



Prayer Is the Foundation of the Expansion Efforts in Building His Church

May your eyes be open toward this temple day and night, this place of which you said you would put your Name there. May you hear the prayer your servant prays toward this place.
2 Chronicles 6:20

When Solomon said these words, he was praising God for using him to build God's temple. But he also was well aware that it was not about the building.

In fact, Solomon said, "...the heaven of heavens cannot contain You. How much less this temple which I have built (2 Chr 6:18)." Solomon knew it's all about what happens in and around the building—the worship, fellowship, and growing in relationship with God. And like Solomon before us, we too pray that

God would hear the prayers of His people at our church as we work through this process of considering adding to our place of worship.

In order to keep our eyes on the good things that happen in our church building—youth ministry, adult education, and Bible study to name a few—we have enlisted the help of a Prayer Team to direct your attention toward God as we consider a building expansion.

The Prayer Team will lead our church in praying through this process of considering what God would have us do personally to support this effort. Specifically, they composed a prayer that will



guide us into unity as we pray about the decisions we are about to make.

For your convenience, reprinted on page 3 is this prayer that you can use as a guide to help you pray about your part in this important project in the life of our church. Let this prayer assist you and spark your prayer life in the coming weeks as we consider how we can be a part of *Building His Church*.

From the Pastor

The Building Expansion Process

It is surprising how many steps a church must go through to explore a building expansion before the first shovel full of dirt is ever moved. It has been a while since we've had to do this at Grace, so I'd like to share

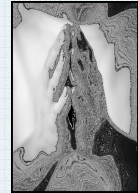
with you about what's been going on behind the scenes as we've labored through this process.

Our first step was to assess our ministry need for more space. Then we began to work on plans to address our space needs. Next, we knew we would need to determine

the amount of financial resources needed to meet these needs. Once all these steps are completed, the elders will then need to consider all of this information and make a recommendation to the congregation for discussion and a congregational vote.

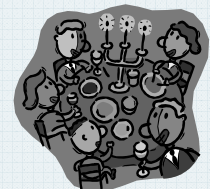
Upcoming Building His Church Events

All Church Prayer Event



Sunday, Nov. 2
7:00 to 8:30 pm

Family Dinner



Wednesday, Nov. 5
Wednesday, Nov. 19
6:00 pm

Commitment Sunday



December 7

Questions and Answers about the Expansion Efforts

What is *Building His Church* and why is it important to me?

For several years now, the elders have been considering expanding our church facility. We are out of space in worship services, and classrooms are packed to capacity. In some cases, we are beyond capacity and spilling into the hallways. *Building His Church* is a three-month effort to inform our members about our building options and to determine our financial readiness to expand our facilities.

If I made a financial gift to *Building His Church*, what would that look like?

We will ask each church family to consider making a three-year faith promise gift to enable our church to add needed ministry space. The one-time, annual, monthly, or weekly gifts would be given between December 2008 and November 2011. A faith promise commitment would be a sacrificial gift over and above regular giving to the church.

What process is the church going through to determine if we should build?

The elders, building committee, and church staff have been working hard for several years now to map out a logical and cost-effective plan to expand our facility. Treanor Architects have been enlisted to help us determine a plan for what we might be able to build. Additionally,



has been a significant setback. However, while the economic instability of the last few months is troubling to us all, we want to focus on the ministry God has called us to. Our elders believe this is the correct time for us to pursue expansion, so we will walk by faith, not by sight and trust in God's provision...in bad times and in good.

I've been hearing about these *Building His Church* events. What are they, and how can I learn more?

A variety of desserts and lunches, and events at church are available for small groups of us to gather and learn more about *Building His Church*, ask questions, dialog about the process, and share any concerns. We want to be sure your specific questions are answered (in so far as we know the answers), and hope you will attend one of the events.

Invitations will be mailed to each person or family, and you can select the time and place best for you to attend. The format of each event will be essentially the same—a time to ask questions, hear from Bill and the church leadership about the expansion process, and pray together for God's leading for our church.

The Church Development Foundation (TCDF), a Kansas City-based nonprofit organization that helps churches raise funds for building expansions, has been retained to help us determine a Christ-centered plan for securing financial support. *Building His Church* is the process by which we will enlist financial support toward a building project. After we make our faith promise commitments, the elders will go before the Lord and develop a recommendation for our next steps. The church membership will ultimately vote before we obligate ourselves to construction or acquiring long-term debt.

The economy has been a bit scary lately to say the least. How will what's been going on in the financial markets impact our decision process to pursue expansion?

First and foremost, our faith is in the Lord, not the stock market! History has shown that the market goes up and down regularly. It's true that this latest round of volatility

TREANOR
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Building His Church Prayer

Our Father and our God, we praise You for who You are.

You have provided for us through Your sovereign grace: this church, this fellowship of Your people, and especially our eternal salvation through the

blood of Jesus

Christ.

You have blessed us and sustained us,

giving us:

a place to worship, a growing community of

Christ-minded

believers, and a desire

to reach the lost for Christ – and all for Your glory alone.

We humbly acknowledge that

ALL good gifts come from You.

We confess we are all sinners led astray and so we ask Your direction and wisdom, Lord, concerning the ministry and facilities You desire us to consider building. We desire

that Your will be done.

Please give us wisdom in finances, humility in planning, and graciousness in thought and compassion for one another during this process.

Grant that we may joyfully give from the abundance You supply, to build a house for Your holy Name, that the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ may shine through Your Church.

And we ask You to direct us Lord, in all our doings with Your most gracious favor, and further us with Your continued help; that in all our works begun, continued and ended in You, we may glorify You, and finally by Your mercy, obtain everlasting life, through Jesus Christ our Lord.



FIRST AND FOREMOST, OUR FAITH IS IN THE LORD, NOT THE STOCK MARKET! HOWEVER, WHILE THE ECONOMIC INSTABILITY OF THE LAST FEW MONTHS IS TROUBLING TO US ALL, WE WANT TO FOCUS ON THE MINISTRY GOD HAS CALLED US TO.

From the Pastor *Continued from front*

We've essentially completed the first step. The elders and staff worked very hard on this space assessment, and evaluating our space needs for ministry has not been terribly difficult. A simple walk through our church-house on any given Sunday reveals the need. And you confirmed that need through your responses in our recent survey.

To help us with building design and concept, we've hired architects to lay out a very general plan to give us an idea of what we can build to address our present and future space needs. We'll be sharing those initial plans in the coming weeks.

We're in the midst of the third part right now, assessing our financial resources for meeting our ministry needs through building expansion. We're calling it *Building His Church*. The catchphrase *Building His Church* was chosen because our desire is to expand our church-house (build His church) so that we can build the church of our Lord Jesus Christ.

I described the work of those involved in *Building His Church* in the last newsletter. Suffice it to say that we hope we will be able to supply all the information that you need to be able to go before the Lord to discern the financial commitment for you to make that would be pleasing to Him. December 7, 2008, will be our commitment Sunday. On this day we'll ask you to return a faith promise card that will indicate your giving intentions to the building fund for the next three years.

The elders of Grace will then receive the information from the faith promise cards and spend time seeking the Lord for His will concerning how we should proceed. It is likely that the elders will also go back to the architects at this point to refine their work. Then the elders will bring a recommendation to the congregation for consideration. This recommendation will include what the elders believe that we should build at this time and how we should finance it. The congregation will then have the opportunity through "Family Meetings" to consider this recommendation, refine it if necessary, and then vote.

In summary, our process looks like this:

- Assess the ministry need – done
- Address the need – in process with architects, to be completed in two phases. The first a very rough layout of what we could build. The second, a detailed layout that will accompany the elders' recommendation.
- Assess our financial resources – in process through *Building His Church*, to be finished on December 7 with our commitment Sunday.
- Recommendation from the elders regarding what we should build and how we will finance it.
- Consideration of the elders' recommendation and congregational vote.

It is very important that each of us participates in the events planned by our *Building His Church* Event's Team. During these times elders, members of the building team, and I will be providing information and listening to you so that we'll have everything ready for you for you to turn in your faith promise cards on December 7, 2008.

And it is very important that you pray. Our Prayer Team has written a prayer to help guide us as we go before the Lord (see *Prayer is the Foundation* above). We ask that you use this prayer to inform your praying for this very important time in the life of our church. It is our desire that we neither move ahead of the Lord nor behind, but that we keep in step with the Spirit throughout this process.

Blessings,

