



Commitment Sunday Set for Second Sunday in Advent

The second Sunday in Advent has been an important day in the history of Grace Evangelical Presbyterian Church. Our first two building phases were each completed on the second Sunday of Advent in 1995 and 1998. The tradition of this special day will continue in 2008 as we have designated December 7, 2008, as commitment Sunday for our *Building His Church* expansion.

In addition to lighting the second Advent candle on December 7 this year, the congregation will be asked to present their faith promise commitment cards to the Lord in support of building additional worship and ministry space. We encourage everyone who calls Grace their church home to prayerfully consider making a faith



promise commitment on this day. Faith promise gifts to *Building His Church* will be made from December 2008 through November 2011.

As we enter the Advent season and prepare to celebrate the birth of our Savior,

please continue in prayer for our church as we prepare to "birth" this new expression of our ministry to Lawrence and surrounding communities.

From the Pastor

Dear Friends,

October and November have been a flurry of activity! In addition to all the regular ministry activity at the church we have been engaged in discussions about "Building His Church." I'm very grateful for each of you who have selflessly volun-

teered your time to help our church prepare for the financial aspect of the building expansion. Our church staff has also done a wonderful job of handling all the extra mailings and projects, and I wanted to say, "Well done!"

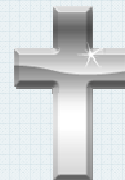
I specifically want to thank the Events Team for the ex-

cellent job you did hosting our informational events. It's been a joy to me to spend this time with so many of you, not to mention having 11 extra occasions to eat dessert!

We've done much work, and we've been faithful to pray

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Commitment Sunday



December 7

**Did you receive
YOUR
*Building His
Church Faith
Promises*
brochure and
commitment card
in the mail?**

If not, please call
Joyce Lockett at
785-843-2005,
and she will be
glad to send you
a replacement
packet.

More Building Expansion Questions and Answers

During the last month the Building His Church Events Team hosted 11 information sharing events in an effort to provide a venue where our church family could ask questions and share any concerns surrounding the building expansion effort for Grace. In case you were unable to make it to an event, we have compiled some of the most frequently asked questions. We hope this will be helpful to you as you consider your three-year faith promise commitment to the Building His Church expansion. If you have additional questions, please feel free to call Bob Woods at the church office.

Will there be a smaller worship space/chapel/prayer room in the expanded building?

While all the specific details for the building expansion still need to be determined by the Elders and Building Committee, our initial plans do include a room that can also be used as a prayer room or chapel.

Will there be enough parking spaces?

The building committee spent hours analyzing this question. Currently proposed plans included additional parking spaces sufficient for our anticipated needs. Of course, if we experience a larger than expected influx of people, we will creatively handle the parking challenges.

What would be the increase



in maintenance and utility costs?

Grace's administrator, Bob Woods, has anticipated that the cost per square foot to maintain the new facility will be approximately \$2.00. Currently, the cost is \$2.15. With a growth in members and attendees, we anticipate a corresponding growth in giving which will enable us to manage increased operating costs.

What will happen to the church if our pastoral staff changes?

Grace is very unique in that Bill Vogler is the only senior

pastor the church has ever known. And we know from the survey we sent out in August that Bill is dearly loved by the church! Bill has assured us that he has no intention of leaving Grace. Further, in an effort to wisely plan for the future needs of the church, the Elders have approved and acquired a significant life insurance policy on Bill. The benefits of this policy would be paid to the church if something, God forbid, were to happen to him.

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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.



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From the Pastor

Continued from front

for this next step in the life of our church. Now it's on to Commitment Sunday. I hope you will take the time to read the beautiful and informational brochure our Communications Team sent out to you recently. It should provide you with the information you need to pray through your commitment to the *Building His Church* expansion. However, if you have further questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at the church office.

I'm looking forward to seeing what God will do at Grace on December 7, our Commitment Sunday.

Blessings,



More Building Expansion Questions and Answers

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While this would in no means be able to replace our beloved pastor, it would provide the church with some financial stability in a transition period to a new senior pastor.

Which phase would be built first?

The answer to this question will be partially determined by the faith promise commitments we receive on December 7. Once the Elders have that information, they will seek God in prayer to determine if we should build the sanctuary, narthex, and education space all at one time. If not, the Elders will recommend to the congregation what they believe is the best course of action.

How many seats would there be in the new sanctuary?

Currently, we can seat 550 people in worship. The new sanctuary would hold between 750 and 850 people depending on the final configuration.

Does this plan max out our current site?

Based on the current master plan provided by Treanor Architects, once we build the proposed sanctuary, narthex, and education space, our current site footprint would be at its maximum size. Any



future building would need to occur on a new site.

Will it be hard to get a loan due to credit markets?

Our church has an excellent repayment history (we tend to pay off our loans early), and we have extremely strong equity in our current property. Based on our discussions to date with lending sources, we do not anticipate any problems with obtaining a loan.

What's the timeline for starting?

Assuming sufficient funding is secured, we anticipate it will take approximately eight months for the drawings to be prepared and then just over a year to complete the construction.