

# ConnectionPoints

West Side Presbyterian Church

Capital Stewardship Campaign 2006, Issue 2

## 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. As you sense God stirring up within you a desire to pray about West Side's future, please come and share time in prayer with your brothers and sisters in Christ.

**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 is displayed in the foyer.*

**Connections**  
Building for Community

## A Time to Celebrate Community

**Sunday, April 23<sup>rd</sup> from 1:00 to 3:00 is a luncheon and All-Church Special Event no one will want to miss!** God has been stirring West Side to consider a new shape for ministry, and all of us will want to know and be a part of it. In the book of Acts, we are introduced to God's plan for the church and find we are called into a community of grace to glorify Jesus Christ and to further God's Kingdom here on earth. Some 2000 years later, West Side is thriving. But new needs in the community we serve call for new forms for ministry, and that's what our **Connections: Building for Community** campaign is all about.

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

We fill the sanctuary twice on Sunday, but since there are several hours in between, we have few opportunities for interaction, and many in our community do not know each other. On Sunday, April 23<sup>rd</sup>, however, the *entire* West Side community is coming together to celebrate in **The Hall at Fauntleroy** at 9131 California Ave. SW.

Every person who attends West Side is invited to join together for a wonderful luncheon, followed by a video celebrating the West Side community, uplifting music, personal testimonies, the latest update on our vision for connecting with our community, an advance commitment announcement, and an opportunity for each of us to complete a commitment card. God has been doing some truly amazing things at West Side, and this event will be both enlightening and encouraging for all of us.

**A Special Event for Children** 2 years old through elementary age will be held simultaneously, and will include activities coordinated by our Children & Family Ministry Director, Betty Wallin.

There is no charge for the event. You are the church's guest. It is an opportunity to say "thank you" for the wonderful commitment we enjoy from a congregation that deeply wants to do God's will, regardless of the cost.



# WEST SIDE: A Special Community with a Special Calling

For the last month, we have been exploring our calling at West Side Presbyterian Church.

**A Call to Community:** We learned first of all that we have been called into a very special community where we share God's grace with one another. As in the book of Acts, this community is marked by generous sharing of both material and spiritual resources. We care for each other and for people with special needs. And in the interaction of this community, lives are transformed.

**A Call to Mission:** But we learned as well that this community has been given a mission to reach out

to the surrounding community in the name of Jesus Christ. Many people in our larger community are isolated and do not have a supportive and godly community to which to belong. We are called to share the mission of creating such a community where people may encounter Jesus Christ.

**A Call to Stewardship:** Of course, when God gives us a mission, He gives us the resources to carry it out. Within the membership of West Side are all the material and spiritual resources necessary to complete this mission. But we must avoid the temptation to spend God's resources on

ourselves and neglect the community He has called us to serve.

**A Call to Sacrifice:** Finally, if we are truly followers of Jesus Christ, who sacrificed life itself for us on the cross, we will want to make a significant sacrifice in the pursuit of His calling. No one touched by the costly grace of the cross will ever desire to use God's resources simply to indulge himself.

This calling informs and inspires our CONNECTIONS: *Building for Community* campaign as we seek to use our building in the best way to advance the mission to which Christ has called us.

—Pastor Paul

## An Important Card

What you see here is a reproduction of the CONNECTIONS *Commitment Card*.

You'll receive an actual card at our all-church Special Event on April 23rd, at which time you will be asked to complete and turn it in.

Your commitment to CONNECTIONS should be in addition to your current gifts to West Side's ministries and missions. We recognize that this is an individual decision for each of you and urge you to simply listen for God's direction as you consider an appropriate response to the vision He has placed on the hearts of our leaders.

The Commitment Card also provides space to indicate non-cash gifts such as those outlined in the *Creative Strategies in Giving* pamphlet that was distributed at the Connection Point Meetings. This can be a tax-efficient method of giving that maximizes your contribution to our vision for West Side's future.

**Connections Building for Community Commitment Card**

Understanding that all I/we possess is a gift from God, and knowing that He delights in multiplying the blessings, He bestows on His children, I/we rejoice in the calling to participate in Connection with the following three-year commitment.

I/we will begin giving based on my/our commitment on \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_.

\*Signed over due to Celebration Sunday, May 14, 2006. This commitment is a statement of intent and may be altered in circumstances warrant.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

**Connections Building for Community Typical Commitments You Could Make Over a 156-week Period**

	3-year Total	Annually	Monthly	Weekly
900,000	300,000	25,000	5,770	
300,000	100,000	8,333	1,923	
150,000	50,000	4,167	962	
90,000	30,000	2,500	577	
45,000	15,000	1,250	288	
30,000	10,000	833	192	
5,000	1,667	139	33	
6,000	2,000	167	38	
1,000	333	28	7	
1,800	600	50	12	
1,500	500	42	10	

\*Each of you must give as you made up your mind, not necessarily in some order, for God loves a cheerful giver! —1 Corinthians 9:7

## Questions Anyone?

### What is a commitment card, and why use it?

First, our campaign commitment card (sample, opposite page) is not a contract, but a simple statement of intent. For church financial leaders, knowledge of what dollar amounts to expect is critical to planning wisely for future expenditures.

### Is my commitment confidential?

Absolutely. It will not be used in any public way and is exclusively known by Shirley Tupper, our financial secretary.

### If necessary, may I change my commitment?

Of course. Should changing circumstances force you to alter your giving plan, please call Shirley Tupper in the church office and adjust the amount.

### How much should I give?

That is a private decision that we urge you to reach after prayerful consideration of what “not equal gifts, but equal sacrifice” means to you.

### How often do I give?

You determine your giving schedule, but we encourage you to make it regular. Most people will give monthly; some will give quarterly, semi-annually, and once a year.

### When do I begin giving?

The three-year giving phase begins on Celebration Sunday, *May 14th*. To that event, we are encouraged to bring at least one week’s worth of our commitments.

### What is my next step?

Complete the commitment card you receive at the Special Event, fill it out and turn it in then.

# 12 Guidelines for Fruitful Giving

1. **Give first.** Make the first use of my income an act of faithfulness to a loving Lord.
2. **Give gratefully.** Bring to mind God’s gifts and ways this money can matter for eternity. Praise Him, and remind myself of the joy and privilege not of giving, but giving back.
3. **Give faithfully.** Cultivate the discipline of faithfulness regardless of how I feel at the time.
4. **Give proportionally.** Compare my gifts to no one else’s, and happily give from my resources.
5. **Give generously.** It seems like a natural law, and certainly it is biblical, that the way we give, and live is measured back to us. I will give as I would love to receive.
6. **Give sacrificially.** I know and God knows when a gift comes from my heart. Practice giving in a way that expresses my love for God’s kingdom.
7. **Give cheerfully.** God delights in and loves a cheerful giver.
8. **Give freely.** Attach no strings or expectations; seek nothing—particularly public recognition—in return.
9. **Give personally.** Invest myself, my time, and my talent. Involve myself in the privilege of returning to God with the first of all I have. Step back and allow each member of my family the same opportunity for personal involvement.
10. **Give quietly.** Give without fanfare. God sees, and that is all that matters. Never seek to draw attention, but be prepared to explain why I give.
11. **Give expectantly.** Look for ways to share my gifts, bear another’s burden, or contribute my resources to God’s kingdom.
12. **Give worshipfully.** Our model is the author of giving: “For God so loved the world that He gave...”



*“And God is able to make all grace abound toward you, that you, always having all sufficiency in all things, may have an abundance for every good work.”*

—2 Corinthians 9:8

*Coming Events*  
 Focused Day of Prayer ..... April 19  
 Special Event/  
 Children's Activity ..... April 23  
 Celebration Sunday ..... May 14

**Connections**  
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# Drawing on Young Resources

## (Posters on Display)

The poster creations of several of our church's artistic prodigies are currently on display at Howell Auditorium. A warm thank you to every child who participated, and to Betty Wallin, Julie Herrin and Debbie Blagovich who helped arrange the event.



Hailey Sagmoen



Morgan Montemayor



Andrew May