



Grateful Hearts Capital campaign

Pilgrim Lutheran church, Puyallup, Washington

DECEMBER 2008

Volume 2

upcoming events:

January 18
All-church Bible Study

January 30-31
24-hour prayer vigil

Early February
Advance commitments
gathering

FEBRUARY 8
Semi-annual
congregational
meeting

FEBRUARY 20
ALL-CHURCH BANQUET

A Message from Co-Chair Steve Lessard

Dear Friends:

Over the past 35 years, Pilgrim Lutheran has been a welcoming church, devoted to Christian worship, fellowship, and spiritual growth. I think of the Grateful Hearts Campaign and the growing ministries of Pilgrim Lutheran Church that it will fund, as an investment in God's mission for us.

The campaign goal is to raise funds for enlarging our facilities—not so we will have shiny spaces, but so that we can continue to come together to worship and praise God, gather for fellowship, and fulfill our mission as the body of Christ by sharing the Gospel.

In a recent letter to his congregation, Pastor Kevin Bates of Advent Lutheran Church Millcreek, Washington, wrote:

In the Great Depression, not everyone was poor. But many were. So what was the role of the church in those hard, difficult days? It was to preach the Gospel. Regardless of the stock market, the marks of the church remained the same. The church was about the task of worship, proclamation, service, fellowship and witness. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and tomorrow.

The stock market may change but our message does not. God's continuous call invites us to be generous folk. We discover who we are not in accumulation but in generosity. In addition, God knows that the checkbook can get in between the hearing of the Gospel and the living of it. Stewardship is being attentive to God's call to reorder our lives around care for our neighbor and the spread of message of Christ's love for all.

Our campaign honors those who preceded us and whose sacrifices have provided us with the wonderful church home we enjoy today. Our generous giving and faithful dedication will ensure a bright future for Pilgrim. I ask that you take advantage of the many enrichment gatherings and Bible studies that are now going on, and prayerfully consider your role in helping to build a vibrant place from which to minister to our community for generations to come!

In Christ,

Steve Lessard

Grateful Hearts Supporting the Campaign

Pilgrim's missions are many and varied, offering opportunities for all our talents. Read what fellow members find rewarding, and what they have to say about the campaign.

Darlene Kerwin and her husband, Larry, joined Pilgrim ten years ago and both quickly became involved. Larry went on a mission trip and was active in the Men's Group and Habitat for Humanity until he became ill. Darlene supports the Health Ministry and blood drive, supplies meals, and has crocheted 254 prayer shawls, the most of any member of the Knit Purl Pray and Crochet Circle. When Larry died this year, Darlene decided to contribute to the Building Fund in his name. *"The church is here to meet community needs," she says. "Previous members paid for the buildings we use, and we must provide the continuum for the future."*



Dale and Hannah Thompson, who drive from Eatonville to worship at Pilgrim, have been members for nearly 30 years. Dale, a renowned artist, serves as a worship lector, has done grounds work, and has donated artwork for fundraising events. Hannah turned her talents to creating the beautiful banners that appear behind the altar, and is a communion bread baker. Dale says of the campaign: *"The church is growing and we have a practical need for more space. Hannah and I want to participate however we can to ensure our church continues to fulfill its expanding role."*

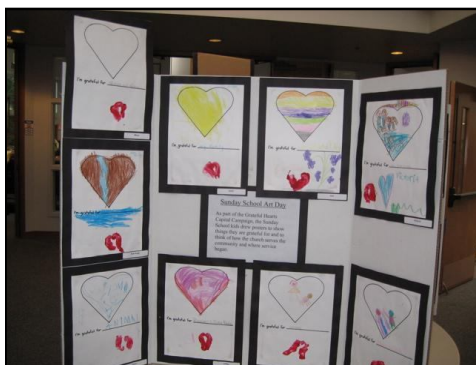


Murray and Debbie Rouse, members of Pilgrim for over 17 years, have served in areas such as education, health ministries, holiday programs, Bible studies, small group leadership, worship assistants and Kingdom Weekend. Their support for the campaign comes from their experiences: *"We have been blessed by the opportunities for spiritual growth and fellowship. To help keep the blessings flowing at Pilgrim, the Grateful Hearts Campaign will provide an avenue to secure building funds to expand our programs and ministry as we reach out to South Hill and beyond."*



Sunday School Artists Embellish Campaign

Dozens of brightly colored posters greeted worshippers on Sunday, November 16. Themes included grateful hearts, Jesus serving people, what Jesus looked like, and how we serve others.



Grateful Hearts display.



Nathan Waterstraat and Annika Appel portray Jesus.

Campaign Opportunities for Spiritual Growth



From Bible Study Co-Directors Mike and Catherine Warr:

A number of small group Bible study opportunities are currently underway as part of the “Grateful Hearts” Capital Stewardship Campaign. Signups began on November 9th for a variety of dates, times, and locations. Each small group is meeting three times for about an hour each time focusing on what God’s Word says to us about faith, discipleship, and stewardship. A number of members graciously volunteered to lead/facilitate these studies, and for that we are very grateful! If you are not participating in one of these studies, another opportunity for Bible study will be coming in January with an **All-Church Bible Study** currently scheduled to be held on **January 18, 2009**. Stay tuned for more information! Our prayer is that the time invested in discerning God’s call through the scriptures will provide strength and guidance for our mission and ministry journey together at Pilgrim. Please contact us if you have any questions.

From Prayer Vigil Director, Sharlene Parker:

The Grateful Hearts campaign is not only focusing on financial growth, it also offers the opportunity to grow spiritually. We will see this happen in the Bible study sessions, and as we join our hearts and minds in prayer for God’s leading in all aspects of our campaign.

We are at a time in the history of our church where we need to step out on that proverbial limb and fulfill God’s vision for us. The only way we can interpret that vision is through study and prayer. Hence, I ask that you pray daily for the fulfillment of our goals, and that God will be present in our deliberations.

In addition to your daily prayers, we will hold a **24-Hour Prayer Vigil** to establish a spiritual climate that enhances the ministry of the church. The Vigil will be held from **noon on Friday, January 30, to noon on Saturday, January 31**. Prior to the event, you will receive cards and prayer tents seeking your involvement. There will also be a table in the Narthex for signing up for the Vigil. To ensure maximum participation, several members can cover the same time slots, and we will ensure that at least two people will be present in the church each hour of the Vigil.

I am reminded at this time of Mathew 6:33: “Seek ye first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness and all these things will be added unto you.” Thank you for joining me in seeking His Kingdom. If you have questions, please contact me.



Enrichment Gatherings Prepare the Way for Congregational Vote

The Building Committee has worked hard to produce plans for Pilgrim’s expansion. Phil Steves, Campaign Director of Enrichment Gatherings, his leaders, and hosts are now bringing those schematics to our attention, and expectations are growing. On **Sunday, February 8, the congregation will vote on proceeding to the detailed design phase of the Building Committee’s plans**. After the conclusion of the capital campaign, the Building and Building Finance committees will develop a final construction plan based on the total amount of money available. This final plan will be submitted to the congregation for approval.

Christmas — a Time to Give Joyously!

As we enter Advent where we await the Good News of the birth of our Savior, it is perhaps too easy to get caught up in the commercialization that permeates our society. This year, instead of showering one another with material goods, let us consider how we might use God's many gifts to fulfill His mission for our church.

In Second Corinthians, St. Paul emphasizes the joy that comes from generous giving, rather than through accumulation of material possessions.

***Give voluntarily, give joyfully, and give first to the Lord.** *God loves it when the giver delights in the giving.* (2 Corinthians 9:7b)

***Give proportionately as God has blessed you.** We can't all give the same, but we can all sacrifice—perhaps by expecting fewer gifts under our Christmas tree so there will be more to share with the less fortunate, and for the Building Fund. *For if the eagerness is there, the gift is acceptable according to what one has.* (2 Corinthians 8:12)

***Trust in God to provide for your needs.** *God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work.* (2 Corinthians 9:8)

The Grateful Hearts Campaign will pause for this time of Advent and Christmas so that we may prepare our hearts and celebrate the arrival of the Christ child. We ask that you use this time to pray and reflect on God's blessings on us all.



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