



# Building Beyond Boundaries

*Catching up with Covenant's Capital Campaign*

Vol.1, No. 3

Covenant Presbyterian Church

October 22, 2006

## **SLEEPING IN CHURCH HELPS FAMILIES**

*Building Beyond Boundaries means extra room for those without a home*

Imagine that a serious run of bad luck left you without a roof over your head, food for your children, or a permanent job. Where can you turn for help? Many families turn to the Austin Foundation for the Homeless' Interfaith Hospitality Network (IHN) for short-term housing in area churches, as well as longer-term assistance with employment and housing.

Covenant Presbyterian has been a major IHN supporter for many years. Early on, families slept in Sunday School rooms on each side of our Sanctuary, ate meals and showered in Eaton Hall, and did their laundry in Children's Hall.

"This involved much locking and unlocking of doors, and hurrying through the cold and dark to shower and do laundry," says Claudette Hulce, one of Covenant's IHN coordinators.

Covenant Hall's design kept IHN in mind, with three upstairs rooms providing privacy for each family, and the Youth Lounge serving as a dayroom/playroom. Restrooms on the second floor have large

showers and wide counters, and plenty of space underneath for stepstools for young children. There's even a convenient laundry area. Sometimes, though, there are so many people in need that some stay in the Sunday School rooms in Eaton Hall. Also, one of Covenant Hall's rooms now houses the Youth Program, so a family stays behind a partition in the Youth Lounge.

"That creates a sub-optimum situation when we have four guest families," says Sara Chenault, Covenant's other IHN coordinator. "The partition doesn't give privacy or eliminate noise and light."

IHN will be just one of many beneficiaries of the new Fellowship and Education Building.

"In the new building, we'll be able to have a private room for each family. They'll be able to have their meals in the same building and easily accessible showers, and a washer and dryer," Sara says. Plus, the gym space will provide a place to play for children too big for the preschool's playscape.

The IHN program will be in flux during construction, but back better than ever once the new facilities are completed in Spring, 2008. Covenant's IHN volunteers are blessed by the gratitude and relief in the eyes of families they serve. All of us are blessed, both at home and in our church family, through this service to members of God's family.

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## SACRIFICIAL GIVING

Ever heard someone say, "Churches are always asking for money"? Actually, it is the world that always asks for money. Every visit to the grocery store, the checker asks for money. The phone company asks monthly. Ditto the electric company. We all get a stack of bills on a regular basis, none of them from the church. Uncle Sam takes a percentage off every dollar you earn. God doesn't. In fact, church is one of the few free things in life. There is no charge to attend worship, or a small group, for pastor visits to the sick, or to drop the kids off at Sunday School or youth activities. The truth is, the church asks for money less often than almost anything we can think of. Yet of all those things we could spend money on, few are more important than what the church provides. Money given to the church is invested in the eternal kingdom (Matthew 6:19-21). The church shares the love of Jesus Christ, and our money goes to serve him. Jesus will be around, and the church will continue his ministry to everyone, whether they can make a contribution or not. Isn't that something you want to be part of?

## SERMON CORNER

Pastor James Lee reminded us last Sunday (October 15) that we can be confident that our journey will be worth the cost. The rich young man just couldn't see giving away all his money, as Jesus asked (Mark 10: 17-31), but if he had been able to look back from the end of his life, he would have seen all that Jesus asked him to give up returned to him many times over, just in a different form. Whenever we make a sacrifice in faith, God takes that investment and pays us amazing dividends. Remember that all things are possible with God, and be willing to take whatever step he calls you to take.

## 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:

**\$3,144,173**

## QUESTION OF THE WEEK

**I heard Eaton Hall had to be torn down. Why are we now planning to renovate it?**

Eaton Hall is an important part of our history, where worship originally took place and where many of our members have been baptized and married. An earlier, preliminary building plan called for an enlarged sanctuary where Eaton Hall stands. Further investigation and consultation showed that the building could, in fact, be renovated and meet all standards, and many at Covenant were eager to do the right thing for the stewardship of our history and resources. We are thrilled to be able to preserve Eaton Hall.

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.

If you have questions about Building Beyond Boundaries, please feel free to contact:

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