



Building Beyond Boundaries

Catching up with Covenant's Capital Campaign

Vol. I, No. 7

Covenant Presbyterian Church

November 19, 2006

TODAY IS OUR DAY TO ACT...

For the past six weeks, we've explored how Building Beyond Boundaries will enhance Covenant's existing ministries and allow us to reach out in new directions. A few highlights you may recall:

Benefits of the Fellowship and Education Building:

- improved lighting, indoors and out, and audio and video systems in many rooms that will make it easier to see and hear programs
- expanded kitchen storage space, enabling kitchen staff to plan meals more in advance and to buy in bulk, with refrigerator space to enable those with special dietary needs to participate in meals
- expanded food preparation space
- larger dining space, allowing as many as 500 Covenant members to comfortably break bread together
- improved access, including a covered drop-off and accommodations for the handicapped
- complete facilities for IHN families, including areas for sleeping, playing and gathering, laundry, and showering in one building
- comfortable and inviting spaces for youth to gather
- a large recreational area for youth from the church and the larger community
- multiple, flexible meeting spaces for classes and small groups of all ages
- multiple, flexible worship spaces for contemporary worship, traditional worship, memorial services and other events
- storage space for seasonal props and decorations such as Christmas and children's choir programs

Eaton Hall improvements include:

- expanded space for programs and storage for the Nursery, Preschool and children's Sunday School

- secure check-in
- larger classrooms
- indoor play area

Sanctuary improvements include:

- "cry rooms" that allow families with infants to see and hear services in the sanctuary
- improved sound systems for both music and pulpit
- an expanded choir area to allow more singers and provide flexibility in set-up, and improved and expanded choir preparation and storage rooms
- additional seating

These improvements can happen only if we make them happen. The campaign has received more than \$3.4 million in pledges and gifts from individuals and families in our congregation, as well as a major gift of \$500,000 from the Covenant Foundation. This figure is a third of our goal but represents the participation of less than one-fifth of Covenant members.

Traditionally, most members make their pledges on Dedication Sunday. We are confident in our prayers that many more members of our church family will come forward for our capital and stewardship campaigns this Sunday.

*Imagine what God will do when we all
step forward in faith to support His work!
Imagine the joy for us, individually
and as a community, as we make
this project a reality!*

Today is Dedication Sunday!

We give thanks for your support of Building Beyond Boundaries.

SERMON CORNER

On Sunday, November 12, we found Nehemiah and his fellow rebuilders facing the “halfway blues.” Beset by criticism and threats from their enemies, the rebuilders were in danger of giving up their task. Yet Nehemiah did not let them lose hope. He reminded them that God would fight for them but also called on them to work together and look out for one another. How often we, too, face the halfway blues! And how often we need Nehemiah’s advice: stick together, be vigilant, and pray regularly. If we follow this timeless advice, we, too, will complete the task God has set for us.

Covenant members are encouraged to pledge to the annual stewardship campaign and building campaign at the same time. Pledge cards are available 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.

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.

SACRIFICIAL GIVING

At every stage of life, we give up something to make way for something else. We give up the freedom of being single for the fullness of marriage. We give up our time, privacy, and financial flexibility to welcome a new baby. We leave behind the familiar when we accept a new job, move to a new town, or hear God’s call to a new ministry. There is always sacrifice, yet there is also joy -- often far beyond what we could have imagined. So it is this Dedication Sunday. We are privileged to make our individual sacrifices in the form of pledges and offerings, knowing that God will multiply them to further His work. What joy we can experience by giving generously and with earnest thanks.

**CONTRIBUTIONS
RECEIVED
AND PLEDGED
TO DATE:
\$3,434,367**

QUESTION OF THE WEEK...

What is the current timeline for the overall project?

The current project schedule is:

Portable Buildings:
(Currently in progress)

Completion: early December

**Renovations to Eaton Hall
and Sanctuary:**

Construction start: January '07
Completion: Mid April '07

Fellowship and Education Building:

Construction start: Mid April '07
Completion: March '08

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

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or visit: www.covenant.org