

Vision 4 TOMORROW



Newsletter #1

September 10, 2018

“EQUAL SACRIFICE, NOT EQUAL GIFTS” TO BE CAMPAIGN EMPHASES

Our Vision 4 Tomorrow Campaign Is in Full Swing

The communication phase of our capital campaign began last week with the mailing of a brochure to church families. During the next four weeks, families will be fully informed about our capital campaign objectives and encouraged to seek God's leadership as they determine their financial commitments to that campaign effort. “*Equal sacrifice, not equal gifts*” will be the major emphasis.

An all-church potluck luncheon, Sunday, September 30th, will climax the communication phase of the campaign. Immediately afterward, families will receive commitment cards in the mail, inviting them to make a three-year, weekly or monthly capital commitment.

The total of all commitments will be announced at a Celebration Service, Sunday, October 21st.

Our goals are to complete Phase 1 and substantially reduce the bank loan on our new church building over three years. If we are successful, thousands of dollars in interest payments will be saved and our regular budget will be free of the pressure that a long-term mortgage frequently imposes. Capital campaign commitments are to be in addition to any present giving for the budget and missions.



The campaign director, *Judy Hurt*, and our Interim Pastor, *Claudia McCain*, reviewing the *Vision 4 Tomorrow* calendar. They are leading the effort to raise funds for our capital campaign to complete Phase 1 and substantially reduce our debt for our new building over the next three years.

CLAUDIA MCCAIN SAYS, “WE HAVE A DREAM!”

The family of First Baptist Church has a dream—a dream of truly being God’s people on mission. We are committed to reach people locally, and we are committed to give generously to mission causes around the world.

A few years ago, we reaffirmed our dream, determining to replace and relocate our church facility. The facility now enables us to more effectively minister to our present congregation and to reach out to others in our community. In turn, our church has an even greater potential for supporting other mission and ministry causes.

Our goals now are to complete Phase 1 and reduce the debt for the new facility through sacrificial giving. Our strategy, a capital stewardship campaign called *Vision*



4 Tomorrow, is a means of challenging church families to give sacrificially each week or each month to the building fund over the next three years. This plan will enable us to provide for our space and growth needs now, save thousands in interest costs, protect our regular ministry budget, and meet other needs both now and in the future.

Already I have determined my commitment. Certainly, I would not ask you to give sacrificially unless I was already committed to do so. I believe it is that important.

I ask one thing of you. Please pray about your family’s commitment. Ask God to help you find the right figure to commit to give over the next three years. Then make your commitment, trusting God to help you give what you have committed.

Vision Luncheon Sunday, September 30th

Over 80 are expected to attend our *Vision 4 Tomorrow* Luncheon Sunday, September 30th, at 11:15 a.m. You don’t want to miss this! The luncheon will be a potluck (meat provided), so please bring a dish to share. It will be held in our Multi-purpose Room, for all families in attendance. Preschool and younger children will be cared for here at the church, as well. First Baptist Church of Macomb’s ministry is the focus, celebrating our successful past, and God’s vision for our exciting future. Be sure to circle the date on your calendar and let your family know about it!

Some folks are asking, *Why do we need another capital campaign? Now that Phase I of the building is nearly completed, can’t we just make payments?* The case statement below was written to answer that important question.

Case Statement for *Vision 4 Tomorrow*

God has blessed the First Baptist Church of Macomb in so many ways and has given us many opportunities to serve Him and others. In 2013 we began building Phase 1 of the New Worship Center, which includes the multi-purpose room and educational classrooms. On Easter Sunday of 2015, we held our first worship in the new building and now enjoy having everything on one level, ample parking and wonderful education and fellowship space.

Currently we have a debt of approximately \$820,089 to MidAmerica National Bank. If we continue to make only monthly payments for the next sixteen years, with principal and interest, we will pay a total of \$1,593,628.80, toward the 20-year mortgage. That is over a half million dollars more than originally borrowed. At the moment, our monthly payment of \$6,640.12 includes a little over \$3,400 in interest.

In order to complete Phase 1, we need to finish an additional 7 rooms, one small bathroom, a portion of the hallway and landscaping. The Sanctuary will be built during Phase 2. Because of the size of our monthly mortgage payment and the need to finish Phase 1, the Church Board has approved a capital stewardship campaign to raise additional funds over and above our giving to the general fund to reduce this debt.

In response to our Lord God for all He has done for us both physically and spiritually, we are asking you to join us in cheerfully and generously supporting our *Vision 4 Tomorrow* capital campaign. This is our opportunity to invest in the future of this great church.

CHURCH FAMILY FAITH STORIES

During these weeks in Sunday worship, a few families will be sharing their faith stories of commitment to our *Vision 4 Tomorrow* campaign. They will relate how they reached their decisions in response to God's leadership. The names of those giving stories of faith will be listed in the Sunday worship bulletins. The first faith stories have already been given.

The stories of faith express the convictions, concerns, and enthusiasm of our people for our new building, for the future of our ministry, and for this campaign to pay for it. If you feel led to share your family's commitment, please contact *Judy Hurt*, who is scheduling all faith stories.

What *Vision 4 Tomorrow* Means to Me

“To me, the building represents more than just our church but a safe Christian haven for generations to come. It provides a place where we have the opportunity to minister to the community in many ways. And with Christ as our center, we can set a good example for others.”



—Christina Harman



Important Campaign Dates

September 11th — Special Newsletters begin

September 18th — Advance Commitment Event

September 30th — Vision Luncheon (Potluck)

October 1st thru October 20th —
Commitment Response

October 21st — Celebration Worship

November 4th — First Fruits Sunday
(Three year Giving Period begins)

Equal Sacrifice, Not Equal Gifts

WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

We are using the emphasis, *Equal sacrifice, not equal gifts*, in our *Vision 4 Tomorrow* campaign. That phrase means that families are encouraged to give in the same spiritual attitude of sacrifice rather than giving the same amount.

What is sacrifice? In Old Testament times, sacrifice meant giving up something of value for something of greater value. The Hebrews were taught to give their very best when making an offering to God. The value of the gift was not measured by the amount, but by its sacrifice. When a friend offered to buy a piece of land for David to give to the Lord, David said, “I will not give to the Lord my God offerings which cost me nothing.” (2 Sam. 24:24, NIV)

Throughout our lives, we regularly sacrifice for things we think are important, such as an education, a home, a business, or our future needs. Why not give sacrificially when we have an opportunity to strengthen the work of the Church and extend the Kingdom of God?

We encourage each family to pray about a truly sacrificial commitment. Near the conclusion of our campaign, each family will have an opportunity to indicate its commitment in *Vision 4 Tomorrow* on a commitment card. If indeed each commitment reflects sacrifice, then the Church will celebrate an awesome victory on Celebration Sunday, October 21st!

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I HAVE A QUESTION!



What is our *Vision 4 Tomorrow* campaign?

It is a thirteen-week effort to challenge our congregation to give sacrificially to pay as much as possible for our new building in three years. Capital campaign gifts are to be in addition to any present support of our church's budget and ministries. The communication phase of the campaign is now underway, climaxing with a luncheon, September 30th. Your family is encouraged to seek God's leadership as you determine your three-year, weekly or monthly, commitment.

Though people involved in the campaign will be making their commitments prior to the luncheon, most families will be invited to make their commitments the weeks after the *Vision* luncheon.

Why don't we just borrow ALL the money for our building project?

We could, however, for every \$1.00 given through our *Vision 4 Tomorrow* campaign, we will be saving over half of that dollar in interest alone over a long-term debt. (See the article on the case statement.)

Do you have a question?

There are no secrets about any aspect of *Vision 4 Tomorrow*. If you have a question, don't hesitate to ask any member of the steering team. They will answer your question or direct you to someone with the answer for you. A campaign manual is also available in the Church Office for all to view.



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