

What is "Prepare the Way?"

"Prepare the Way" is a capital campaign approved by the Administrative Council to help us move forward to our goal of constructing a sanctuary.

When the Long Range Vision Committee surveyed the congregation, indications were that building a sanctuary was desired by the majority of those responding. It was recommended by Horizons Stewardship that we eliminate our debt and then follow through with our vision of building a sanctuary.

With this campaign, after eliminating the current debt of \$1.5 million, we also hope to fund the "soft costs" of planning the sanctuary. Soft costs include architectural, engineering, financing, and legal fees, and other pre- and post-construction expenses.

We already have a team of people in our church praying and leading us in this vital project. However, our success will only be determined by the sacrifices of our church family.

Not an **equal Share**
but an
equal Sacrifice!

What can I do now?

Pray - In the months to come, each family will be asked to pray for guidance, seeking God's will in determining their role in this crucial time in our church. As you pray, you will discover what God has planned for you, your church family and this campaign. When praying, reflect on our campaign prayer, "Lord, what do you want to do through me?"

Praise - Praise God for the endless blessings He has given to St. Andrew's United Methodist Church. Praise God for the current ministries and the potential ministries as a result of this campaign. Praise God for future opportunities He will bring and the lives that will be touched.

Plan - The campaign team is prayerfully planning the future of our church. Each member of our church family is invited to plan and pray in order to seek God's guidance. Plan to be involved. Plan your calendar around the special events that are designed to provide information and celebrate this campaign. And, plan to be a part of the future God has intended for this church!

What is expected at the time of commitment?

Everyone's sacrifice is important if we are to be successful. Your financial involvement is a decision between you and the Lord. Giving is a part of worship but must come from the heart to be pleasing to God. You will not be pressured nor told what to give. However, we ask that you pray to discern God's will for your participation in the campaign.

PRAYER AND *scripture guide*

"...All things come from you, and of your own have we given you." | Chronicles 29:14

King David offered up the above prayer of praise to God as the people prepared to bring forth their offering for the Temple. It is important that each family of our church also spend considerable time praising and praying to the one who has blessed us with such abundance. We have to wonder why we were the recipients of such blessings. What does this "source of all that is" want us to do?

Over the next several weeks please spend time in prayer and study about what God wants to do through you. It is scary. It involves surrendering control to the Creator. It is risky. We might be asked to change. It is also exciting to consider that on that day you are truly living within the will of the Lord.

Use this guide to prompt you and your family's prayer life. We suggest you spend one time each week dealing with one of the Scripture passages and spend time every day simply repeating our campaign prayer, "Lord, what do you want to do through me?"

SEPT 4 - SEPT 10

Read Matthew 6:19-21

- Are your treasures and your heart together?
- When you examine what you have stored up, what does it say about what you trust in? Worship?
- Do you have any treasures stored in heaven? What would you say they are?
- How do you relate this passage to faith?
- Does a campaign like the one our church is involved in cause you to examine your faith more or your checkbook more?

SEPT 11 - SEPT 17

Read II Corinthians 9:6-15

- Can you think of examples in your life where you've seen evidence of "reaping what you sow?"
- What did Paul mean by God loving a cheerful giver? How is a gift not a gift?
- Do you truly believe God is able to provide for you in abundance? Has he? Do we live today with that confidence?

SEPT 18 - SEPT 24

Read Mark 12:41-44

- Have you ever known anyone like this widow?
- Do we honor persons like her in today's society or give more honor to the wealthy?
- How can we guard against developing our pocketbooks at the expense of our spirits?
- What do you think God would say to the rich people in this story?
- Would the Widow and the rich persons view our church campaign differently? How?

SEPT 25 - OCT 1

Read Exodus 35:2-36:7

- Can you ever imagine being in a church where persons gave too much?
- Why do you suppose the Israelites gave as they did?
- What would be the reaction in your church if you secured twice what your campaign needed? What might you do for the Lord?
- Does your church have the ability to do more than they are being asked? Do the people have the will to do more? Do you?

OCT 2 - OCT 8

Read Matthew 16:13-26

- Who do you say Jesus is with the way you live, things you say, and money you spend?
- Jesus says that sacrifice will be necessary for persons to truly walk with him. Why do you think the disciples had such an objection? Did they not have faith?
- Your campaign asks each family to look at an equal sacrifice. Is it hard for you to think of sacrifice and your church in the same vein?
- What could happen today if Christians truly sacrificed for the faith?

OCT 9 - OCT 15

Read Luke 6:37-38

Four things are mentioned here:

1. Don't judge - you will not be judged.
 2. Don't condemn - you will not be condemned.
 3. Forgive - you will be forgiven.
 4. Give - it will be given to you.
- Are any of these easier for you to believe in than the others?
 - How do you believe God gives when we give?

Lord, what do you
want to do **through**
me?

Generosity is...

grounded in **gratitude**

revealed in **prayer**

lived in **faith!**

Prepare the Way Timeline

August 28

Sermon - Vision for Community

September 4

Sermon - Community United in Prayer

September 5 - September 17

Prayer Calls to the Congregation

September 11

Sermon - Community in Worship

September 19

Sermon - Community in Service

September 25

Sermon - Community of Story Tellers

October 30

St. Andrew's Reunion

This will be a fellowship dinner during which we will celebrate the life of St. Andrew's. The reunion is open to the entire church family.

November 5

Church-Wide Prayer Vigil

November 6

Commitment Sunday

We will formally present our personal three-year commitment pledges for the campaign.

December 4

Celebration Sunday

We will celebrate the successful completion of "Prepare the Way" and thank God for speaking to every member in our congregation.

Contacts:

For more information or to have your questions answered, ask one of our campaign chairs:

G.D. & Loretta Madden
gdmadden@cox.net
405.692.0725

Ross & Jan Dewbre
ross@dewbrelaw.com
405.691.2303



A voice of one calling:

"In the wilderness prepare the way for the LORD; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be raised up, every mountain and hill made low; the rough ground shall become level, the rugged places a plain. And the glory of the LORD will be revealed, and all people will see it together. For the mouth of the LORD has spoken."

Isaiah 40:3-5

ABOUT *our logo*

The sun and the mountain in our logo are from an earlier campaign, "Climbing Together With Christ." The sun is now moved to show time has passed since that campaign.

As the sun has changed position, a church is revealed on the horizon. This represents our goal of building a sanctuary.

Isaiah's prophecy concerned the people of God returning to their home in Jerusalem. They lowered high places and elevated low places so the way would be smooth. This is what we will do to prepare the way for others to find a spiritual home at St Andrew's in the same way that we have. Together we will experience the glory of the LORD.



2727 SW 119th Street
Oklahoma City, OK 73170

PREPARE *the* WAY

A WORD *from our Pastor*

Consider the power of a vision! An unfulfilled dream or incomplete task can awaken us each day to the possibilities that exist. Visions hold goals before us that give us momentum to push forward while testing our faithfulness to God's call.

Our vision at St. Andrew's has always been about people. "A loving, caring, overcoming community of faith centered in Jesus Christ" is God's vision for us – that we are a people who gather in a place to receive love, care and strength to overcome when it seems like we cannot go forward.

We have always believed that we would build a place to the glory of God so that the loving, caring, overcoming grace of our Lord can be experienced and shared. We believe that with God's help, we can build a place for people to live in community with God and each other.

This campaign calls us to take the next step toward fulfilling that vision. To reach the goal we will eliminate our existing debt while raising funds to help us prepare for the construction plans and cost to build a place for God's people to gather. And, we are not just trying to raise money! First and foremost, we want to raise the stewardship awareness of the congregation.

This is an exciting adventure for us to share! We can do this, and can do it better together!

It is time for us to seek God's desire as it will be worked and accomplished through us. Begin with simple heartfelt praise. And then as we sit in God's presence, we will listen for God's voice as we anticipate the response to our question "God, what do you want to accomplish through me?"

The vision of constructing a sanctuary is still before us. This campaign is our next step to accomplishing that task. Our vision remains about people! We pray God will use us to reach others the way God has used others to help us experience transforming grace.

Grace and peace,
D.A. Bennett
Sr. Pastor
dabennett@saokc.org
405.692.4242, ext. 101

