



Building Beyond Boundaries

Catching up with Covenant's Capital Campaign

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Covenant Presbyterian Church

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WORSHIP + 2 = NOT NEARLY ENOUGH SPACE!

After extensive planning, prayer and discussion over two years, the Session committed to encourage every member of the Covenant congregation to participate in "Worship + 2" — weekly worship plus one regular educational activity and one regular outreach or mission activity.

Great idea, right? It's a fabulous idea. But you may have noticed that it's getting awfully crowded around here.

"Folks who attend Sunday services that aren't so crowded may have a hard time understanding the space problems we're having," says Leslie Cameron, leader of the Evening Lamplighters. "But if they came Monday nights, Wednesday mornings, Wednesday nights, they would see what we're dealing with."

Since we all share space at Covenant, it's not unusual to see adults taking classes in the Children's Building.

"The children's program has been nothing but helpful in letting us use the space. We're grateful, but it will be nice having more adult program space," Leslie says. "We are really scrunched in there once you have circles of 10 adults; it's almost claustrophobic."

Other groups routinely meet in the cramped confines of offices or the Covenant Hall kitchen. Still others must meet off campus because there's no room available.

"We have 18 small groups that meet during the week," notes Kay Sockol, Interim Director of

Discipleship and Small Groups Ministry. "Some are meeting in homes, which is difficult for people with young children since they have to be within a 10-minute drive in order to use our childcare services."

Finding space for Sunday morning adult education classes is also a challenge. Two large classes currently meet at the Northwest Recreation Center, while a small class meets in Kay's office. "If eight to ten people show up for that class, there's not room for them," she says. "We're making things work, but the new building will provide much more space."

Having adequate dedicated space will be very conducive to study.

"We're always moving around," Leslie says. "At times, it has been hard to know where you'll be from one week to the next. We have also had to haul around hymnals, which can really wear them out. A bonus benefit that will be nice will be meeting space that's conducive to media presentations such as PowerPoint and videos."

The goal, according to Kay, is to make it possible for every interested member to participate in

classes and small groups as part of W + 2.

"In being an equipping church, we see that people who are being cared for through small groups and adult classes end up being both served and serving. It's critical to have places where not only weekly Bible study and fellowship occur, but also for there to be seminars, special speakers and programs that enhance people's knowledge and skills about their spiritual gifts and opportunities to use them," she says.

"Discipleship needs constant nurturing," Kay adds. "We want all groups and classes, whether youth or adults, to have a NEST—a place for Nurturance, Encouragement, Serving and where Time is taken to share in faith journeys."

Kay says the building campaign has been a blessing for Covenant. "As we step out in faith, we're confident that God will lead in more ways for us to serve as an equipping church that shows love for the Lord and love for our neighbors both in the Covenant family and in the larger community."

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Dedication Sunday is Nov. 19! Pray and come prepared to make your stewardship and building campaign pledges then.

SACRIFICIAL GIVING

In *Mountains Beyond Mountains*, Tracy Kidder writes about Paul Farmer, an M.D. who fights tirelessly against infectious diseases in the poorest parts of the world. He runs clinics that provide the only health care for people in rural Haiti, and revolutionized TB treatment in the third world. The book's title is from a Haitian proverb, "Beyond mountains there are mountains." In other words, when you solve one problem, another rises up, so you solve it, too, and so on. Once, on a working trip to Europe, Farmer looked around and said that if he could get his hands on what was spent on pet grooming, what good he could do. We are called to be good stewards of what God gives us. Jesus asks, "If you have not been trustworthy in handling worldly wealth, who will trust you with true riches?" (Luke 16:11) As we head into the last weeks of our campaign, look around. You may have something that, if God could get his hands on it, could be used for his good.

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.

Covenant members are encouraged to pledge to the annual stewardship campaign and building campaign at the same time. Pledge cards are available at the neighborhood gatherings being held through November, in the church office, the Sanctuary narthex, or by calling Angella Caton at 334-3001. All pledges are confidential. Members are also encouraged to pray for our campaigns. Contact Prayer Committee co-chairs Tom Hutchison at 345-7603 or Sara Crawford at 328-8638.

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

What is the deadline for making a contribution?

Next Sunday, November 19, is Dedication Sunday, when we are asked to make our pledges to both the capital and stewardship campaigns. Contributions will be accepted after that date, as the Holy Spirit continues to work in your life. However, we hope that you will pray in anticipation of making a pledge on Dedication Sunday so that our family of faith can join together in a unified show of commitment to God's work.

SERMON CORNER

On Sunday, Nov. 5, we experienced the blessings of music, with a special performance of the Faure Requiem for All Saints or All Souls Day. In the early church, this was a special day to remember the many saints and martyrs and their commitment to Christ. At Covenant, we remembered the "great cloud of witnesses" who are already living the promise of the resurrection. We don't often speak of death, but it is an important part of our faith in that promise. This Requiem ('eternal rest') focuses on God's lavish grace, freely given to us all. Some of you heard a sermon from Hebrews on the meaning and significance of faith and how those saints who have gone before give heart to those of us still struggling in this life. Let us run the race with perseverance!

**CONTRIBUTIONS
RECEIVED
AND PLEDGED
TO DATE:
\$3,253,035**

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

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