



What an exciting time to be part of First Baptist Church of Rochester! Though we find ourselves living in turbulent days and uncertain times, what we know as certain is that Jesus is building His church, and not even the gates of hell can prevail against it (Matthew 16:18). More than ever, local churches are needed . . . they're needed as embassies of God's kingdom to minister to the children of God, as well as launch points for going to the world with the gospel. For over 167 years, First Baptist Church of Rochester has been that and we desire to see it continue until our Lord returns.



Over the last few years, our church has been made increasingly aware of maintaining the building that God has given us. As physical beings who live in a physical world, we are faced with the challenge of an aging building from which we hope to do ministry for years to come. As our church grows, we must not neglect our responsibility to steward the physical building that the Lord has given to us.



Our aim then is to expand and beautify our building so that it fades into the background. We want an attractive and functional facility, such that once people arrive they forget about the building and enjoy the rich worship and fellowship. Our goal is to have a building that functionally meets the needs of our growing church family.



For those of us who have benefited from the time we have spent as part of this church family, we must see that it's now our turn and our opportunity as we look to the future. The question then becomes what will we pass on to the next generation at FBCR? We have had the benefit for the past 30 years of not being concerned with raising money for a significant building renovation. In that time, God has blessed and grown our church family in depth and breadth. If we do nothing, future leaders and members will have to act in order to do what was left undone. I don't believe we can do that, it's our turn to move FORWARD IN FAITH!

Finally, it's also important that we see this primarily as a journey of discipleship and not simply a fundraising effort. Each of us needs to be reminded that what we do with the money that God has given to us is a barometer of our spiritual health. Matthew 6:21 says, "For where your treasure is



there your heart will be also." We have a desire for our members to be faithful in their finances, to flee from the love of money, and to be generous. In so many ways, this has been the case at FBCR and I believe God has blessed this. It's now time to ask ourselves anew, "How can I sacrificially give to what God is doing at my church?" Every individual and family needs to prayerfully ask and answer this question.

As I said, this is an exciting time to be part of the First Baptist family. May God work in us and through us to accomplish His purposes for the good of His people and the glory of His name!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark Cizauskas". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Mark Cizauskas
Senior Pastor, FBC Rochester