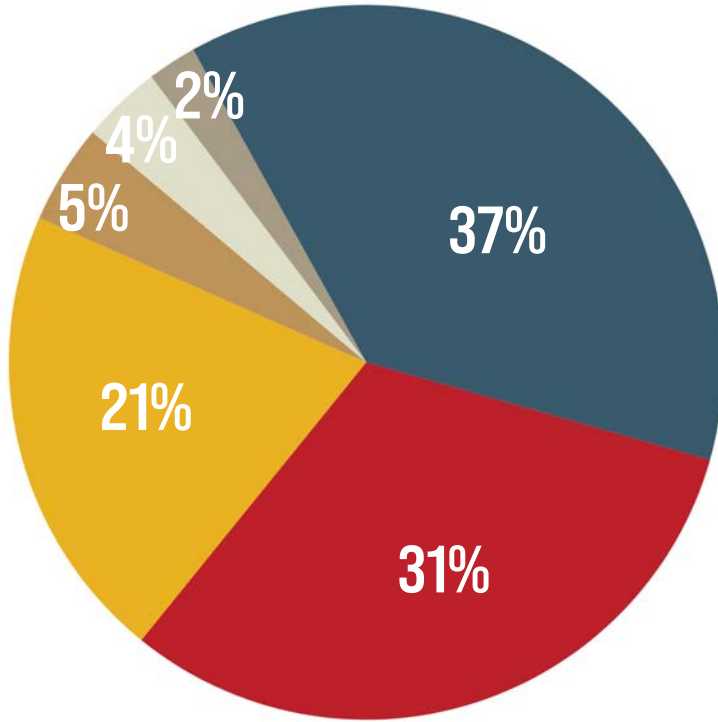
Bill Langley

Bill Langley
Finance Committee Chair



PROJECTED FUND DISTRIBUTION IN 2025

Based on an estimated budget goal of \$1.53 million



- Programs and Administration
- Facility Operations and Maintenance
- Ministry and Missions
- Discipleship
- Capital Debt Service
- Worship and Outreach

Why do we call it a stewardship campaign? *Because stewardship encompasses much more than just financial giving. It implies a deeper spiritual commitment to managing and sharing all of God's gifts, including time, talents, and finances. Stewardship encourages us to use our resources wisely, grounded in faith. It goes beyond merely donating to the church's needs; it helps us fosters a sense of belonging within our church community.*

how CAN YOU HELP

We invite you to prayerfully consider how you can contribute to this year's stewardship campaign. Every gift, no matter the size, makes a difference. Whether you choose to make a one-time donation or pledge your support over the coming year, your generosity will help us continue to be a place where God is changing lives and making disciples for Jesus Christ.

To make your contribution, use the QR code or visit smcjax.org/give, return the enclosed pledge card, or contact the church office for more information. Your support is vital to the continued growth and vitality of our church community.

my GIVING POTENTIAL

\$10	\$40	\$520
\$25	\$100	\$1,300
\$30	\$120	\$1,560
\$35	\$140	\$1,820
\$50	\$200	\$2,600
\$70	\$280	\$3,640
\$100	\$400	\$5,200
AVERAGE PLEDGE*	\$520	\$6,760
\$175	\$700	\$9,100
\$300	\$1,200	\$15,600

the GOAL

\$1.5 million



Thank you for being part of this journey. Your faithfulness and generosity allow us to embrace all the things God is doing in our midst. Together let's continue to build a strong and vibrant community where everyone can live, love and learn Jesus.

"Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."
 - 2 Corinthians 9:7

SOUTHSIDE
jacksonville

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Give generously to them and do so without a grudging heart; then because of this the Lord your God will bless you in all your work and in everything you put your hand to. - Deuteronomy 15:10