

MAKING CONNECTIONS

MC

*Enriching Ministries * Enriching Lives*



From our pastor

What is Making Connections All About?

*Chesterfield is a body of vibrant, supportive, and faith-driven believers who want to grow in Christ and make a spiritual difference in our community. We stand at the threshold of an exciting opportunity to launch into the next chapter of God's vision for "The Field." **Making Connections** is a two-year generosity initiative through which we will ensure the financial sustainability of all our enriching ministries for the next two years while resourcing the advancement of the construction of an Empowerment Center that will help people thrive economically, educationally, and spiritually.*

Enriching Ministries: \$1,000,000

*The ministries we do as a church help each of us have continued opportunities for spiritual growth. We also have many ministries that enable us to be the hands, feet, and love of Christ to our community. The first component of our Making Connections initiative is ensuring the financial growth and sustainability of all our **Enriching Ministries** for the next two years.*

Enriching Lives - \$800,000

*A key component of our mission as a church is to "support the community." God has laid in front of "The Field" a vision of **Enriching Lives** of people both within "The Field" and our community by building an Empowerment Center. The second component of our Making Connections initiative is to advance the construction of an Empowerment Center that will help people thrive economically, educationally, and spiritually.*



The Making Connections Vision



The PRIMARY Goal

100% Participation

Our primary goal is that 100% of those who call Chesterfield their home church will make a sacrificial commitment to our Making Connections initiative. Generosity is a fundamental aspect of Christian discipleship, reflecting the character of Christ and shaping believers into faithful stewards of God's blessings. More than a financial goal, it is most important that we each ask God what commitment He would have us make...and then every one of us does that together



The GIVING Goal

\$1,800,000

We are trusting Him to move through His people to invest \$1.8 million over these next two years in order to maintain our current level of ministry for the next two years AND accomplish this expanded Making Connections vision.



Enriching Ministries: \$1,000,000

Enriching Lives - \$800,000

Generosity Matters and Makes a Difference

Why is giving to the church something that is important to God?

Why is giving to the church something that is important to you?

How does John 3:16 and 2 Corinthians 8:7 work together to form how we/you feel about giving to the church?

Every day, we make financial decisions. Some decisions are small such as, ***“Should we make our coffee at home or splurge for a latte at Starbucks?”*** While other decisions are big, like, ***“Which house, which car, or which college should I choose?”*** And some decisions focus on the future, such as, ***“How much should we spend on Christmas, or which retirement funds should I choose?”*** Probably the most challenging decision we make with money is the decision to give. Giving creates tension...***“How much is enough?”... “How can I give more?”*** That’s why giving is such a big deal! Giving is not just a financial decision. It is a deeply spiritual decision. Giving is a tangible way we declare our trust in and commitment to God. We have put the following together to help you consider how God has blessed you and how He might invite you to trust Him during Making Connections.

“The INFLUENCE of Generosity”

1

2

Read Ephesians 5:1-2

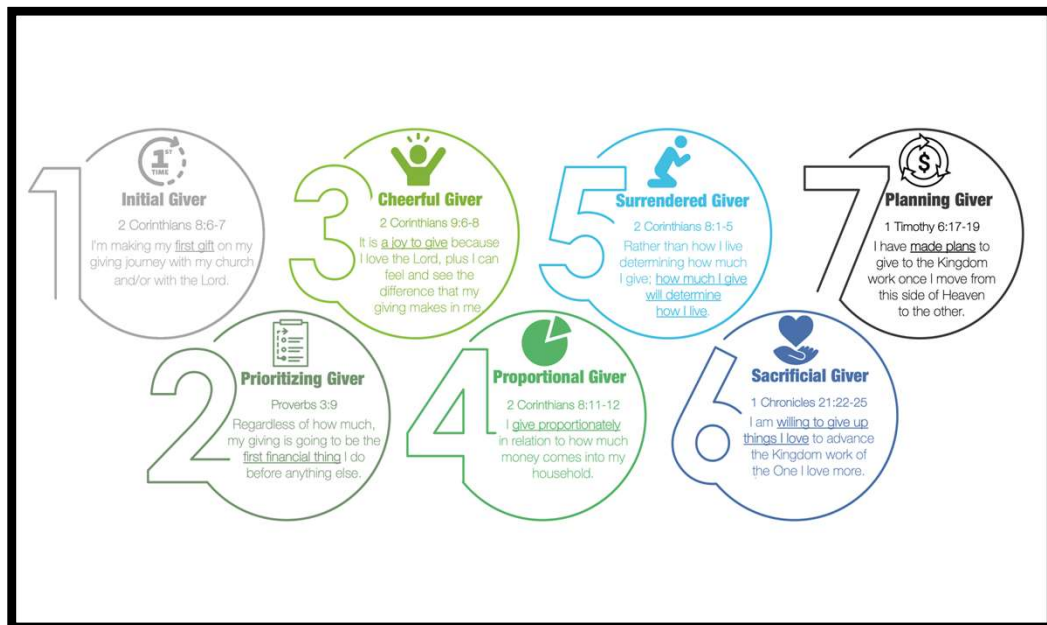
- “Imitate God, therefore, in everything you do because you are his dear children. Live a life filled with love, following the example of Christ. He loved us and offered himself as a sacrifice for us, a pleasing aroma to God.”

Questions for Reflection

- Spiritually speaking, who has had the most influence on me to understand the value of generosity and following the example of Christ?
- Is my value on the importance of living a generous life influencing others? If so, in what ways have I seen evidence of this? If not, what do I feel I need to do about this?
- What is the most generous thing I’ve seen someone do? How has that changed me?
- Who will be influenced by my commitment to this Making Connections initiative and what do I hope it will inspire in them?
- In reflecting on these questions and in light of this Making Connections initiative, what things do I feel I need to do/change in terms of my generosity?

Where are you on your Giving Journey?

Making Connections is an opportunity for each of us to grow spiritually in our giving and generosity. What you see here is an illustration of a person's Giving Journey. Our giving journey should help us focus on our behavior and the attitude of our hearts about giving rather than just the amount we give. Each step in this journey represents a lifestyle of becoming increasingly more generous as you grow in your relationship with Him. Where are you on your Giving Journey and through Making Connections could we challenge you to



Place a check mark on this illustration where you believe you are on your Giving Journey, and write in the space below here what it will take for you to take the next step.

“GENEROSITY AND YOUR LIFESTYLE”

“Read Colossians 3:1-4

“Since you have been raised to new life with Christ, set your sights on the realities of heaven, where Christ sits in the place of honor at God’s right hand. Think about the things of heaven, not the things of earth. For you died to this life, and your real life is hidden with Christ in God. And when Christ, who is your life, is revealed to the whole world, you will share in all his glory.”

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

In the way that I live my life and set my priorities in life, are my sights set on the realities/things of heaven or the realities/things of earth?

More specifically, would I say that my giving is reflective of my sights being set on the realities of heaven or the realities of earth?

What changes in my lifestyle and/or sacrifices do I feel God is inspiring me to make to see our Making Connections initiative vision become a reality?

What is/are the barrier(s) that would try and keep me from making these changes or sacrifices? What is God asking me to do about these barriers?

“Read Colossians 3:1-4

“Since you have been raised to new life with Christ, set your sights on the realities of heaven, where Christ sits in the place of honor at God’s right hand. Think about the things of heaven, not the things of earth. For you died to this life, and your real life is hidden with Christ in God. And when Christ, who is your life, is revealed to the whole world, you will share in all his glory.”

“Generosity and your LIFESTYLE”

Ways to Help you See How You Can Give...more

The following are ideas, areas, and changes you could consider in making your Making Connections commitment.

Make Lifestyle Changes during these 24 months

King David declared, “I will not offer to God a sacrifice that costs me nothing” (2 Samuel 24:24). He understood that the value of the gift presented to God is determined by its value to the giver. A gift that would touch the heart of God must first touch the life of the giver. This is the spirit of lifestyle worship. If it is for my God, my gift must have meaning and value to me Making Connections.

Redirect Paid Expenses

You may have current expenditures that will cease or you will pay off during Making Connections consider including that in your commitment.

Increase in Income

You may receive an increase in salary or a bonus during Making Connections. Could God be calling you to include that in your Making Connections commitment during these 24 months?

Give from your 98%

For the average household, only 2% of their net worth is cash which means 98% is in other assets. In many cases, those assets have achieved tremendous unrealized gains in value over the years. If these assets were sold, some portion of the gain would be lost to taxation. Gifts of appreciated assets avoid the occurrence of capital gain tax. Giving appreciated assets like stocks, investment securities, real estate, art, jewelry, coin collections, and other valuable assets to Making Connections can be advantageous to both the donor and our church.

What will it take for us to reach our goal of \$1,800,000 over the next two years?

Certainly, it will take some substantial gifts, but it could also happen by each one of us making small changes in our lifestyles to sacrifice something that has value for something we value more, in this case the mission and vision of Chesterfield Missionary Baptist Church.

Here are just a few examples of how even small changes can add up to make a big difference in reaching our goal if we each consider every big and small sacrifice we can make.

Big and Little Sacrifices Can Help Us Reach Our Goal!
Here are just a few examples of how even the smallest changes can add up to make a big difference in reaching our goal. Consider adding these into your commitment.

Activity	Average Cost	x24 Months	x 200 Families
2 cups of coffee	\$8.00	\$192.00	\$37,248.00
1 large pizza	\$12.00	\$288.00	\$55,872.00
1 fast food meal for a family	\$25.00	\$600.00	\$116,400.00
Downgrade your TV plan or entertainment	\$20.00	\$480.00	\$93,120.00
Clip coupons or shave \$5/week for groceries	\$20.00	\$480.00	\$93,120.00
		Total	\$395,760.00

Generosity as your LEGACY”



Read Acts 20:33-38

“I have never coveted anyone’s silver or gold or fine clothes. You know that these hands of mine have worked to supply my own needs and even the needs of those who were with me. And I have been a constant example of how you can help those in need by working hard. You should remember the words of the Lord Jesus: ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’” When he (Paul) had finished speaking, he knelt and prayed with them. They all cried as they embraced and kissed him good-bye. They were sad most of all because he had said that they would never see him again.”

Questions for Reflection

1. In the passage, Paul is saying goodbye to the Ephesians elders. They both know they will never see each other again. In his final words, Paul is essentially imploring them to live lives of radical generosity. Of all the messages and topics that could be his final one to them here, why do I think generosity would be his final message to them?
 2. What am I intentionally doing right now to build a legacy of the value of generosity in my children and/or those in whom I influence?
 3. Am I giving financially in a way that still changes me, or has it become comfortable and routine? What can I do about this?
- Am I ready to trust God to make a commitment such that He is going to have to show-up in order for me to honor it? Why or why not?
 - What am I beginning to feel that God wants me to commit to Making Connections?

ONE FUND

It's possible that you've been a part of church campaigns in the past where you were asked to give a second gift "above and beyond" your regular giving. We've found that "over and above" giving is potentially confusing to people who don't have a baseline for their "normal giving." So, we aren't doing that through Making Connections. Instead, Making Connections will be a "one fund" initiative, meaning ALL of our giving goes toward ALL two areas of Making Connections over the next two Years. It's all one mission, so it's all one budget.

Through a "one fund" initiative, we will more successfully invite everyone to increase their level of generosity. One Mission, One Fund, for Everyone!

CALCULATE HERE

\$ _____ What I/we normally give in a year *(includes general fund giving)*
 +
 \$ _____ My/Our expanded annual generosity for "Making Connections"
 =
 \$ _____ x 2 YEARS = \$ _____
 +
 Gifts from my/our stored resources \$ _____

\$ _____
MY/OUR TWO-YEAR COMMITMENT
 OCTOBER 2024 – OCTOBER 2026

MY COMMITMENT

Two-Year Gift Chart: As you pray and seek God's direction for how you should give, use this gift chart as a discipleship tool. Allow it to inspire and challenge you toward greater generosity as we embark on this Making Connections initiative together.

Making Connections

Gift Profile Guide

\$1,800,000.00 Goal

Gifts Needed	2-year Gift Level	This Gift Level corresponds to a			Gift Level Total for our Initiative
		Weekly Gift of...	Monthly Gift of...	Annual Gift of...	
1	\$ 50,000	\$ 481	\$ 2,083	\$ 25,000	\$ 50,000
1	\$ 40,000	\$ 385	\$ 1,667	\$ 20,000	\$ 40,000
3	\$ 30,000	\$ 288	\$ 1,250	\$ 15,000	\$ 90,000
10	\$ 20,000	\$ 192	\$ 833	\$ 10,000	\$ 200,000
25	\$ 15,000	\$ 144	\$ 625	\$ 7,500	\$ 375,000
30	\$ 10,000	\$ 96	\$ 417	\$ 5,000	\$ 300,000
50	\$ 7,500	\$ 72	\$ 313	\$ 3,750	\$ 375,000
74	\$ 5,000	\$ 48	\$ 208	\$ 2,500	\$ 370,000

\$ 1,800,000

COMMITMENT SUNDAY

OCTOBER 20, 2024

Use this Commitment Cards sample to help you prayerfully consider what level of generosity God is calling you to during Making Connections. You'll get a fresh new card to fill out on the Commitment Sunday.

