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ABCUSA MATTHEW 25 GRANT APPLICATION

A generous donor has given a sum of money through American Baptist Churches USA to be used for programs that address "housing, feeding, education and health with regard to the less fortunate." The donor's primary concern is to help ameliorate poverty. ABCUSA will distribute grants of up to \$5,000 semi-annually as long as the generosity of this donor continues. A panel will select recipients largely based on the degree to which the funds will be used to directly assist persons in poverty. Ministries must be in relationship with American Baptist Churches USA to be eligible to apply.

1. General Information:

Organization Name First Baptist Church, Mt Vernon IL 62864

Affiliation with ABCUSA Current and Active

Address 1600 Salem Road, Mt. Vernon IL 62864

Phone 618/244-4318 or 242-2877 Federal Tax ID# 37-6006960

Contact person Gail Farnham email gailfor43@msn.com

2. Please submit with your application a copy of:

- Your mission statement
- Your most recent annual report or audited financial statement

3. How do you plan to use the requested funds? How will the funds specifically assist individuals battling poverty and its effects? (Please submit on separate sheet. Maximum of one page.)

4. Total cost of the project \$11,400

5. Amount being requested from the ABCUSA Matthew 25 Grant \$5,000 (Oct. distrib.)

6. Your other funding source(s) Limited involvement from: Prince of Peace Lutheran, Mt. Vernon IL, Beta Sigma Phi and Illinois Sigma ADR

I certify that all the information submitted with this application is true and correct, and that we will use any granted funds as described. We will supply a 1-page report on the use of the funds and a photo within six months of receipt of the grant.

(Signed) Gail Farnham Date 5/15/2013

Printed Name/Title GAIL FARNHAM - MODERATOR

Please note:

- Incomplete applications will not be considered.
- Recipients agree to share their stories via the ABCUSA website.
- Application deadline is March 1 for grants distributed on April 15; Sept. 1 for grants distributed on Oct. 15
- Completed applications should be sent to:
Mission Resource Development
American Baptist Churches USA
P.O. Box 851
Valley Forge, PA 19482-0851
Or emailed to: Beth.Fogg@abc-usa.org



The First Baptist Church of Mt. Vernon, Illinois, is applying for Matthew 25 Grant Funds in the amount of \$5000, however, any amount awarded to us would be greatly appreciated. Receipt of the monies will help us continue our weekly Brown Bag food program to 175 children in the city school system, but will allow us to expand our program to at least one of the poorer schools in the outlying county.

This program, which was started six years ago, has helped redefine who we are as a church body, simplifying our Mission Statement to "*Loving God – Serving Others.*" Prior to that time, we were a 'formerly large' church wondering how long we would be able to stay open. As we searched for something meaningful to do, we kept coming back to the need to feed our children. Our program started small, with the preparation and delivery of 35 food bags per week, however, despite our continuing decline in attendance and advancing ages, the program has continued and grown. With its growth, we have found a way to meet a genuine need in our own community. We don't know whether our church will grow again, however, we do know we will continue to serve the children as long as we are here.

As we are finishing our sixth year of the Brown Bag food program, we are excited and proud of the differences it has made and continues to make in Mt. Vernon. Teachers continue to tell us that our food supplies for the 2-day weekends help meet the basic needs of children-at-risk. They feel it results in a better learning environment for the 175 children we currently serve in grades K – 5. Each bag contains 11 items including some fruit, protein, breakfast items, etc. and costs about \$2 per bag. The church bears the cost of the bags, etc. and uses every cent of donations received to purchase the food items.

A series of articles published in the local newspapers in February caught our attention when Jefferson County was placed on the Heartland Alliance Watchlist, due to persistent rates of high unemployment and poverty. It listed the poverty rate for our county at 27.5%, with 63.8% of the school children qualifying for free or reduced lunches. The Church Council was so moved by these figures, a motion was passed at our February meeting to initiate a new program to provide at least 25 bags per week to Bethel School, during the 2013-2014 school year. Bethel is one of the poorest schools in our county with 1/3 of the children in dire need, according to principal, Craig Kujawa.

God continues to provide the means for this mission even when we are unsure if the funding will be there to continue. During last school year, He used one of our retired teachers to share the concept at two of her sorority meetings which resulted in some involvement by them. God has led two young families to our church within the last year. They are so excited and supportive of this local mission. It is these young families who will spearhead the new program for Bethel School. With ownership of the program, they will become further integrated into our church.

The 2012-2013 school year has cost over \$9,100, with a record 175 bags per week for 26 weekends. This is an amazing accomplishment for a congregation whose average attendance is around 30 per week. Receipt of the grant funds will allow us to expand the program to another school next fall. We can then serve weekly all 45 of the children at Bethel School who are in dire need, not just the 25 we have pledged to help.

Our budget does not include this program as a line item, relying instead on donations. About 1/5 of our budget is being met by drawing from a permanent fund, not knowing whether we will ever be able to replace the borrowed monies. We recognize that there are many more needs than the funds you are disbursing can cover, however, we continue to look for new sources of revenue to help expand our program. Thank you for your consideration.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

Proposed Budget / 2013

	2012 Budget	2012 Actual	2013 Budget	+ / - Change
INCOME				
General Offering Receipts	\$ 71,730	\$ 61,928 ¹	\$ 70,829	- \$ 901
Building Fund (10%)	8,966	11,222 ²	8,854	- 112
Missions (10%)	8,966	9,202	8,854	- 112
Total Income	\$ 89,662	\$ 82,352 ^{1,2}	\$ 88,537	- \$ 1,125
EXPENSES				
CHURCH COUNCIL				
Pastoral				
Pastor				
Salary	18,336	24,071	26,208	+ 7,872
Employer's Share FICA (7.65%)	1,449	1,841	2,005	+ 556
Housing / Utilities Allowance	0	0	0	0
Total Pastoral Ministry Expenses	19,785	25,912	28,213	+ 8,428
Other Expenses - Pastor Benefits				
Health Insurance	7,776	3,112	0	- 7,776
Retirement	600	200	0	- 600
Convention / Continuing Education	0	0	0	0
Book Allowance	400	325	400	0
Auto Reimbursement	0	0	0	0
Total Other Expenses - Pastor Benefits	8,776	3,637	400	- 8,376
Other Pastoral Expenses				
Guest Ministers (\$65 + mileage)	200	130	200	0
Pastoral Relations	50	0	50	0
Total Other Pastoral Expenses	250	130	250	0
Administrative / General				
Secretary (80 hours / month at \$8.85 / hour)	9,381	9,204	8,496	- 885
Employer's Share FICA (7.65%)	718	704	650	- 68
Accounting Software / Expenses	400	33	400	0
Copier and Computer Service	500	701	500	0
Internet Provider	550	590	550	0
Office Expense	1,400	1,900	1,400	0
Telephone	1,500	1,253	1,500	0
Contingencies	1,200	734	1,200	0
Total General and Administrative	15,649	15,119	14,696	- 953
PROPERTY				
Custodial Services	3,000	3,000	3,000	0
Auto Reimbursement	0	0	0	0
Insurance	5,000	5,350	5,000	0
Supplies	200	0	200	0
Soft Drinks	0	155	0	0
Utilities - Electric/Gas and Water/Sewer	15,000	11,994	15,000	0
Repairs and Maintenance	900	1,199	900	0
Total Church Home Expenses	24,100	21,698	24,100	0

2 ~ FBC Proposed Budget / 2013

	2012 Budget	2012 Actual	2013 Budget	+ / - Change
MEMBERSHIP, OUTREACH and EVANGELISM				
Membership / Visitation	400	0	400	0
Outreach Expenses	100	0	100	0
Evangelism Expenses	0	0	0	0
Public Relations	100	0	100	0
Other	0	0	0	0
Wednesday Night Expenses	200	639	200	0
Total M.O.E. Expenses	800	639	800	0
WORSHIP				
Bulletins	100	0	100	0
Decorating	0	0	0	0
Music				
Music Materials	200	67	200	0
Minister of Music	0	0	0	0
Employer's Share FICA (7.65%)	0	0	0	0
Organist	0	0	0	0
Employer's Share FICA (7.65%)	0	0	0	0
Guest Organist	0	0	0	0
Organ Service Contract	960	894	960	0
Bell Choir Expense	0	0	0	0
Choir and Bell Nursery	0	0	0	0
Music Copyright	110	109	110	0
Total Music Expenses	1,270	1,070	1,270	0
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION and MISSIONS				
Children and Youth Work	0	0	0	0
Conferences / Workshops	100	0	100	0
Literature and Resource Materials	900	756	900	0
Miscellaneous C.E. Expenses	100	0	100	0
Total Christian Education Expenses	1,100	756	1,100	0
SUBTOTAL	\$ 71,730	\$ 68,961	\$ 70,829	- \$ 901
BUILDING FUND				
10% of Undesignated Receipts	8,966	3,931 ³	8,854	- 112
MISSIONS				
10% of Undesignated Receipts	8,966	9,202	8,854	- 112
TOTAL BUDGET	\$ 89,662	\$ 82,094 ³	\$ 88,537	- \$ 1,125
MISSIONS FROM 10% UNDESIGNATED (\$2,400)				
SIUC Campus Ministry	\$ 900		Bacone College	300
Mt. Vernon Rescue Mission	600		Northern Baptist Seminary	300
Judson University	300			

¹ Includes \$3,234.96 transfer in September, \$6,365.04 in November and \$5,400.00 in December from Wills and Bequests Funds for total of \$15,000 (approved at Business Meeting). Total represents 24.2% of General Offering (\$61,928).

² Includes + \$3,584.70 difference between insurance settlements for roof replacement / basement damage and actual costs.

³ Does not include insurance settlements (\$65,408.82 roof; \$1,956.87 basement) and actual expenses (\$63,780.99 total).