

What is our Invest in Miracles Campaign all about?



1. An Investment in Spiritual Maturity! During the next 30 days, you'll be offered many opportunities designed to strengthen your faith, deepen your love, and build your character. Bruce will continue to teach and preach on God's promises to bless our gifts, as the apostle Paul reminds us in Philippians 4:19: And my God will meet all your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus.

Our Prayer Team, led by Elder Lynn Willett, prepared the bookmarks inserted in your Sunday bulletins. They will be standing by, ready to pray with you on the Day of Prayer this Thursday, May 14.

To further strengthen our Christian walk and deepen our faith over the course of this campaign, the packet of campaign information you'll receive is packed with scripture to study and pray about.

"Just as you excel in everything else -in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in earnestness, and in love --see that you also excel in the grace of giving." 2 Cor 8:7

2. An Investment in Our Church Building! On Commitment Sunday, June 7, we'll attempt to pay off the extra amount of debt we had to finance to pay for the necessary building repairs that Facilities Elder Claude Robinson and his team so capably oversaw last

fall. The potential mold problem and deterioration from the water damage to our building would have affected the health and safety of us now and for all who come after we are gone who continue to use our church for so many ministries, celebrations and gatherings.

3. An Investment in Relationships! Harold Scott,, Elder of Small Groups, and his team have designed a plan for our church family to make a personal visits with each other. Warmly welcome your visitor when they arrive! Birchwood's vision statement urges us to be a people that offer community.

" ...they fellowshipped from house to house..."
Acts 4:46

4. Invest in a Spirit of Thanksgiving! Wait until you attend the church-wide Rainbow Banquet on Friday, May 29th. Janice Bethman and Mary Walsh and their gifted team of performers and party planners have a special evening of music and celebration planned for all the adults. Jeannie Dayton and Jen Zimmerman are working on the accompanying Kid's' Party they're sure to enjoy. And Jason Manning is planning a special Youth Party on May 20.

Be joyful in the Lord's presence with your family..."Deut. 16:10-11

Invest In Miracles! It's going to be one of the most

Our Capital Campaign Goals



If we raise \$1.3 million, we will accomplish two goals: a financial goal and a heart goal.

First, we'll use \$1.2 million to reduce our existing mortgage to where we were sitting before the damage to our walls. Before our repairs, we were on track to pay off our existing mortgage at least

ten years early.

Our other campaign goal: to share 10% of all the monies received from the capital campaign over the next 3 years to specific geographic ministry "circles of influence" (our neighborhood, our county and our world). The 10% Invest In Miracles ministry gift allocation will be announced soon, and will exemplify our new vision

statement. We truly aim to offer hope, community, acceptance and purpose in a broken world, even in the midst of taking care of our finances.

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Invest In Miracles Commitment Day is June 7, 2009

- Day of Prayer Thursday May 14

- Leadership Gathering Friday May 15

- Youth Campaign Event Wed May 20

- Adults Rainbow



His plan is good and pleasing and perfect. (from Romans 12: 2)

Essentials for Reaching Our Goals

1. We must believe it CAN be done! Jesus said, “According to your faith it will be done!”
2. We must involve EVERY FAMILY in our church! It will take all of us working, praying, and committing together. The challenge is too great for only a few to carry.
3. We must each be WILLING TO SACRIFICE. Nothing great is ever done without sacrifice.
4. We must BE CREATIVE in finding ways that each of us can give more than we initially think possible.
5. We must ask God to lead us.

“And God is able to shower all kinds of blessings on you. In all things and at all times you will have everything you need.” (from 2 Cor 9)

Creative Ways to Increase My Cash Gift

At first thought, most people do not think they have much cash laying around to give. But with a little creativity... and by taking advantage of the time we have until the offering ... each of us can probably come up with a larger cash gift. than we had first thought. And together it will all add up:

Eliminate all eating out for the next month. Save that cash to be added to your offering.

Hold a garage sale. You probably have a garage or closet full of unused items sitting in your garage or in storage.

Take a second, part-time job for one month.

Have everyone in your family locate the

spare change in your house and begin collecting it all in one giant piggy bank.

Postpone a major purchase for a few more months in order to give more.

Make crafts and sell them to raise additional cash for the offering.

Give stock dividends, stock, bonds, or tax refunds.

Basically, there are two approaches to finding more cash to give:

- 1) Look for ways to reduce your expenses.
- 2) Look for ways to increase your income. By using a combination of these two during the next month, you'll be able to give far more cash than you thought.

Be creative! Imagine... if 100 families in our church each found an extra \$500 cash that alone would total \$50,000!

His plan is good and pleasing and perfect. (from Romans 12: 2)

Your Campaign Leaders

If you attended services this past Sunday, you met “The Three Musketeers” directing the Capital Campaign—a group nickname from Elder Dennis Veith that has stuck with the collective leaders of the Invest In Miracles’ effort. Elders Jackie Alberg, Dave Loeppky and Janice Bethman have a heart for moving debt off our books and moving funds toward real people and real needs.

We like each other. We aren't afraid of working hard because we love our church. We're from a generation that does not like to carry debt and we have hopes for our church's future, just like you do. Ministries cost money. We don't want to touch our already challenged annual operating fund and reduce the missions and ministries we are committed to. We

believe in this campaign.

Even though the debt was out of all of our hands, Session and your church leaders don't want to saddle our kids and future members we haven't even met with a mortgage that could last for decades to come.

Thanks now and to the future dozens of dedicated volunteers behind the scenes — a major capital campaign requires lot of people to share so much new information and celebrations.

And the next time you see anyone on staff, please thank them for their extra time and love for our church during our 3-year, over and above campaign.

An effort this size needs a wholehearted commitment from our Pastor. Bruce Becker is the right man with the right heart and

faith to spill over if we falter as we learn together what God wants us to do.

We invite you to visit us if you have been away. Take in Bruce's sermon series, and worship with beautiful praise music from Mary Walsh's worship team while you're surrounded with the visual artwork Janice Bethman and her friends have placed everywhere in the building to glorify God.

I believe we will achieve our goal and ask that you all pray for your campaign workers and your pastor as we do our best to have God guide us. Yours in Christ, Jackie Alberg

If you have a testimony to share during this period of faith and reflection, please call one of the campaign directors or Bruce. We'd love to share your miracle.

