Celebrate Grace
Equip for Ministry
Develop Disciples

Trinity
United Methodist Church

Spring 2009 Campaign

HOPE

Honoring our Promises Eagerly

Trinity is a caring congregation, celebrating God's love for all people. Founded in 1884, Trinity was the pioneer church for the newly-formed town of Ruston. From the beginning, the church dedicated itself to serving the needs of the people. This covenant remains a strong focus today and continues to inspire daily ministry. We welcome all persons who wish to join us on our journey of faith and who seek to grow in God's love as revealed in the life and love of Jesus Christ .

The joy of celebrating God's grace is experienced every week during our worship services. Lives are transformed as we develop disciples in our Sunday school and small group ministries. The world is made better as we continue to equip people to go out and share hope with the world.

Trinity's ability and willingness to respond to ministry opportunities to individuals and the community are important factors in the church's continuous growth. Recognizing the important role of adequate facilities for bold, effective ministries, the church stepped out and made significant building improvements over the last six years. These improvements are positively impacting worship, education, fellowship, missions, and ministries to people of all ages. From the creative renovations for our children's rotational model learning centers, lighting throughout the church, roof repairs, new adult classroom and office space, ramps and walkways for accessibility, the relocation of our television ministry, to the construction of Trinity Center, our facilities welcome all and shine with the promise of a bright future. God continues to make provision through the faithfulness of the Trinity family.

The Hope Campaign in the spring of 2009 is a means by which we can complete the funding of these significant improvements. In so doing, we assure our tithes and offerings remain committed to daily ministry. This honors our promise and intent to celebrate grace through dynamic worship, equip our church for daily ministries of all types, and develop disciples to model and spread the good news of Jesus Christ.

"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. Romans 15:13

HOPE

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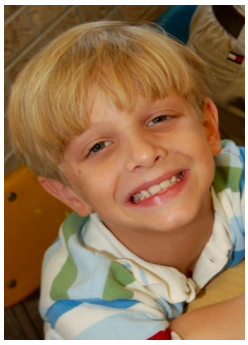
Our three-year pledge payment period for Phase 2 of the Trinity Building program concluded November 30, 2008. It is imperative we take steps through this capital campaign to assure our tithes and offerings remain available for daily ministry to our children, youth, adults, and community. Only through such a commitment can our mission and ministry goals be reached. If our debt obligation was paid exclusively through our church's daily ministry budget, that means $11,000 per month of our tithes and offerings would not be available to go toward ministry. This campaign will prevent that and make certain the right proportion of our tithes and offerings remain allocated toward hands on ministry. Our HOPE Campaign will ask the church family to again make three-year pledges above and beyond tithes and offerings, thereby assuring that our daily ministries can grow and be uncompromised while we work toward eliminating capital debt.



Advantages of Moving Forward with our Follow up Campaign to Eliminate Capital Debt

- Honors our commitment to eliminate debt as quickly as possible
- Wide stewardship resulting from significant savings of interest paid
- Maintains ministry momentum
- Assures tithes and offerings remain allocated to daily ministry
- Assures strong ministry and promotes ministry growth
- Encourages continuing member involvement
- Frees the church to embrace new visions for ministry in the future

Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. Romans 13:8

Key Points of Grace & Celebrations

- Total cost of facility improvements included in Phases One and Two are just over $9 million, including renovations to accommodate our children's rotational model learning centers, lighting throughout the church, roof repairs, new adult classroom and office space, ramps and walkways for accessibility, construction of Trinity Center for contemporary worship and other ministries, and the relocation of our Trinity television ministry.

- With continuing gifts and pledge payments from two building fund campaigns, approximately $6 million has already been paid toward commitments made by year end 2008. This far exceeds the national average of collections of such commitments. That tremendous accomplishment is a testament to the faithfulness of God's people. Thank God for all who have shared in this significant accomplishment. Praise God from whom all blessings flow!

- When the church decided in January 2006 to move forward with phase 2 of the Building Plan, it was with the understanding commitments in hand were less than needed to for the whole project. Considering the ministry and financial economy of constructing the size and type facility needed, the congregation voted over eighty percent to move forward and build the entire structure, with the understanding the church would address the residual debt at the end of the 2005 pledge campaign. At the end of the second building fund pledge payment period (November 2008) the debt was paid down to $3,850,000. At that time, there would be no stream of income from the congregation to pay either the monthly interest or required payments of principal. The debt was re-financed for a four year period. The loan agreement requires monthly interest payments and quarterly principal payments.

- A debt retirement campaign is planned for spring of 2009 to provide an income stream for payment of monthly interest and quarterly principal. In the fall of 2008, the congregation was asked to consider an additional pledge to support the debt payment. Sufficient funds were pledged to make the interim interest and principal payments for 2009. Additional funds received from the 2009 pledge campaign will be used to reduce the principal and pay the interest through the term of the loan. That is what the HOPE Campaign is all about. Funds for the building project were provided through a bank loan; the amount of the loan was reduced by pledges as they were paid.

Total debt financed at bank…….$3,850,000
Annual interest on debt……..$125,000
Total interest due over 4 year
term of loan without principal reductions……..$500,000
Potential interest savings with successful
Campaign……...$200,000

Ministry Celebrations, Benefits, & Visions Resulting from Building Improvements

"Our new facility has given us room to grow in every age level and to expand our outreach ministries; we have only begun to scratch the surface." Carolyn Smith

"The Trinity Center has proved to be a blessing already. At the altar, we have already had a number of children baptized into the Christian faith and many people have come down front and knelt at the altar committing themselves to serve Christ. It is exciting to know that we were a part of building something that future generations whom we will never know will kneel at that same altar offering themselves to Christ and His service." Steve Murphy

"Since the doors of the Trinity Center have been opened, it has been open to the community for worship, for concerts, for area school and civic groups, even for shelter from the last hurricane. We are excited when we consider what God will do next with the Trinity Center. The needs of our world, community, and church will only grow, and we anticipate God using this space and this church family to meet those needs." Sam & Leta Autry

"Trinity—Oh, what a church! We meet so many needs of our members and the community. Come and stroll around the facility and see all that is going on—-day and night." Miriam Savage

"The improvements to the children's wing and the addition of the rotation model have been a blessing to the children's ministry. The rotation style of teaching has kept my children very engaged and excited about Sunday School while teaching them enormous amounts about the Bible and following God." Beth Hegab

"The services from Trinity get better and better every Sunday. I am in a nursing home and watch (on television) every Sunday with expectancy. I am so blessed that I have a church that has such great music and preaching." Earline Robken

"God's people are called to give as He gives, generously. On Sunday morning as I welcomed families to come in out of the cold into the warm building I saw the many reasons God calls me to give." Joyce Stringfield

"The expansion of Trinity UMC over the past 20 years is amazing to me! It is a powerful image of a solid foundation that travelers and community members alike can easily see. It is a blessing to walk into our church every Sunday and thank God for all that He has provided." Amy Vessel

". . .finish the work so that your eager willingness to do it may be matched by your completion of it…the gift is acceptable according to what one has, not according to what one does not have". 2 Corinthians 8:10 NIV