

Vision 4 TOMORROW



Newsletter #2

September 24, 2018

VISION LUNCHEON TO BE SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 30TH

Are You Planning to Participate?

Plans are already in place for the Vision Luncheon. The luncheon will be a potluck (meat provided) and will take place in our Worship Center, Sunday, September 30th, starting at 11:15 a.m. Children 4th grade and older are invited to stay for a short presentation after the meal. Younger children may be dismissed to go to the nursery.

Every family represented in any way in our church fellowship is invited to attend. There is no charge for the luncheon, which is being coordinated by our Fellowship Director, *Paula Black*. Please bring a dish to share. It will be an opportunity for worship, fellowship, information, and inspiration, a uniquely thrilling experience for everyone.

COMMITMENT RESPONSE TO BEGIN

Our Goal Is to Complete Phase I and Reduce the Debt on Our Church Building

The time is now for the families of First Baptist Church of Macomb to make one of the most rewarding investments ever in the work of this Church and the Kingdom of God. After the Vision Luncheon on September 30th, families will be encouraged to complete their commitment cards and return them to the church. Those commitments will be tabulated, and an updated total will be announced each Sunday during the Commitment phase of our campaign. On Saturday, September 29th, commitment cards and privacy envelopes will be mailed to church families, inviting them to make three-year commitments for *Vision 4 Tomorrow*. According to *Mike & Jane Coplan*, our commitment directors, the aim is to encourage each family to participate in a meaningful way in *Vision 4 Tomorrow*. Commitments should be in addition to any regular church

giving, and, hopefully, will reflect both generosity and sacrifice. All commitments will be kept confidential.

Commitment cards can be completed and returned to the church, in person or by mail. We encourage families to return their cards so we can celebrate our collective resolve to fulfill God's plan for our future. Our ultimate goal is to have all commitment cards returned by Celebration Sunday, October 21st. If you plan to mail your card, please allow time for your commitment card to be in the church office by Friday, October 19th.



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COMMITMENT RESPONSE TO BEGIN

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Our Church entered into this campaign, confident of the Lord's leadership. We will either go forward, confident of God's provision to our church, or we will go backward in our doubts and fears. God's intent must surely be for the church to reach forward, not merely to subsist. Accomplishing goals we have set for ourselves through *Vision 4 Tomorrow* will signal a giant step forward, both in ministry and in outreach. We not only assure provisions for our present ministry, but we will be providing the resources for witness and ministry in the future.

"Equal sacrifice, not equal gifts" must be the goal as commitments are made. There will be no question about meeting our financial goals for the campaign if each family takes time to pray for the Lord's leadership about a sacrificial commitment.



Only one life,
'Twill soon be past.

Only what's
done for Christ
will last.

WHAT IS MY PART?

Some families in our Church, who are leading in the campaign, are returning their commitment cards this week, before the Vision Luncheon next Sunday, September 30th. But most of our families will return their commitment cards the next week, when the cards will be mailed to each family's home. A letter in the mailing will encourage you to join a host of other families in making a sacrificial commitment over the next three years to help complete the construction of our new Church facility, and to reduce the debt.

Many will be asking, "What is my part?" Actually, this is a question that each family must decide for itself. No family will be told what they are expected to give. Each family is urged to prayerfully make its own decision, following the leadership of God's Spirit.

There are some ways a family can arrive at a decision on how much to commit to give. First,

pray for God's leadership in light of the church's needs and opportunities for ministry and outreach.

Second, apply the principle, *Equal sacrifice, not equal gifts*. In this case, sacrifice means at least a decision to forego something, however worthy, in order to participate generously in the church's *Vision 4 Tomorrow* campaign. Recall that David said he would not offer unto the Lord an offering that cost him nothing (2 Samuel 24:24). Probably, the acceptance of a more meaningful discipline in money management is involved in a truly sacrificial commitment.

Third, when you have prayed for God's leadership and made your commitment, you will experience great joy. Tremendous joy always accompanies sacrificial commitment, and this includes a commitment in giving. The writer of Hebrews says that Jesus endured the cross, despising its shame, *for the joy that was set before Him*. (Hebrews 12:2).

A COMMITMENT OR A PLEDGE?

Families in our church will soon have an opportunity to indicate on a commitment card their plans to give sacrificially over the next three years in support of our *Vision 4 Tomorrow* campaign. The emphasis is upon commitment, not pledging. How does a commitment differ from a pledge?

- For one thing, a commitment involves an effort to discover and follow God's leadership. A commitment to give certainly means more than just the dollars committed. It is a decision to allow ourselves to be used of God in line with Paul's commendation of some Macedonian Christians, "They first gave themselves to the Lord" (2 Cor. 8:5).
- In addition, a commitment denotes a trust in God. We never know what may happen tomorrow, much less over the next three years. Because we have earnestly sought and followed God's leadership, we believe God will enable us to fulfill our commitment, and we trust Him to provide.
- In preparing for your *Vision 4 Tomorrow* commitment, begin to pray in earnest for God's leadership. Once you have discovered God's will for your giving, then you can confidently follow that leadership and join with other families in making a joyful, sacrificial commitment.

FAITH STORY

Donny Garlick served in the maintenance position for several years in our former building. He was one of the first people to come forward and say that it was time to move into a new facility. He recognized many of the physical issues with the building including lack of fellowship space, many stairs, inadequate parking and other issues including a basement that frequently flooded. Donny served on the Building Team for several years and gave valuable input. Donny said that one of the most exciting moments for him was when we first broke ground to put in the driveway. He remembered Hank Richardson running the backhoe and watched with fascination as Hank took each scoop of dirt with such precision. Donny and Kathy plan to continue to support the building fund.



Important Campaign Dates

September 30th — Vision Luncheon

October 1st thru October 20th —
Commitment Response

October 21st — Celebration Sunday Service

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



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I HAVE A QUESTION!



What are our campaign goals?

Our minimum Victory Goal need is \$150,000. We also have a Challenge Goal of \$225,000 and a Hallelujah Goal of \$325,000.

When will my family make its *Vision 4 Tomorrow* commitment?

Most families will be invited to make their commitments next week following the Vision Luncheon, scheduled on September 30th.

Will my family be asked to make a public commitment?

No. Commitment cards and return envelopes are being mailed to your home. After you have filled out your commitment card and placed it in the return envelope, please return your sealed envelope to the church for tabulation by people authorized to tabulate the cards, while protecting your confidentiality.

What assurance do I have that my family can fulfill its commitment?

God never leads us to make a commitment we cannot fulfill. One pastor noted, "When people give from reason, they give from their apparent resources; but when people give from revelation, they are free to give from God's actual resources."

Why use a commitment card?

Commitment cards enable families to indicate in a simple, yet confidential way their plans to support the capital campaign. Commitment cards also encourage families to set specific goals for their giving. That information also helps the church plan wisely for financing debt service on the new building.

How will my family give its commitment?

The church has dual-purpose envelopes available through which families can give to both the general fund and *Vision 4 Tomorrow* building offerings.



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