



Dear Vision Family,

2022 has been an amazing year in the life of Vision Baptist Church. We have seen the Lord save so many people this year, including many of you and your family members. We've seen people be baptized and have seen more people attend and become members.

This year was the year of addition. We added a head of our personnel, who assembled hiring teams to help lead the way for Vision to add more staff. We now have a staff of 5 people, including 2 full-time pastors, and a part-time kid's director, worship leader, and administrative assistant. Because of our growth, we recognized our staff needed a staff handbook. The head of personnel and I worked diligently to put together a handbook that our staff now uses.

As a church, we had 8 deacons to begin the year in 2022, but because of our growth, we have seen our deacon body grow to 11 men. We added more LifeGroups, studies, events, and Discipleship Groups. In addition to adding another night for the women's Bible Studies, we also added a men's ministry at Vision.

New Dream Teams were added, so that more people could use their gifts to serve. The new teams are guest services, communication, security, facilities & maintenance, outreach and prayer. We continue to partner with nonprofits and ministries such as Harris Creek Elementary School, backpack buddies, iChoose Support Services, Everyday Grace Foster Care, Blood Connection, House of Hope, Convoy of Hope, and the Raleigh Dream Center.

Vision Kids added a leadership team, added some new spaces, added mission possible where we care for the needs of others, and added some new ways to reach families! Our student ministry has outgrown the space available in the Next Gen building, so they have begun meeting in the worship center.

We began **Inside Vision**, where people have an opportunity to learn about Vision and learn how to get connected. To date, we've had close to 70 people attend Inside Vision and many have taken steps in growing their faith.

The Lord is growing us. He's growing you and adding to Vision. This reminds me of the church in Acts:

*<sup>42</sup> And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. <sup>43</sup> And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. <sup>44</sup> And all who believed were together and had all things in common. <sup>45</sup> And they were selling*

*their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. <sup>46</sup> And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, <sup>47</sup> praising God and having favor with all the people. **And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved. (Acts 2:42-47)***

You are BEING the Church. The Holy Spirit is leading us into the future and I am more excited now than ever before. People need hope in this world, and it is our responsibility to be a light in the midst of darkness.

In order to do this, **we must expand our reach and continue to grow our church and make disciples.** This is the Great Commission - **Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you (Matthew 28:19-20).**

As you probably know, we are running out of space. Our kid's ministry needs more space to be able to disciple our children and families better. The rooms are small and are quickly filling up. Our students do not have a dedicated space, as they are using the worship center and fellowship hall. With more groups and studies happening during the week, space and availability is becoming an obstacle.

Here's reality - **we are going to need more space in the near future.** While I haven't been given the grace to know exactly what that looks like and what we will do, I know that we must dream, pray, plan, and prepare for what's to come. Our leadership is committed to following the Holy Spirit's leading and to be unified in the days ahead.

Here's what we do know: **Our next step is to partner with an architect and team of professionals to work to create a master plan and vision for our future.** What are the current capabilities we have for growth on our property? We want to be good stewards with all that God has given us and maximize our reach for the Gospel both here on our property, in our local community and to the ends of the earth. This next step is a season of much prayer, planning and decision making that, at times, might appear that there is not much fruit for the labor. However, this is a necessary step in the process and one that I believe is God honoring. **A budget cost for this initial step could be anywhere from \$5-10k, but this is a necessary step for our growth and seeking God's will for Vision! On top of that, we are still wanting BEYOND to meet needs in our church, our community, and to impact missions.**

Vision is not just for my family and your family. We need to leave a legacy. What we do now will play a significant role today but also in generations to come. We have a brand-new neighborhood right behind us and an existing one right in front of us that needs Christ. The harvest is ripe!

But, we need the people of God to step in faith. 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 919 community and around the world. Last year, we gave over \$39,000 as a body! What a beautiful, sacrificial step of faith. This a great opportunity for you to give what God puts on your hearts in order to accelerate the

vision of our church and reach more people with the Good News of Jesus. We give big. We give in faith. We give so that others will live.

This year's **BEYOND Offering is Sunday, December 11th**. I'm encouraging you to come to Vision on this special day. Our goal is not for a certain amount to be given, but for everyone to participate and stretch their faith in some way. It's not about equal giving, but equal sacrifice.

We know that God has been, and continues to be, so generous to us. He gave everything so that we could experience life. In response to His generosity, we worship Him with our generosity.

Please pray, prepare, and plan to give generously to our BEYOND Offering—you can make all the difference. 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 11, and give during the worship service.
2. Give online at [visionbaptistchurchnc.com](http://visionbaptistchurchnc.com).
3. Give on the Vision App. Designate the gift to the BEYOND offering.
4. Mail your Beyond offering to Vision - 7633 Buffaloe Rd. Raleigh, NC 27616

I love you church. I'm so proud of you. Now, let's stretch our faith, because the best is yet to come!

Serving Him & you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'C. B.' or similar, written in a cursive style.