

Vision 4 TOMORROW



Newsletter #3

October 8, 2018

LUNCHEON A GREAT EXPERIENCE

The *Vision* Worship and Luncheon was held September 30th. There were 58 in attendance, including our youth. It was truly a special occasion. We experienced fellowship, inspiration, challenge, and commitment.

The luncheon was planned by a host of people, including the Fellowship Director, *Paula Black*, and her team of workers. What a job these people did in helping us all enjoy good food and great fellowship!

During the *Vision* Worship and Luncheon, we enjoyed presentations of a faith story, music, a dramatic reading, a challenging message from our interim pastor, and an announcement about the start of the commitment phase of our campaign. *Mike and Jane Coplan*, our Commitment Directors, were introduced. *Judy Hurt*, Campaign Director, explained the Commitment Response phase of the campaign, which



Several families from First Baptist Church of Macomb enjoyed food and fellowship at the *Vision* luncheon.

began last week. She also shared the goals and result of the advanced commitment of the campaign. Twelve families followed God's lead to commit to a total of \$212,160.00 over a three-year span! Together, we can meet or exceed the Hallelujah goal of \$325,000.00! What has God laid on your heart to give?

FAITH STORY

A. J. and Marilyn Bourn, long-time members of First Baptist Church of Macomb, have been supporters of our transition to the new Worship Center. Marilyn said she is grateful that there are no stairs to negotiate, parking is so much better, and she really likes the kitchen area. She said there are so many things that could be said about the new building. It opens up opportunities for people who would have had difficulty participating in the former building. They are happy to be a part of *Vision 4 Tomorrow*.



CELEBRATION SERVICE SET FOR OCTOBER 21st

Our *Vision 4 Tomorrow* capital campaign climaxes next with a Celebration Service on Sunday, October 21st. This special service will be one of celebration, thanksgiving, music, and worship.

Commitment team members are completing the Commitment Response phase of the campaign prior to the Celebration Service. These workers have been contacting some church families to encourage them to return their commitment cards in time. If, for some reason, your family was overlooked, you can secure a commitment card from the church office or call the office and ask Leann to fill out a card for your family.

You can also obtain a commitment card and envelope when you come to worship.

The total of all *Vision 4 Tomorrow* commitments will be announced in the services next Sunday. Our prayer and aim are to celebrate a great victory of God's provision and our families' dedication.



SOME THRILLING TESTIMONIES OF SACRIFICIAL GIVING

Our consultant, John L. Hessel, reports some thrilling illustrations of sacrificial giving from other capital stewardship campaigns.

A Florida school teacher had plans to retire and to buy a new car. After being challenged to pray about her commitment, she decided to forego both retirement and a new car and commit \$40,000 for the church's building expansion.

In North Carolina, an elderly couple had saved money to attend the World's Fair. After praying about their commitment, the couple canceled their plans and committed to give what they had saved to the new worship center. They said, "What we invest in God's work will pay dividends for God's kingdom long after we die."

A couple from Oklahoma was saving to buy a new home. When their church decided to build a new educational building, the couple gave what they had saved to the church and postponed their move to a larger home for two more years.

After a successful career as an executive secretary, a Missouri woman was planning to retire. She decided to postpone her retirement for three years, so she could give a more worthy offering to her Church from those extra earnings.

In Texas, a young couple, wanting to have a larger part in helping their church build a new worship center, decided to give their boat, motor, and trailer

to the church. In addition, they made a three-year capital stewardship commitment.

While explaining his family's commitment, an Illinois deacon said, "I've learned that my commitment is not just a financial matter between me and the church, but a spiritual matter between me and the Lord." He went on to say, "I had saved to buy a new truck this year. Last night, the Lord asked me to drive my old truck for three more years, as part of my sacrifice, and I said yes. Though you can't see it, I am laying a truck on the altar tonight for our new building."

Stories of faith such as these abound in churches all across America, as families have experienced the inner joy of sacrificial giving for the kingdom of God. It is no wonder that, with such expressions of commitment, those churches achieved financial and spiritual success in capital stewardship campaigns.

"God did a tremendous work in the hearts of our people. Our capital stewardship campaign did more for our church spiritually than even the raising of the money," said a Missouri church pastor after witnessing his church attain their hallelujah goal.

The word sacrifice means "to make something sacred." Through efforts such as these, people have made savings, stocks, boats, even a pony sacred by committing them to the Lord's work through their church. As we pray about our commitments in *Vision for Tomorrow*, may our sacrificial gifts be inspired by the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross, God's "unspeakable gift." (2 Cor. 9:15).

I WANT TO GIVE MORE . . . BUT

Most families ask, “How can I give more to help my church achieve its goal? Perhaps your family may be able to give more generously, by using ways of giving other than by cash. Consider the following suggestions:

1. Give an asset (real property, stocks, bonds, other investments) directly to the church for resale. If you are unable to give an asset in its entirety, perhaps you might sell it to the church at a bargain price. (Giving appreciated stock can help avoid capital gains taxes as well as being a contribution.)
2. Set up a charitable remainder or revocable living trust, a gift or deferred gift annuity, making the church the ultimate beneficiary of the trust.
3. Give through your corporation rather than from personal assets and income.
4. Make the church the beneficiary of an insurance policy that is no longer needed for the protection of your family.

5. Provide for the church through your will.
6. If you give by cash, consider giving the tax saving which your gift allows as well.

Please consult with a qualified tax professional (i.e., attorney, C.P.A., trust officers) before deciding which way(s) are best for you to give sacrificially.



FOLLOW-UP EMPHASIS BEGINS

Immediately following Celebration Sunday, October 21st, the campaign Follow-Up will begin. This effort is being led by our Campaign and Follow-Up Director, *Judy Hurt*.



The Follow-Up emphasis will assure that new families, who come into the Church during the three-year giving period, will learn about *Vision 4 Tomorrow*, and have an opportunity to pray about making a capital stewardship commitment. In addition, the Follow-Up emphasis will provide periodic reports and appropriate encouragement to families who made commitments to fulfill them.

Important Campaign Dates

October 1st thru October 20th —
Commitment Response

October 21st — Celebration Sunday Service

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

A JOB WELL DONE

Praise God for the corps of *Vision 4 Tomorrow* volunteers! Many of our members have worked tirelessly over the last three months. Many of them served in more than one area. They have been faithful in performing their tasks. They have prayed much for God's blessing upon our *Vision 4 Tomorrow* capital campaign. They have made worthy financial commitments toward the debt reduction of our Church home. A special word of thanks for those people who have worked so faithfully in the campaign.

Finally, let us not forget to acknowledge the work that our church staff has done. Any special effort, more especially one like our *Vision 4 Tomorrow* capital campaign, places added and oftentimes heavy responsibility upon those who serve our church full-time. We appreciate their enthusiastic, faithful service and leadership.



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I HAVE A QUESTION!



When do we begin giving our *Vision for Tomorrow* commitments?

Though some families have already started giving their commitments, most families will begin giving November 4th, after Celebration Sunday.

How may I give my commitment?

Place your commitment payment in an offering envelope, plainly marked *Vision 4 Tomorrow* on the Building Fund line. Here is an example:

First Baptist Church
1515 S. CANDY LANE -- MACOMB, ILLINOIS

GENERAL EXPENSES/MISSIONS	_____	\$	_____
BUILDING FUND	<i>Vision 4 Tomorrow</i>	\$	_____
SPECIAL (PLEASE LIST)	_____	\$	_____
TOTAL AMOUNT	_____	\$	_____

Name _____

JUDSON

What happens if I need to change my commitment?

Most families will be able to give what they commit. Some families may decide to give more than they committed. A few families may have to revise or cancel their commitments when faced with unexpected adversity. If you need to change your commitment, you may call the church office, or you may simply adjust your giving.

Can a family give without making a commitment?

Yes. However, we encourage you to make a commitment. To do so will provide you with a goal that you have set for your giving; it will strengthen your good intentions to give; and it will increase your joy in giving. In addition, your commitment will unite with those of other church families to provide a collective witness of your support of the church's ministry and dreams for growth, and will give needed financial information for planning the building process.



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