

Grace United
Methodist Church

Newsletter #1
March 2008

"For the word of the Lord is right; and all His work is done in faithfulness."

~Psalm 33:4

Dear Friends

Grace United Methodist Church leadership has a vision – a big, beautiful vision – a vision I believe that has been set before them by the Holy Spirit.

This vision will be set before our church family in many ways during the upcoming weeks. To do this, we need hundreds of helpers. Through direct involvement, every member of this congregation will be given the opportunity to grasp the vision.

The stewardship program will be identified as "Hand in Hand" - **Finishing Strong, Starting Fresh**. This congregation has been faithful in meeting the challenges placed before it by the Holy Spirit. Those chal-

lenges have included, but are not confined to, building. To continue to fulfill the Lord's mission and ministry to this congregation and community, we are being challenged to **FINISH** what we have started as well as **START AFRESH** in some areas.

I know you will respond in the tradition of Grace United Methodist Church when you are contacted to volunteer. This contact will come to you within weeks from a member of the Campaign Leadership Team. In preparation for those contacts, I encourage you to begin praying. Ask God to give you guidance on how and where you can volunteer to serve. If you will only



Pastor Bob Coleman

ask, I promise you will receive an answer that will have positive influence on others and be personally rewarding. Grace United Methodist Church needs your help!

Truly, we enjoy the fruits of those who have gone before us. I am confident we will build on their tradition for the future.

In God's Love,

Pastor Bob

We need your help and prayers!

Our leadership team is a group of people who have generously agreed to serve as campaign directors, and they are now trained for their tasks. During the next few months we'll be asking a number of you to

help with various campaign-related projects and we hope you will respond with a resounding **Yes!** When you receive your invitation to an informational gathering we hope you will support those who are hosting

by accepting the invitation.



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Campaign Schedule

- **April 13**—Vision Awareness Weekend
- **April 14 to May 3**—Advanced Cultivation Gatherings
- **April 19**—Prayer Vigil
- **April 19 & 20**—Children & Youth Weekend
- **April 26 & 27**—Ministry Celebration
- **April 27**—Ministry Fair
- **May 3 & 4**—Commitment Services
- **May 17 & 18**—First Fruits Services

Our Campaign Vision



Unfinished second floor of the Schrader Center.

We feel God is leading us to build for the future, to accommodate and grow Children, Youth, and Adult ministries. We will open our doors to the local community, and abroad, by preparing the people of Grace to go out in service as disciples of Christ to the world.

Our estimated campaign goal is to raise \$1.3 million over the next 3 years.

Our vision of ministry now demands that we expand our facilities and ministries and finish what we started 4 years ago.

The proposed Grace project will include:

- Finishing the second floor of the Schrader Youth Center for our growing youth ministry.
- Improve the children's playground to accommodate the pre-school and children's ministries.
- Fund seed monies to expand our children, youth and adult ministries.
- Build a new, more visible sign at our SR 44 entrance.
- Reduce the principle on our current mortgage.
- Fund a Columbarium.
- Expand our parking.
- Create a reserve fund for our ongoing building upkeep.

Vision Awareness Events

In mid to late March each of you will receive an invitation to a gathering, either at Grace, Franklin Community or in private homes, where you can hear details of the project and fund-raising campaign. These are not times when we will solicit pledges, but rather opportunities for you to begin praying for guidance on how you can become a part of and support this campaign.

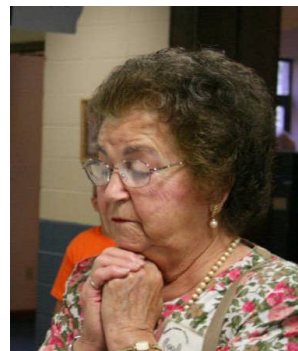
Prayer Vigil

"...Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom and your dominion endures through all generations."

Psalms 145:13

Beginning at 7:00 a.m. and running through 5:00 p.m. Saturday, April 19th, Grace Church will be challenged to commit to pray for our church, our ministries, our community, and our world. Remember – this campaign is focused on our future. We will have the opportunity to ask God for His

guidance as we embark on this campaign.



Beulah Schrader

Our Campaign Consultant



Kurt Appel

Dr. Kurt Appel is a Senior Consultant for the Church Division of Cargill Associates, a stewardship development firm dedicated to raising funds for churches and organizations both nationally and internationally.

An ordained Elder in the United Methodist Church, Dr. Appel spent a decade in full-time ministry serving large and small membership churches on the Mississippi Gulf Coast. With his background in church development and experience in the local church, his ministry is focused upon helping churches

become disciple making congregations.

Because of Cargill Associates' reputation for successful church stewardship planning and programming, Dr. Appel joined the team because it enabled him to be in ministry with a broad spectrum of churches seeking to grow in mission and ministry.

Prior to entering ministry Dr. Appel was an Engineer with Sharp Electric, Inc., a major commercial and industrial electrical contractor. He completed his undergraduate work in

Mechanical Engineering at Louisiana Tech University, earned a Master of Divinity degree from Perkins School of Theology at Southern Methodist University and received his Doctor of Ministry degree from Columbia Theological Seminary.

Kurt and his wife Claudia have three children Meg (17), Olivia (13) and Blake (10) and currently reside in Gulfport, MS



Campaign Leadership



Our Leadership Team

Campaign Coordinators

Barbara Angotti & Sandy Adams act as liaisons between all the Directors, Pastor, Campaign directors, and consultant throughout the campaign. They are particularly tasked with organizing lists of names for volunteers and special lists as needed for unique groups throughout the campaign program.

Campaign Directors-Chet & Sandy Pietras and Bill & Fran Oakes are the lay leaders of the campaign who will coordinate the work of the Leadership Team and inform the congregation of progress.

Major Donor Directors - Jack & Erma Byrum will cultivate major gifts for the campaign.

Advance Cultivation Directors-

Bob & Sylvia Barger, Jackie Miller, Steve & Brenda Wakefield and Jerry & Faye Petro will organize and cultivate above average commitments, providing support for the campaign.

Children/Youth Directors-Stacey Erdman, Angela Clark and Sara Warwick will lead in tithing education and ensure that the children and youth of the church take an active part in the campaign.

Commitment Directors-Beulah Schrader & Pat Burton will lead in contacting parishioner homes to receive commitment responses.

Communications Directors-Laura Bowman & Roger Smith will coordinate campaign publicity and inform the congregation of the meaning and message of the program through print and video.

Follow-Up Directors-Dave & Carol Hamilton and Rick & Laura Bowman will provide support throughout the giving period and involve new members as they join Grace Church.

Hospitality Directors-Bob & Sylvia Barger will be responsible for the food and decorations at the Vision Awareness Gatherings.

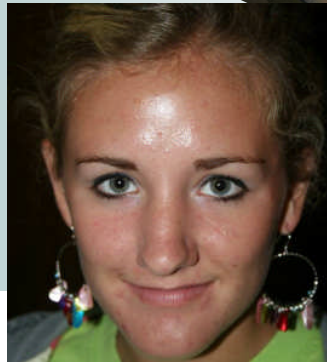
Mailing Directors-Jim & Nancy Johnson and Cleo & Jim Simpson will coordinate all materials, mailings and other information used during the campaign.

Ministry Emphasis Directors-Verne & Jane Johnson will coordinate a program to educate the congregation about the ongoing ministry and mission of The Falls Church.

Vision Awareness Directors-Kathy Stolz will lead and implement a church-wide effort to share information about the campaign.

Spiritual Life Directors-Joey & Amanda Ott and John & Joyce Elliott will organize and implement a 24-hour prayer vigil to lay the spiritual foundation for the campaign.





Ministry Celebration Weekend

Be sure to attend services on April 26 or 27. These services will be a celebration of where God has led us thus far. Following this special service on Sunday, April 27th, you will be invited to participate in our Ministry Fair. The Fair will feature all the ministries we support; a surprising number both inside Grace Church, in the community and abroad. Want to know why we need to finish the Schrader Center, improve

the pre-school and children ministries playground, and expand our ministries? Come to the Fair and the need will be crystal clear.

If you are a ministry leader, be sure to contact the church office to find out how you can participate.

We're on the web!
www.franklingrace.org

"Praise the Lord! Blessed is the man who fears the Lord, who delights greatly in His commandments."

~Psalm 112:1