



Grateful Hearts Capital campaign

Pilgrim Lutheran church, Puyallup, Washington

FEBRUARY 2009

Volume 3

upcoming events:

February 7
Advance commitment
event

FEBRUARY 8
Semi-annual
congregational
meeting

FEBRUARY 20
ALL-CHURCH BANQUET

FEBRUARY 22
COMMITMENT WORSHIP
SERVICES

MARCH
COMMITMENT VISITS

MARCH 15
CELEBRATION WORSHIP

Pilgrim Lutheran Church A Welcoming Place

When you think about inviting guests to your home, the amount of space you have is a consideration that determines how many people you can invite. When you are planning a dinner party the number of places available at the table determines how many people you can ask. The size and shape of the room determines whether or not you can add a table or extend the available seating somehow.



In the same way the size of a church facility impacts how many people we can invite to join our community. How many people can we invite to join us at our table? How can we reconfigure our available space to maybe accommodate a few more? These are questions we are constantly wrestling with in Pilgrim's current facility. These questions are becoming harder and harder as we seek to have room for the needs of our community, as well as invite others to join us.

What we want is in God's name, to be a welcoming place that can offer a caring environment for everything in our Pilgrim community, young and old. We also want to be able to welcome the outside community, to reach out and invite them to join us, and to walk with us on this journey of discipleship.

And so, as we think about being a welcoming place we want to make sure we are not unduly limited by space. The areas that are already an issue for Pilgrim are the size and shape of the Narthex, and the number of rooms available for Sunday School, to name a couple of examples. The size and adequacy of our kitchen is another example, which impacts and limits our ability to reach out to the community, especially to those in need.

As we walk together through this Grateful Hearts Capital Campaign, we are prayerfully considering how best to be a welcoming place that has enough room at the table so that we can invite people to join us. We seek God's guidance in how we can care for one another and for the larger community around us. I invite you to continue in prayer for Pilgrim Lutheran and our ministry on South Hill. We pray as well for this capital campaign, a campaign of Grateful Hearts.

God bless you all,

Pastor Steve Schumacher

Campaign Goals

The Campaign Leadership Committee, with the approval of the Congregational Board, established three baseline goals for this three-year capital campaign:

Celebration: \$2,800,000

Challenge: \$2,200,000

Cornerstone: \$1,300,000

What Each Step Builds

The vision, based on the work of the Long Range Planning Committee and the Building Committee, is a **\$4.8 million facility built in two sections**. These numbers are estimates only; the final project costs will come from builders' responses to our request for construction proposals.

At the first or **Cornerstone Goal** (\$1.3 million) combined with borrowing up to our Thrivent-imposed limit (\$1.9 million of new money), we estimate we can do **detailed planning, get permits, move dirt, and build the classrooms and multipurpose building** indicated on the plan in the Grateful Hearts campaign booklet as Section 1. Borrowing less than the maximum could result in a scaled-down version of Section 1.

At the second or **Challenge Goal** (\$2.2 million) combined with borrowing up to our Thrivent-imposed limit (\$1.9 million of new money), we estimate that we can **complete Section 1 and do a considerable amount of work on Section 2**. By borrowing at a medium level (\$1.2 million), we estimate that we could complete Section 1 with a lesser increase in the operating budget to service the debt.

At the top or **Celebration Goal** (\$2.8 million) combined with borrowing up to our Thrivent-imposed limit, we estimate that we would be very close to **building the entire Master Plan**.



Commitment Sunday

On **Commitment Sunday, February 22, 2009**, our campaign co-chairs will share their stewardship plans with us as we join together with grateful hearts to commit ourselves to the campaign. In the Campaign Booklet, you have the opportunity to develop your pledge. With this newsletter, you received a commitment card that you will bring to the service on February 22 to place on the altar. If you would prefer to discuss your commitment with a member of the team, please call Doug Willrich, Commitment Visits Director, 253 840-0822. He will arrange for someone to visit you in your home. If you are not ready by February 22 to make your commitment, you can mail it or leave it in the church office.

All-Church Banquet: Fun, Food, Fellowship

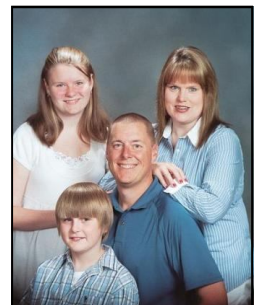
You won't want to miss the **all-church banquet** to be held on Friday, February 20, at 6:00 p.m. in the Pioneer Park Pavilion in downtown Puyallup. The event offers a rare opportunity for **all members of the congregation** to dine together and enjoy fellowship. The "Three Tenors," plus Country performers straight from Nashville, will headline the entertainment. You'll also learn a little more about the building plans and campaign.

There is no cost for this dinner, but we do need a count. Please respond to members of the Hospitality Committee when they call. Child care, including snacks, for children between 3 and 12 years will be provided at Peace Lutheran Church at 214 East Pioneer. Please let the Hospitality caller know if you will require this service.

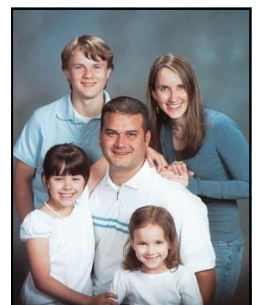
Judy Root and Lonna Groce
Co-Directors, Banquet Committee

Grateful Hearts Supporting the Campaign

The **Jessee** family, Michael, Elizabeth, Ashlynn and Brandon, became members of Pilgrim over five years ago. Michael and Elizabeth both enjoy ushering, and Ashlynn is active in the acolyte program. Michael and Elizabeth also donate blood, Elizabeth has been a member of the choir, and Ashlynn and Brandon are active in Confirmation and Sunday School respectively. Elizabeth says: *"We support the Grateful Hearts campaign because we see the need for more space so the church can continue to grow and fulfill its mission of serving the community of South Hill. We are looking forward to this growth, and are thankful and blessed to have such a wonderful church family to worship with."*



Greg and Allison Melchert have been Pilgrim members since 1998. They came in search of a place where they and their children would feel at home. Jonah 14, Samantha 10, and Julia 4 have all been involved in church activities, and the family has witnessed first-hand how the church has struggled to make space for each of these age groups. Greg says: *"We feel strongly that supporting the Grateful Hearts Campaign will not only help our kids' spiritual growth, but allow many young families such as ours used to be to experience the grace of God in a welcoming setting. We have a wonderful opportunity on South Hill to serve God and reach out to children because our church family is strong."*



Give with a Cheerful Heart

The fact that we have reached consensus that we must have additional facilities is a strong indication that we are doing what the Holy Spirit is leading us to do. Pray that our hearts will remain focused on serving Christ on South Hill, whatever it takes.

"Each of you must give what you have decided in your heart, not with regret or under compulsion, since God loves a cheerful giver." 2 Corinthians 9:7

Planned Giving: Many Are the Ways

As the Pilgrim Sunday School's Christmas/Epiphany program wonderfully reminded us, we, like the Magi, give gifts in response to Christ's coming and in response to His call to us. And while we at Pilgrim are extraordinarily generous in writing checks for our annual operating budget, and will likewise do so for the Grateful Hearts Campaign, below you will find additional types of giving. The fact is that successful capital campaigns often see contributions come from sources such as these:

Appreciated Assets

Consider contributing appreciated assets: property, stocks, mutual funds or other investments. After the recent turmoil in the stock market many of you are probably snickering (or crying) at the idea that stocks and mutual funds might be highly appreciated. But they can be, and you will receive joyful satisfaction about making a significant gift to our church; ***use a recognized planning tool to*** avoid paying taxes on capital gains; and realize a charitable gift deduction for the full amount of your gift.

Gifting from an IRA

Those of you over 70 ½ can make a tax free charitable contribution to the church from your IRA. The contribution must be made directly from your IRA to Pilgrim and it may be applied to your Required Minimum Distribution.

Personal Property

Gifts to the church can include personal property. Do you have a good car, an RV, or a boat that you would be willing to dedicate? These too, can be contributed. It is important, however, that these personal properties have value.

Lifestyle Giving

Consider lifestyle adjustments. Going camping with the family in place of a more expensive vacation, postponing the purchase of an automobile or remodeling of a home, are all ways to "find money" in order to make a generous gift. Remember that our forebears often took second mortgages on their homes in order to build their churches.

Shared Benefit Gifts

There are also several ways in which the financial benefits of a gift can be shared between the donor and the church. These include charitable remainder trusts, gift annuities, and life estate agreements. It is recommended that you contact your financial advisor if you are considering a gift of this nature. **I plan to hold a seminar on this type of giving sometime in the second half of 2009, so if you are interested in this, please be on the lookout for this event.**

It is my privilege as Director of Planned Giving to help you with your gift planning; please feel free to contact me for further information.

Jonathan Jepsen,
Director, Planned Giving
253-848-0909

