



October 13, 2022

### **Honoring the Vision**

As we celebrate the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of our church, your Stewardship Committee wishes to call attention to the principles that guided the founders, and to the dream for the future that they articulated. Thus, our theme for this year's Stewardship Campaign is ***Honoring the Vision***. Our logo is the image of the brick fireplace around which a service of dedication was held at 5:00 p.m. on Sunday, September 26, 1948.

We are well reminded of the guiding principles for the founding of River Road Church. According to the official church history published at its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary, *"River Road Church was to be a Christ-centered, ecumenical Baptist church; with a beautiful, liturgical, free church worship; excellent music; a comprehensive educational program, and an outreach of proclamation and ministry to the entire community and throughout the world."*

The magnificent architectural plan provided for a three-step process for the church to grow as it was able. The first building constructed was the Chapel House, followed by the Fellowship Hall. In 1965, during the first few months of his pastorate, Dr. Vernon Richardson challenged the church to build the sanctuary, connecting the two existing structures. The sanctuary must *"reflect both the beauty and mystery of worship...to strive for the beauty of holiness."* Nearly 60 years later, we experience the beauty and mystery each Sunday as we enter the sanctuary and worship together as church family.

Each generation of River Roaders has honored the founders' vision with their talents and their resources. Financial support is essential for the vitality and work of the church. We appreciate your support of the church thus far, and encourage you to consider an increase if your circumstances allow. The enclosed chart may provide a frame of reference for your consideration. We ask that you return your pledge card on Commitment Sunday, October 23.

Stewardship is one way of *Honoring the Vision*, keeping the dream. As Dr. Richardson proclaimed in his sermon on entitled "My Dream For This Church" on May 2, 1965:

*...it is not up to us to make the dream come true. It is up to us to be true to the dream. This means every one of us keeping faith with the past and with all who have labored here, keeping faith with our own destiny, and with God's will as He gives us light to see it. This is the redemptive work to which we are called in God's name. It is a glorious task. Each one is needed...We all stand in need of the grace of God and of one another.*

In Christ's Love,  
Bob Shoemake, Carl Collier, Tom Gilsdorf, Chris Gobble, and Ed Pruden, chair