

What is expected of me?

Everything that happens at West Side happens as God's Spirit works through all of us who are seeking to hear and follow Him. You can be a part of this exciting project to make our church responsive to our current needs and opportunities, and leave a heritage for those who follow us, just as we have benefited from the generosity and commitment of those who came before us.

First of all, covenant to pray for the mighty outworking of God's will through our responsiveness to His leading. Who knows what God might accomplish here in West Seattle as we are bold to follow Him!

Secondly, ask Him specifically what He expects of you, both in terms of involvement and in terms of giving. Can you imagine what God might do if every member of our church were to pray honestly, "Lord, what would You do through me?" Where would such a journey lead us? Certainly lives would be changed, beginning with our own and extending to the entire community and beyond! But it begins with the prayerful response of each one of us.

This campaign is an opportunity to stretch our faith. We will need to raise about \$1.7 million to complete the current project. But God might have much more in mind for us. Instead of simply making a donation decision, we are challenging one another to make a faith commitment that reflects our sense of God's calling. Far more than simply sharing some resources, our stewardship becomes a way of sharing our faith.

Begin your journey now. Learn more about our church's mission and ministries. Ask questions. Get

informed. And make a serious commitment to pray and to seek God's face.

How might I consider a Capital Campaign Gift?

"Not equal gifts, but equal sacrifice" describes our understanding of stewardship. The phrase restates the biblical principle of proportionate giving. Not everyone has the resources to make a million-dollar gift, but every person can make a prayerful, sacrificial gift in the spirit in which Jesus Christ gave himself for us. We encourage an equal sense of commitment and sacrifice throughout our congregation, with each person prayerfully determining his or her own gift.

When would construction begin?

The commitment phase of the *Connections: Building for Community* campaign is scheduled to be completed in May 2006, and if sufficient capital is generated to fund the project, construction is scheduled to begin at the end of June and continue through the end of the year.

What happens next?

You will continue to receive mailings about the details of our *Connections: Building for Community* campaign. You will probably be called (if you haven't been already) to assist in some portion of putting on this campaign. We hope that you throw yourself into all these opportunities with interest and enthusiasm. On the third Sunday in March, we will begin a five-week walk together as a family, as we each consider what it means to be faithful stewards to God in this congregation where we live our lives. So stay tuned, there is more to come!

Mark Your Calendar

Connection Points Meetings: March 12-19

These meetings augment the information presented at the recent town hall meetings with the inclusion of a video presentation as well as additional handouts related to the building plan and stewardship campaign. Everyone is encouraged to attend one of these gatherings.

A season of Prayer: Now until the campaign ends

Individually, and as a church, we will prepare our hearts to share the *Connections: Building for Community* vision. A devotional guide has been included in your information packet to help focus your study and prayer in the coming weeks. Take time to seek God's will, that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened.

A Season of Inspiration: March 19-April 23

During this time, Pastor Paul will be exploring the scriptures with us to offer teaching and guidance focused on subjects such as prayerful decision making, discovering God's will, stewardship, sacrificial giving and commitment. The purpose of these lessons will be to enable our entire congregation to share the vision as we respond to God's call.

Commitment Sunday/Special Event: April 23

At a Special Congregational Fellowship Event following the morning worship services, everyone will be invited to register his or her personal response to the *Connections: Building for Community* campaign. Watch for announcements about the Special Event plans.

Celebration Sunday: May 14

Plan to be present in worship on this special Sunday as we celebrate the great things God has done! In the worship services we will share the financial results of the *Connections: Building for Community* campaign.

Connections

Building for Community

Dear West Side Family,

Some very exciting things have been happening at West Side recently, and I want to take this opportunity to share some important information with you. A few years ago, the property just south of the church became available. Since we had no room to grow, many of you spontaneously contributed nearly a third of a million dollars to purchase the property and open up new possibilities for our future ministry here in West Seattle. Thank you! That launched us on a three-year vision process to learn what God's will might hold for us next. The results surprised us all, but we are delighted with the direction God is leading us as we pursue our mission of a transforming community building disciples for Jesus Christ.

The Vision Team listened to every suggestion of new ministry options. Then each idea was explored in terms of West Side's mission, expressed need, resources required, and impact on our facility and staff. We learned that with some changes, most of the current ideas could be accommodated in our present building, although some would require additional staff. We then went on to interview leaders from all the various ministries here to ask how our facility might better meet their needs.

Out of all this listening has emerged an exciting and creative plan to update our current facilities so that we can fulfill God's calling more effectively, at the same time keeping the new property available for creative future ministries. The Building Committee, working with builders and an outstanding architect, has developed a plan many of you have seen (available on our web site at www.wspc.org). This plan

West Side
Presbyterian
Church
Capital
Stewardship
Campaign

March 2006

Information Sheet

transforms some key areas at the heart of our church and enables us to build a stronger church community that better equips us for the ministry to which God has called us.

The enclosed information will help you begin to see the reasons for our excitement about this project. We believe the plan not only connects the various portions of our building more efficiently and makes ministry networking easier, but perhaps most importantly creates

space for connecting us to each other, to those with special needs, and to the community around us – particularly to those who are newest at West Side. In this community we can all become more closely connected with Jesus Christ.

Our vision for a Biblical community will require genuine Biblical stewardship. Each of us is being asked to prayerfully

consider making a sacrificial commitment above our ongoing tithes and offerings. It is our prayer to raise about \$1.7 million over three years in order to become the church community we believe God desires us to be. Building connections in the community is an important part of our future ministry, and you are vital to its success.

These are exciting days at West Side. There is a true spirit of grace and caring here which has drawn each of us into this community where we have been nurtured in our walk with Jesus Christ. Please join us, and be among those who will learn first-hand the joy of participating in God's incredible plan for West Side – a faithful community and mission to the world!

In His name,



Paul R. Smith, pastor

Connections
Building for Community

West Side Presbyterian Church

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“You also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house.” I Peter 2:5a

What are we hoping to accomplish?

After asking the question, “Does our vision for ministry drive our facility, or does our facility drive (or perhaps limit) our vision for ministry?,” West Side’s session has voted to develop a plan to renovate our current facility, with a commitment to carrying out our current ministry more effectively and opening doors to the future expansion of our ministry to West Seattle and the world.

We have been blessed by the vision of an earlier generation which has bequeathed to us a wonderful facility designed to meet their vision in a community which has changed dramatically in the intervening years. Our church was built to accommodate traditional families looking for ways to educate their children in the Christian faith. Today, West Seattle has many more non-traditional families, elderly and singles, many of whom lack the heritage of faith or the strength of community that nurtured and sustained Christian faith in previous generations. Through the Connections Campaign, we will enhance the opportunities for building lasting relationships that are based on the foundation of Jesus Christ.

What is our building plan?

Simply, our building plan is to design a facility that enables and enhances our mission and ministry. We believe that each change to our current facility will create a stronger church community in four key ways:

- connects the various portions of our building more efficiently
- makes ministry networking easier
- creates space for connecting us to each other, to those with special needs, and to the community around us
- enables us to become more closely connected with Jesus Christ

Expanded entry area for nurturing community – connecting current and future members

Primary in our vision for ministry is the creation of a vital community, centered on Jesus Christ, in which lives are transformed. The world around us no longer shares our fundamental belief in the gospel, but we have witnessed hundreds of lives being transformed as people become involved here with a healthy and compassionate family of believers. How we enhance that outreach by building into our facility greater opportunities for nurturing connections has been a primary motivation for new plans, which would open up significant space near the front entrance for a variety of fellowship and community activities.

Church growth experts have found that creating gathering space convenient to the worship area is vitally important and effective in attracting and building a healthy, growing congregation. Such space for the welcoming of guests and the nurture of community is essential to following-up on those who come in from the outside and inform us that they were first drawn to West Side by its location and attractive facilities, but who stayed because of the community they found inside.

Life-safety and accessibility – connecting ministry space and those with special needs

A major driving force for updating our facility at this time is simply our moral responsibility for the safety and accessibility of our church building. Currently, nearly 2/3 of the building is difficult or impossible to access for many with special needs. Our plan features an elevator that allows access for all people to all our classes, services, and ministries.

Safety is also a major concern. We have learned that we do not meet current standards on a score of safety issues all public buildings are now required to meet. Regardless of current codes, we want to accept our responsibility for the well being of our entire congregation, including those with special needs. Right now the congestion at the narthex (between the sanctuary, front entrance, and office) is a serious safety hazard, especially to those who are less mobile. A number of people have fallen or been knocked down by the crowd that gathers there on Sundays or during special activities. And many of us are reluctant to stop and talk to friends in this area after worship because we don’t want to create a traffic jam.

Opening up the entryway, widening corridors, and changing the flow of

people through the building will greatly reduce the risk and inconvenience in the current layout, and will allow us space to connect with friends without adding to the congestion. New restrooms for those with special needs are also included in the building plan.

More efficient layout of offices, classrooms, and storage areas – connecting staff and ministry

Our Vision Team and Building Committee have interviewed scores of people responsible for the various ministries of West Side, asking them what improvements to the facility might enhance their respective ministries. The current plan has been drawn up specifically to respond to the concerns of those most involved in our ministry, as follows:

- consolidates staff offices upstairs while connecting them to the heart of the church with an opening above the front entrance
- modifies educational and gathering spaces to accommodate multi-usage, including larger and smaller groups.
- improves the kitchen and encloses outdoor space to reclaim it for ministry
- rearranges storage areas to make them more efficient and accessible

Building for the future – connecting the present and the future

The plan described above surprised all of us who began by asking how we might use the newly acquired property just south of the church. But this plan emerged directly from consideration of the mission to which we believe God has called West Side, and from our conversations with those responsible for our current ministry. It has become our conviction that if we can use our current building more effectively to accomplish our current mission, the possibilities are greatly enlarged for using the new property to *expand* our ministry in new and creative ways.

Ultimately, West Side is about ministry and mission, and our session is committed to nurturing both. The key to a vital mission and ministry is a healthy and growing congregation that is doing the job God has given us. We are committed to using the resources God has given in the most effective way possible to accomplish that goal.

What will a project like this cost?

The most recent construction cost estimates were prepared by our construction general contractor with input from his subcontractors, and are based upon the design development drawings prepared by our architect at the end of October 2005. If all of the desired improvements are built, the total construction cost will be about \$1.7 million. The final scope of the project will be determined by session, based on the congregation’s response to this vision

What is our financial plan?

Because the planned stewardship campaign calls for contributions over three years, we will need to borrow funds on an interim basis to fund construction costs. Three years allows most of us to adjust our resources and assets as necessary to support the project as God directs us. What financing is required will likely be done through a commercial bank, although other options are being considered. Of course any early gifts reduce the cost of financing.

