

ConnectionPoints

West Side Presbyterian Church

Capital Stewardship Campaign 2006, Issue 1

Connections Campaign Sets a Celebration Point

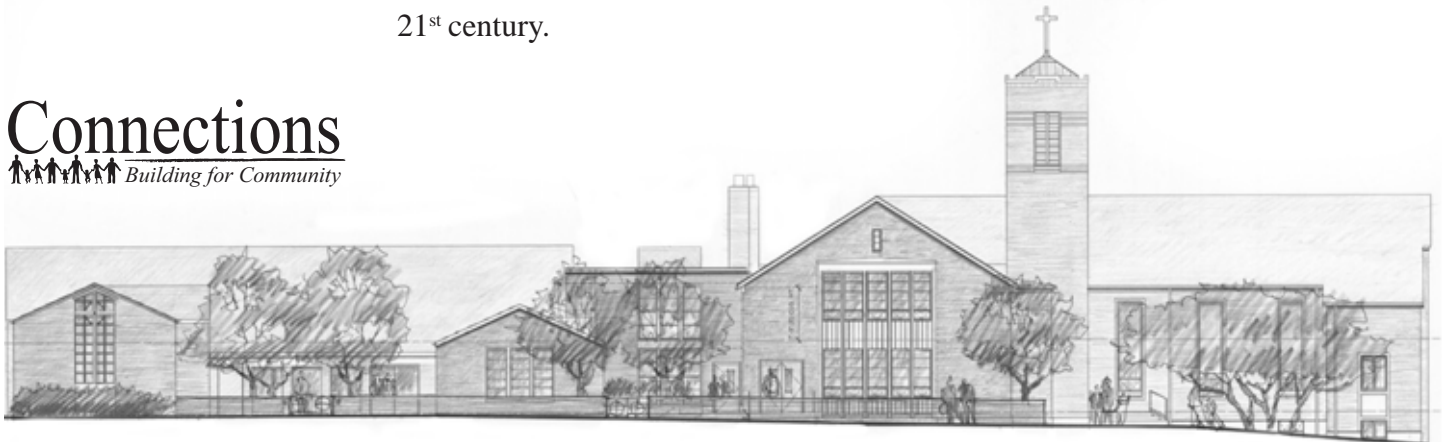
On Sunday, March 19, Pastor Paul launched the inspiration phase of our church-wide capital campaign with an insightful sermon about community. We were reminded that God has made us with a deep sense of the need for meaningful relationships and He has designed the church to fulfill this need. We have been blessed to be part of a thriving church body at West Side and by the relationships we have formed here. The following three Sundays will include other campaign-related themes as Paul explores God's word concerning our calls to missions, stewardship and discipleship.

Leading up to this phase of the capital campaign were months of preparation, and from this point forward, our church will devote time to the study, prayer and fellowship necessary to make the important personal decisions we face. The **Connections** campaign will culminate in a Special Event on April 23 at The Hall at Fauntleroy. This will be a time where the entire congregation is invited to enjoy a time of fellowship and to learn the dollar amount of three-year financial commitments that have been received to date. In addition, those in attendance will be given the opportunity to submit commitment cards if they have not previously done so.

Given the estimated project cost of \$1.7 million, the leadership team of the campaign has set a **Celebration Point of \$1.3 million**. This amount represents a level of giving that indicates a serious commitment to the renovation project and the vision for our ministries at West Side. Please spend these next few weeks in prayer and study as you begin to ask how God will use you during this important time in our church's history.

Connections: Building for Community is a challenge to personally encounter God's love and mercy, and to respond with all our hearts. As our church seeks God's direction in prayer and as we recognize the joy of giving in God's name, we will move toward our Celebration Goal and the vision for our church in the 21st century.

Connections
Building for Community



Focused Day of Prayer - April 19

Every work of God begins, advances and comes to completion upheld and sustained by prayer and praise. As a church congregation we will have the opportunity to do this on Wednesday, April 19. Everyone in whose heart God is stirring up a desire to pray for all that's going on at West Side these days is welcomed to come and share time in prayer.

Place: West Side Chapel
Provision will be made for those unable to get to the church.

Time: 9 a.m. - 8 p.m.
Come when you can, leave when necessary.

Focus: Prayer and praise will be guided as we mention by name everyone who attends West Side.
Prayer can be alone and silent or in small groups and audible. Someone from the Connections Prayer Team will always be present. A sign up poster will be displayed in the foyer by April 1.

Coming Events

Hospitality Reservation Calls **April 7-12**
Focused Day of Prayer **April 19**
Special Event/Children's Activity **April 23**
Response Contacts. **May 8-13**
Celebration Sunday **May 14**

Not Equal Gifts but Equal Sacrifice

The simple and profound theme that underscores **Connections: Building for Community** comes from the Bible's teaching about proportionate giving and the blessings of sacrifice. No gift impresses God in terms of dollar amounts, but as extensions of the love and obedience with which they are given and proportion of resources from which they come. God, in other words, looks on the heart.

Sacrifice means something different to everyone. For some, it may mean to eliminate some current expenditures to increase giving. Others will delay a major expenditure. Some people will find ways to increase

Together

"We will glorify your name forever."
—Psalm 86:12

You are joyfully invited to West Side Presbyterian's special gathering to celebrate God's faithfulness and provisions to us, and to offer our commitments to the Connections capital stewardship campaign.

Sunday, April 23, 2006

The Hall at Fauntleroy

1 to 3 p.m.

Lunch will be served

There will be special activities for children preschool through elementary age.

their income in order to give to **Connections**. Some will give special gifts out of their assets, such as stocks, bonds, valuables, etc.

Our goals are to grow thoroughly, to live purposefully, and to give generously, all to God's glory.

Please remember that your experience with personal sacrifice is not a one-time check or contribution, but a profound way to explore and deepen the gift of giving. How you respond stands to change your daily life, true, but the story doesn't stop there.

Should you give up something in order to give? Remember, you are sacrificing belongings that will one day be useless, forgotten, dust, for something that can live forever.

Questions Anyone?

What is “*Connections: Building for Community*?”

Connections: Building for Community is our capital stewardship program to secure the money our church needs to move wisely toward its mission and goals.

What is each of us asked to do?

To study with us what the Bible teaches about stewardship and giving and for each person to prayerfully consider how he or she may make a financial commitment over and above regular giving for the next three years.

Where can I find more information about the renovation project and capital campaign?

The front bulletin board and counter includes a list of frequently asked questions related to the building plans, drawings of those plans and much of the materials that have been distributed during the capital campaign. In addition, West Side’s web site (www.wspc.org) remains a useful resource of information related to the project.

How can I help?

When the opportunity arises, volunteer to serve. (To sign up, you are welcome to call any member of the Leadership Team; names and numbers are listed on the back page.) Please pray for our church and for the campaign.

“ I Love Owing My Father ”

A young woman with financial struggles and an old car of dubious life span was surprised when her father presented her with a brand new automobile and the words “pay us back as you can.” Deeply touched, she found herself redoubling her efforts at work and began immediately to repay her dad. At every pay period, the first check she wrote was to her father, and every payment, she said, felt good. When a friend urged her not to be in such a hurry to hand off money to her own father, the young woman said, “My father doesn’t need anything, and I’ve never known what to buy him. Now I have a way to show him what he means to me. I *love* owing my father.”

Apply this story to the spirit of our church’s capital campaign, and it does the job: the young woman’s gratitude shows that “sacrifice” is a state of mind—and that giving *back* can affect deep joy. That is the joy all of us can rediscover in giving, and it is the true motivation for sacrifice.

“And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together...”

—Hebrews 10:24, 25

Connections: Building for Community

is our church’s effort to express gratitude for what God does for us and what He can do through us and to return to God gifts from our hearts. That brings us quickly to a crossroads where finances become a matter of faith... where giving becomes a *freedom*, I might add, and not a burden—just as the young woman in the story discovered.

Throughout *Connections*, we will talk about sacrifice and proportional giving. We will focus on giving over and above current tithes, and we will explore the meaning and methods of personal sacrifice — which is what it will take to achieve the goals set for our church. During the coming campaign, I encourage you to listen carefully to the sermons and devotional guide. I also want to emphasize that your decision to give, and specifically what you give, is between you and God. Remember that what you choose to give for the next three years should not be in response to a church need, but a reaction of gratitude.

The effects we have on our worlds begin as we learn more and more not just to believe in, but to *trust* God. During the campaign, please pray that God will guide our church and leave Christ’s imprint on individual hearts. Ask God to keep us on the path of obedience and trust. Pray that our capital campaign will accomplish what it is meant to do: to focus our vision for the Creator’s work and keep us aware of the privilege of our part in it.

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Building for Community
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Seattle, WA 98116

Connections Leadership Team

Note: for the web version of the newsletter, phone numbers have been removed.

West Side's all-volunteer campaign Leadership Team exists to provide leadership and direction. Naturally, more volunteers are always welcome. For information on where you are needed and how much help you will be, please contact one of the Leadership Team members listed below.

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| Campaign Leaders
Jim & Jill Campbell | Financial Reporter
Shirley Tupper | Response Leader
Freda Ricord |
| Coordinator
Debbie Clark | Follow-up Leaders
Chuck & Colleen Morgan | Small Group Leaders
Louis Platt
Mike McGaffey |
| Advance Commitment Leaders
Bill & Betty Code | Hospitality Leaders
Molly Coyner-Cozens
Betty Campbell | Special Event Leader
Becky Herb |
| Children's Activity Leader
Betty Wallin | Information Leaders
Nick Schroedel
Dave Laudan | Student Activities Leader
Melissa Shults |
| Contact Leaders
Sandra Dahl
Becky Upton | Prayer Leaders
Don & Martha Wilson | Vision Resource Leader
Lynn Hibben |
| Enlistment Leaders
Roger Thorson
Lynda Hurst | Print Communications Leaders
Jamie & Noël Foulk | Visual Communications Leaders
Ron Rice
Trip Teer |