

February, 2009

Dear Friends,

We're writing you about a miracle that hasn't happened yet. Great things are going on at Woodbury Presbyterian Church. Since we were organized as a church 20 years ago we have tried to serve the Lord and glorify his name faithfully. We've sent people on mission trips to 5 continents and we sponsor a budding church in Mexico. With help we've solicited from other churches and agencies, we feed hundreds of hungry people in our community each week. We've shared the facilities God has entrusted to us with other churches, so that they too might spread the good news of God's life-changing love to others in our community. Some of those churches now have their own buildings!

Meanwhile we have loved, nurtured and grown a wonderful and diverse congregation of growing disciples of Jesus. Nearly every night nearly every room of our buildings is used for youth group meetings, Bible studies, prayer, music rehearsals, scouting and other activities. The daytime hours are about as busy. And on Sundays almost every room is crowded with people whose lives are being transformed. Now we believe the Lord is saying to us, "Well done, good and faithful servants! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness." (Matthew 25:23. See verses 14-30)

As we celebrate our 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, we believe God is calling us to a higher level of service. The enclosed "Vision 2020" statement is an outline of where we believe the Lord is leading us in the next 12 years.

That vision includes using every inch of the land God has given us to make disciples. The next step toward that goal is to build a multi-purpose building which will include a fellowship hall, kitchen, additional office space and 5 new classrooms for children (plus some flexible space that can also be used for classes, meetings and groups). Enclosed you'll find a rendering of the building and the floor plan. For a more complete view, including the complete future site plan, check out "New Building Plans" at [www.WoodburyPres.com](http://www.WoodburyPres.com). We think you'll agree that the building is beautiful.

But the vision isn't a building. The vision is changed lives, what Jesus called "abundant" lives, growing disciples. The buildings are just tools.

The next tool is going to cost about \$1,800,000. This is where the miracle comes in. We are starting a Capital Funds Campaign. The Presbyterian Loan and Investment

Program has indicated that they will look at lending us the money to finance this phase if we can raise \$600,000 in a three year campaign, and continue with additional campaigns. This initial campaign is above and beyond our support for the annual operating budget. (We don't want to stop growing disciples in order to erect a building!) We believe that this is what God is calling us to do, and that by the power of God working through us, we can surpass the goal of \$600,000 in the first campaign.

We understand that this is a big goal, especially in times of such financial insecurity. It's what someone called a "God-sized goal." We cannot accomplish it on our own, but we believe God will provide for us to do what God calls us to do. In other words, we expect a miracle. Perhaps we will even receive the whole \$1.8 million in the first campaign.

Now here's the most exciting news. We get to participate in God's miracle. God often works through his people. So first we're all asked to pray. Jesus said, "Ask and you shall receive." So let's ask! Pray fervently. Pray daily. Pray passionately. Ask God to give us all we need to accomplish his will. The Lord will respond in ways that will surprise us and bring glory to him. Pray that the Spirit will lead us in securing these funds. And pray specifically about how the Lord wants you to be involved in the campaign. "Pray and obey." Ask God how much he wants you to give toward this mission over the three year period. Then dedicate that amount to the vision. On May 3 we will have a "Dedication Sunday." This is more than a "Pledge Sunday." On that day we will covenant with God to respond to his goodness and his call with faithful giving. Then pray some more because we know that the success of this campaign requires more than what we as a congregation can do.

In fact that's the point that has us most charged up. As we stretch ourselves to give God our very best, we will grow as disciples of Jesus. Even this campaign will result in spiritual growth. And we will see God demonstrate a little bit of his sovereignty.

This is a bold and challenging adventure. (Challenging for us, not for God.) We are excited to share this adventure with you. Just like in biblical times, we get to be part of a miracle.

Bob Carden

Mike Pellegrini

Jim Lau

Rod Pinder

Campaign Chair

New Building Chair

Clerk of Session

Pastor