



Building Project Timeline and Preliminary Cost Estimates

Loueva Clark, Building Committee Chairperson

While the Capital Campaign is driving home towards Commitment Sunday, the work of the Building Committee continues. The committee, in conjunction with our architect Steve Lucchesi, has made preliminary selections of types of doors, flooring and exterior building materials.

We've hired a civil engineer who is working on the utilities engineering and the site drainage, addressing the city's detention requirements. On October 8, we will meet with the civil engineer to receive the fruit of his work.

All the while, our contractor Durotech is working to bring us the first official quote for construction on October 14. This quote comes to us through an extensive amount of work receiving estimates from multiple subcontractors for every aspect of construction. It will provide a starting point for the Building Committee's work in fitting our Phase One project within budgetary constraints. Any constraints will be defined by the funds raised in the Capital Campaign.

The Texas Methodist Foundation has provided a cash flow model for Phase One that projects a budget of \$1.5 million dollars based on raising \$400,000 in this Capital Campaign. This has been the starting point in our thought processes, and if needed we will adjust our work based on the final Campaign results.

The target date for detailed schematic drawings is November 11: the quarterly meeting of the District Building and Locations Committee. When the project is approved at that meeting, St. Luke's can move forward in signing a mortgage and breaking ground on this Living House!

If you have any questions about the Building Committee's progress thus far, please contact the church office at 979.691.5400.

Key Dates

OCTOBER 8

Meeting with Civil Engineer (to assess site drainage issues)

OCTOBER 14

First Construction Estimate (based on new subcontractor bids)

LATE OCTOBER

Final Campaign Results (will determine any adjustments to project)

NOVEMBER 11

Detailed Schematic Drawings (prepared for the District Building and Locations Committee)

LATE NOVEMBER

Signing a Mortgage and Breaking Ground on the Building Site



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BUILDING CAMPAIGN Update

A NEWSLETTER TRACKING THE PROGRESS OF ST. LUKE'S PHASE ONE BUILDING



Not Equal Gifts But Equal Sacrifice

Rev. Jason A. Burnham, Pastor

Each of us has unique financial obligations and income. Most live paycheck to paycheck, but the size and security of those paychecks differs drastically from one individual to another.

So, how am I to express to such a diverse body a scriptural vision of equal sacrifice? I could cite the widow who offered everything she had (Luke 21:1-4), or the rich man who was commanded to go and give all he owned to the poor (Luke 18:18-28). I could reference the fishermen who were called to follow Jesus and left everything behind (Matthew 4:18-22), or the rich tax collector who was called to follow and did (Matthew 9:9-13).

Instead, let's look at the theme verse for our "Building a Living House" Campaign:

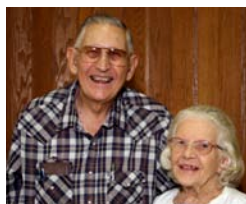
"Like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ." (1 Peter 2:5)

You see, sacrifice isn't a question of amount; sacrifice is a question of the recipient. When you are purchasing Christmas presents, do you buy everyone on your list a gift of equal quality and thoughtfulness? Or do you make all of your cousins the same jar of brownie mix while toiling over the gift that would be perfect for your children or spouse? Your desire is for the gift you give to the most treasured person in your life to be the most extraordinary gift you are capable of giving.

The same applies to your pledge to this capital campaign. The pledges received are offered to the most treasured person you will ever know: Jesus Christ.

Every person can give the same gift to this Kingdom Building effort—a spiritual sacrifice acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. Will your gift be acceptable and pleasing to God?

You're invited to join Lauren and me in sacrificial giving. **Commitment Sunday (October 12)** will be a glorious day of rejoicing as we join together to celebrate the sacrifices offered to this Campaign.



"We have been a mobile church for a number of years, and now it's time for us to have a place to call home."

—Dale and Betty Jackson, Mailings Team Leaders

Greater Things

R. DeAndre Johnson, Director of Music Ministries

Written as a prayer for the hardened city of Belfast, a place notorious for widespread crime and oppression, this song glorifies God as the One who is sovereign and declares that God is able to do great things. I chose this song as the theme of our Campaign because it places a burden on our hearts for the people who live in our own community, Bryan-College Station, who are impacted by the ministries that flow from our church.



God of This City

*You're the God of this city
You're the King of these people
You're the Lord of this nation
You Are*

*For there is no one like our God
There is no one like our God*

*Greater things have yet to come
Great things are still to be done
In this city
Greater things are still to come
And greater things are still to be done here*

*You're the Lord of Creation
The Creator of all things
You're the King above all Kings
You Are*

*You're the strength in our weakness
You're the love to the broken
You're the joy in the sadness
You Are*

*Greater things have yet to come
Great things are still to be done
In this city
Where glory shines from hearts alive
With praise for you and love for you
In this city*

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A Simple Principle

Santa Anna & Alice Trejo, Spiritual Emphasis Team Leaders

As we head toward Commitment Sunday, my wife Alice and I would like to express our gratitude for allowing us to serve God and the people of St. Luke's as leaders of the Spiritual Emphasis ministry in the Capital Campaign. We thank you for your prayers and encourage you to continue praying every day.

GOD'S PRINCIPLE OF BLESSING AND MULTIPLYING

Much has been accomplished already. Some of us have already made our pledges to the Capital Campaign. Others will follow, each one according to how the Holy Spirit prompts them to do so. One thing is sure: this will be a very successful campaign. Victory will be ours on many fronts.

But, this is only the beginning. Let me tell you why. You see, when God's people respond in obedience to his will, and commit themselves to give, God puts in motion through His everlasting faithfulness a principle that has been in place all the time, and that is activated at the moment people respond in obedience. This principle of blessing and multiplying is that when we obey and give, God blesses what we keep and multiplies what we give.

TWO BIBLICAL STORIES OF EXTRAORDINARY GIFTS

Allow me to share two Biblical examples of this truth. In the Old Testament, we have the story of the widow woman of Zarephath, who was preparing to bake a loaf of bread for herself and her son, that they would eat and then slowly die of starvation. But when the man of God, Elijah, asked her to bake a small cake for him first and "afterwards make some for yourself and your son," she was obedient and did as she



"Two things I appreciate most about St. Luke's are the wonderful friends and people here and the spiritual growth I have experienced in attending."

—Jean Huff, Honorary Chairperson

was told. The response to the widow's obedience was this, "For thus says the Lord God of Israel: 'The bin of flour shall not be used up, nor shall the jar of oil run dry, until the Lord sends rain on the earth.'"

*"When we obey and give,
God blesses what we keep
and multiplies what we give."*

The other story we find in the New Testament, the story of the young lad who had five barley loaves and two fishes which he gave to the Lord Jesus. Five thousand men, besides the women and children, were fed with the five loaves and two fishes, and the leftovers filled twelve baskets. That's what I call multiplying! Can you imagine the lad's mother's surprise, when here comes the boy with some of his friends carrying twelve basketfuls of bread and fishes?

AN OPPORTUNITY OF A LIFETIME

Yes! Dear friends, we are engaged in the most exciting of ventures ever. For some of us this is perhaps the only opportunity in our lifetime to be involved in such an endeavor: of raising up a building—a Living House. To me, a Living House means a place that is alive with the presence of God, a place to come and worship, and a place of prayer.

So, I encourage you, to seize and maximize the moment, for the best is yet to come. Can you imagine what great things God has in store for us? Can you visualize all the kinds of ministry that we will be able to do? Can you see yourself as an equipped person, empowered by the Holy Spirit, doing ministry here at St. Luke's? This and much, much more lies ahead for us. In the meantime, keep praying and seeking God's will for your life.

How Can I Get Involved?

Exa York, Campaign Chairperson

The faithful involvement of many people in this Campaign continues to inspire us as we press on, focused on our mission to build a permanent church home for St. Luke's. Our heartfelt thanks go to those working in various roles on this Campaign and to those who have already made a sacrificial pledge toward the building project at the Advance Commitment Dinner. Fourteen families made pledges of \$210,000! Confident God is in control, we are encouraged by the milestones achieved and look to Commitment Sunday with great anticipation. Here are some ways you can be involved between now and then:

- ▶ **Prepare your heart.** Each of us are called to seek God in prayer to discover how we should respond in our pledge. As you continue to pray for God's direction, please take every opportunity to learn more about the project's ministry benefits, as they are far-reaching.
- ▶ **Commit to a financial pledge.** For those who could not participate in the Advance Commitment Dinner, commitment packets are being delivered. Enclosed in the packets are commitment cards for your consideration. Be assured that the decision you make about your commitment will be confidential—between you and God. Like Abel who gave his first fruits to the Lord, when we simply give our best, God is pleased.
- ▶ **Plan to attend Commitment Sunday.** Please mark your calendar for Sunday, October 12. It will be a time of great celebration as we affirm the commitments we're making toward the project and enjoy a meal together on the building site following worship. Be sure to fill out an RSVP card at worship on Sunday, October 5, or call the church office at 979.691.5400.