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JOURNEY

to...

...and they will do even

GREATER THINGS

>PHASE ONE

than these...John14:12

INSPIRATIONAL PHASE BEGINS

Dear Woodlake Family and Friends,

This week, I had the opportunity to speak with a visitor from one of our worship services. She was dealing with many issues, including substance abuse and alcoholism. It is my prayer that our time of worship, conversation, and follow up will make a difference in her continuing desire to find and follow Christ.

Every week, we have many people coming to our worship and discipleship programs. As was my new friend, all are looking for something—something more, something that is greater than the weekly challenges they are facing.

That is why I am so excited about our **Greater Things** capital campaign. Jesus said that we would do even greater things than he did while on this earth, because He was going to the Father. His words remind us that when we seek greatness for the cause of Christ, great things for His glory and kingdom, that we do so with our Lord's endorsement.

So as you read this newsletter and enter into this stewardship journey, I am praying that you will keep your hearts and minds centered on this theme. We are trying to offer up this church to our Lord, that He might do even **greater things** in our midst.

To get there, we have some serious and prayerful work to do. We currently live on three campuses because there is so little room for our growing congregation. We are in critical need of more space **right now**. The only way we can reach this new vision is to scale and move beyond our wall of debt.

This is a critical time in the life of our congregation. Hard work and joyful giving, offered in this day and time, will make a difference for decades to come. For that reason, I want to encourage you to listen carefully, read carefully, and engage actively in this process throughout the fall. God has called us to **greater things**. I am convinced, that when we reach our debt reduction goal of 2.5 million dollars, God will look at each of us and say, "Well done, good and faithful servant..."

Sincerely in Christ,



Pastor Peter Moon



OUR VISION FOR ONE CAMPUS

Steven Covey, author of the book *“The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People”*, is known for saying we should *begin* with the *end* in mind. As we enter into this new stewardship journey, let’s take a minute to look beyond the horizon.

The plan for Woodlake UMC is to move into a new, all-inclusive facility on the Hampton Park Campus during Christmas 2012. The vision includes having a new sanctuary, office spaces, discipleship building, and family life center all on one campus. It is an aggressive plan, but it addresses the many challenges we currently face. There will be room for everyone in our growing congregation, we will be on one campus, and we will be able to move all of our services from the Woodlake sanctuary and Cosby High School to our new sanctuary!

Phase I of our **Greater Things** capital campaign will not do all of this directly. Instead, Phase I will address what we believe to be the most critical part of this plan. We are currently four million dollars in debt. That is not so bad, considering that the cost of our Hampton Park Discipleship building and land was approximately eight million dollars. Through your generosity during our past two campaigns, we have reduced that debt to four million dollars.

Our goal in this two-year campaign is to raise 2.5 million dollars. Five hundred thousand of this will fund our early planning work and two million will go to reduce our debt. If we can reach this goal in the two-year timeframe allotted, we will be on target to begin Phase II of this campaign, allowing us to build most of the facilities we need at Hampton Park. As you can surmise, this campaign is the hinge point of our journey. The entire future venture swings on the success of these next few months. Even though this campaign will not build the new facility, it is absolutely essential before any new work can be done.

A MESSAGE ON PRAYER

As a result, each of us, as part of the WUMC family, will be expected to be in a time of deliberate and focused prayer during our **Greater Things** campaign. It is our desire that during this time our personal relationship with Jesus Christ will grow deeper as we daily come before the Lord. As a church, we will be praying as individuals, as families, and as a congregation.

In the coming months, you will be asked to make a financial commitment to our **Greater Things** campaign. You might be tempted to do that hastily. But Christ has called us to **greater things**. That means aligning our pledge with this vision and our prayers. We want to build a great facility for Christ where untold numbers of people, some yet unborn, will find Him and His healing hand. It all begins right now with individual participation. On the weekend of **November 21st and 22nd**, we are going to join together in offering our pledges at the Lord’s altar. As we prepare, let us all remember that our risen Lord has called us to do “even greater things”!

“Direct my footsteps according to Your Word.” Psalm 119:133

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q: Why are we not building the new sanctuary and family life center right now?

A: We are currently four million dollars in debt. The total cost of the new facility will be approximately thirteen million dollars. We can get there, but only when our debt is substantially reduced.

Q: I keep hearing how important this campaign is. We have had many campaigns in the past. Why is this one so critical?

A: We have many new people coming our way. Last year, we took in over 140 new members. To accommodate everyone's needs, we have spread out onto three campuses. This takes an enormous amount of time, energy and resources on all our laity (volunteers) and staff. We need an aggressive plan because the challenges and numbers are getting greater each month. The only way we can make it to the new building is to tear down this wall of debt that is in front of us.

Q: Our country is in the middle of an economic recession. Why are we doing this campaign now?

A: We cannot deny the challenges that many in our congregation face. However, this also helps us to remember how our Lord invites us to give in such a time. He asks not for what we do not have, but a sacrificial and cheerful percentage of what we do have. While it is true that some are in a season where lost income or employment has curtailed their ability to give, many others have been richly blessed. If we have been able to keep our job in this season when so many others have struggled, it is even more reason to celebrate God's goodness and to step up our giving to his work in the church.

Q: How do I make a decision on what I can pledge?

A: At Woodlake UMC, we teach two fundamental guidelines for giving. First, in accordance with Paul's guidance, our giving should be cheerful. If you are angry about having to give, it is probably best that you keep it! If you are just lukewarm about what you are giving, perhaps it is time to increase it! Secondly, our giving is a sacrificial percentage of our income and assets. We give according to how we have been blessed. The goal is to offer a tenth (tithe means tenth) of our income to the Lord. For some, a sacrificial and cheerful gift means moving even beyond the tithe.

FOUR GREAT QUESTIONS

1. If not this, WHAT?

2. If not here, WHERE?

3. If not now, WHEN?

4. If not you, WHO?

UPCOMING EVENTS

Church Council Vote on New Church Vision, All Invited
September 24, Hampton Park Campus, 7:00 pm

Information Packet Distribution at all Worship Services
October 10 and 11; October 17 and 18

Greater Things 5-Week Sermon Series Begins
October 24 and 25

Commitment Card and Instructions Arrive in Homes
Week of November 9

Commitment Celebration at all Worship Services
November 21 and 22

Total Pledge Announcement at all Worship Services
December 5 and 6

ADVANCED COMMITMENT GATHERINGS

We will be hosting two Advance Commitment Gatherings at the Woodlake Sanctuary on **October 28 and 29**. A cross-section of the church leadership has been invited to help begin the pledging process for the campaign to come. If you are interested in attending and have not yet been contacted, please contact Pam Johnston at 739-4535, ext. 23. Space is limited, but we will make every effort to include anyone interested.

GREATER THINGS

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