



Building Beyond Boundaries

Catching up with Covenant's Capital Campaign

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Covenant Presbyterian Church

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IF WE BUILD IT, THEY WILL COME... AND EAT!!!

Building Beyond Boundaries means more room around Covenant's table.

Research shows - and Presbyterians all know - that eating together regularly improves communication and brings families closer together. But part of the Covenant family is missing on Wednesdays and other nights because there simply isn't enough room for us all to be together.

The good news is that the second floor of the Fellowship and Education Building will have plenty of room for us to eat together and grow closer.

The present kitchen in Eaton Hall more closely resembles a ship's galley than an actual working kitchen. To see the Eaton kitchen and realize that Chef Mark Toussaint feeds more than 200 people on Wednesdays, 70 people Thursday mornings, and 90 to 100 people at other times, is to know without a doubt that miracles really do happen. Parents who help prepare youth and family meals on Sunday evenings can also vouch for that. And anyone who's been in Eaton Hall

knows that storage space is at a premium.

"Right now, groups just put items anywhere they can find space, and no one is sure whose items are whose," Mark says. "The new facilities will create more functionality and organization."

Not only will Mark gain extra space, the new building will provide more time. Walk-in refrigerators and freezers will mean less time on the road gathering provisions for each event because there's not much food storage.

"I can order for a week instead of day by day," he says. That equals more time in the kitchen, doing what he does best - cooking.

But new kitchen facilities will make the biggest difference in Covenant's food service. "A larger kitchen will make the world a much better place for everyone," he says.

Those who have juggled plates of delicious food looking for an empty chair on Wednesday nights will be glad to hear that the new building will include a room that can seat up to 500 for dinner. That means more Covenant families and guests can gather on Wednesdays and other nights and share the wonderful fellowship. As Mark points out, the new kitchen and dining facilities "will bring more families closer together where people find their most comfort: around the dinner table."

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SACRIFICIAL GIVING

Theologian and author A.W. Tozer reminds us, "God does not need anything you have. He does not need a dime of your money. It is your own spiritual welfare at stake in such matters....You have the right to keep what you have all to yourself, but it will rust and decay, and ultimately ruin you."

Not many of us can give tens of thousands of dollars (praise God for those who can!), and we may feel that our gift is insignificant and unimportant. But as Tozer points out, the amount is not important, but the act of giving is. God never compares the amount of our gift to someone else's, only to what we have (remember the widow's mite, Luke 21: 1-4). God also has the power to multiply our gifts many times over, without limits. Think of the loaves and fishes (John 6:13). If we pray and seek God's will, whatever we give will be more than enough.

If you or your family...

In a year, you could give: *(estimated)*

cancels caller ID on your phone	\$120
skips a double, non-fat latte once a week	\$150
buys one less CD each month	\$216
switches from premium to basic cable service	\$360
forego dinner and a movie twice a month	\$800
plays one less golf game per week	\$5,000

Imagine if 100 Covenant families made even one sacrifice similar to these... Like loaves and fishes, small gifts add up!

SERMON CORNER

The Oct 8 sermon left us all standing on tiptoe - ready and waiting for God's next move, as Nehemiah is doing in Nehemiah 1:11b-2:9. We often find ourselves in his position - we know what needs to be done, but we don't know where we fit in to God's plan. When this happens, we must ask the Holy Spirit to help us discern when God is saying "go." Then, we must take time to pray before we proceed (a "look" before we "leap"), offer ourselves and our service to God (actually answer his call!), and, if we haven't heard that "go" yet, wait and plan. How is God calling you to take part in his rebuilding?

Covenant's annual stewardship campaign is walking hand-in-hand with the Building Beyond Boundaries campaign. We encourage all members to make their annual and capital pledge at the same time. You will receive pledge cards when you attend a neighborhood gathering to meet Rick Murray and learn more about our campus plans. Pledge cards are also available in the Sanctuary Narthex, church office, or by contacting Angella Caton, 334-3001. All pledges are confidential.

BUILDING BEYOND BOUNDARIES

Covenant's campus has been filled for some time, and the future promises more crowding. In 2005, after study and member input, Session formed the Executive Coordinating Committee (ECC), which includes Building, Communications, Capital Campaign and Prayer Committees. *Building Beyond Boundaries* is a flexible master plan to meet the current needs of our church, and to anticipate future needs. Session authorized the campaign to raise up to \$12 million for improvements including renovations to existing buildings and construction of a new Fellowship and Education Building to allow us to grow our ministries. We must give sacrificially to make this plan a reality, but will then know the joy of God's grace and power as we advance our mission and equip seekers to be God's disciples in Austin and around the world.

CONTRIBUTIONS RECEIVED AND PLEDGED TO DATE:

\$3,127,594

For more information about Building Beyond Boundaries and how you can get involved, please see the Covenant website at www.covenant.org BBBinfo.htm or contact Wick Alexander at 512-542-3220 or walexander@stephens.com.