

CITY to REACH
COMMUNITY
to BUILD



CAMPAIGN *Conversations*

**Dollars raised
to date: \$2,386,676**
**Dollars to go:
\$1,413,324**

WHY WE NEED TO BUILD

I look back in awe at the remarkable heritage of faith of West Highland. Six couples with financial commitments and young families re-mortgaged their properties for a dream that God placed in their hearts to build a 325-seat church. They had no bricks or mortar to shape their dream, just a vision from God. They truly exercised Hebrews 11:1 faith. "Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen." God blessed, and soon the congregants of that small church caught that same Hebrews 11 faith, this time to build a facility to house a congregation three times their size. And God blessed again and a third generation enlarged the property surrounding the building.

This history is important to me because I believe where we are today is part of God's purposeful and unfolding plan for West Highland. Every step that has brought us where we are today has been one of purpose, vision, faith and personal sacrifice. We are on the threshold of another visionary step, to continue to build this work, rather than settling into complacency, which is not befitting our history.

In many ways, our generation's step is a "smaller" faith-step than that of previous generations. Consider the size of their congregation relative to the financial challenge

they took on. Consider the fact that their building plans started from the ground up whereas our task is really to extend the perimeter of the existing building. Why? To properly support current programs and yes, with potential for the future.

- Our kitchen is inadequate. At the inception of the Alpha program I was disappointed to learn that we could not prepare full meals in-house (which are the centerpiece of the Alpha program) because our kitchen is not up to code; it is not externally vented. This is not a minor repair. This deficiency became more poignant when, during Hamilton Challenge, our team visited non-Christian places of worship and in one case was served ethnic food prepared from their kitchen. We should be able to provide food in Christian places of worship.
- We need to bring our offices back on site. During our Hamilton Challenge visits, I noticed that one of the benefits of having the offices of the leadership on-site, is that the places of worship we visited appeared active and felt "open for business" even during the week. Ours is closed unless a program is scheduled.
- We are woefully behind in accommodating our youth, children and young adults. I've had the privilege to

visit some thriving evangelical churches in our region as a member of a conference organizing team. I was struck by the conviction and commitment to future generations evidenced by their Christian education facilities geared to these generations and including preparation area for those who teach them.

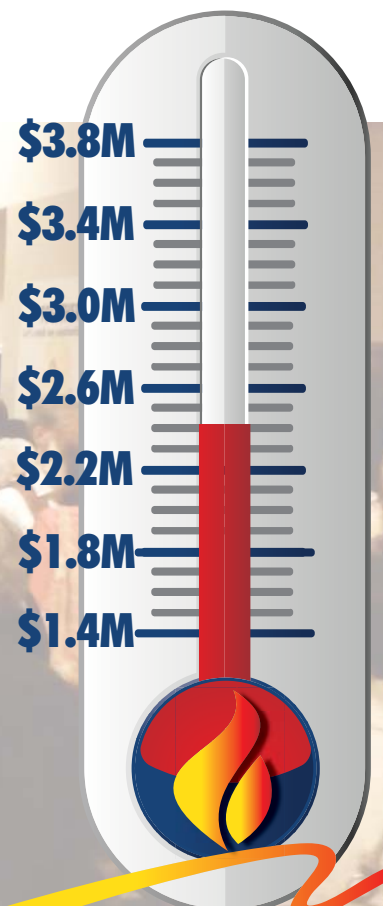
- Our foyer needs to be expanded. Anyone who attended the Sunday night presentation of "The Best Christmas Pageant Ever," will recall the uncomfortable over-crowding in the foyer and surrounding areas during the break. We maxed out accommodation not only for our guests but also for the orchestra that supports these excellent productions. Unless we do something about this, we will severely limit an outreach event that has significant appeal to our community.

May God help us to continue to move forward in faith and with personal sacrifice.

Dorrett James
Deacon for Prayer
& Publications



"in whom the whole building, being fitted together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord"



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Starting to Build!!

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Brrrrrrrrr . . . It's cold out there — one of the coldest Februarys on record. So, we thought it prudent to hold off starting the foundation work until it starts to warm up a little.

You may have noticed that we have already been moving some items on to the site. The construction trailer has been there for some time, about one month ago we moved the formwork for the foundations over near the garden area, and just this past week we moved some construction fencing and a lock-up container on to the site.

As of now we have begun site setup — so you will see the construction trailer has moved into place on the south side of the existing church building, together with the lock-up container. We will be running temporary power to the trailer, and this will be the home of Hawkey's Construction Manager (Dan Stanley), who will be working out of that office trailer for the duration of the construction program — about 18 months.

The first actual work that you will notice is the installation of the construction fencing, removal of the south door canopy, relocating the portable classroom, and cutting of

asphalt around the building in preparation for excavation. Excavation will also begin shortly if the weather cooperates. Timing is all in the Lord's hands.

With all this construction activity there will be a loss of some of our parking areas. However, our existing parking areas are more than ample to handle all our parking needs. We may not be able to park in the same "spot" that we have always parked in, and we may need to walk a little farther, and the parking may not be as convenient, but West Highlanders are a resilient group and we would ask for your understanding as we undertake this expansion project to reach lost souls for Christ.

If you have any questions at all, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Your Servant in Christ,
Steven Oswald
Project Manager

EXCITED ABOUT MOVING BACK

We've been talking about this for some time now. Designing a new building began four years ago. Research for funding began two and a half years ago. Permits and financing are all in place. Now it's time to go and we're already accommodating the start of construction. Excitement is in the air.

We're looking forward to more and better classroom space for the entire church, a much larger Fellowship Hall to accommodate our growing children's and seniors ministries, an enlarged and better equipped kitchen since we like to eat, an updated and redesigned worship auditorium that enhances the Sunday morning experience and better suits our major events, and our offices on site once again.

With our offices at the church site we will have better access to the Ministry Team and support staff, less scheduling stress involving all the staff, better communication, greater security, and less cost. Presently, about \$50,000 annually is paid to a corporation as rent for our office space half a kilometer away. That money can be better used to provide better ministry.

Improving our ministry space is not new. As West Highland was forming as a church it moved to various locations to accommodate the need. Eventually it moved to our present location. Then walls were removed or added, rooms painted, décor updated, the platform redesigned, and the offices moved out to provide more space for the children's ministry. All to provide adequate and useful facilities to ensure the ministry can continue to grow as we stay on mission *Making the Word of God fully known and the People of God fully mature.*

We see the fruit of it as people come to faith in Christ, grow in grace, and reach out to others. Every time the candle is lit or the water splashes is evidence of God working through West Highland. We celebrate what God has done, is doing, and will continue to do if we remain faithful to Him.

With the new and renovated building, we'll be meeting our present needs as well as preparing for the future. We're staying on mission. So many people are actively involved in the mission. If you're not yet involved, don't miss out. These are exciting days filled with anticipation of even greater celebrations to come.

Don Crowder
Director of Administration



Join Us
For the
Celebration Service
with **Groundbreaking Ceremony**
Sunday, April 12th
@ 10:00 am

Please enjoy a professionally catered luncheon which is graciously being donated for this special occasion

Campaign Prayer

ALMIGHTY God, who led your **servants**, former leaders of West Highland to expand and relocate the work to this site, give your grace we humbly ask, to us their spiritual children that we too may be a people of spiritual vision always mindful of your past favour upon this church and ready to do your will. **AS WE ENTER** into another **phase** of **enhancing** the capacity of your church for expanded kingdom work, fill with the spirit of wisdom those whom we entrust, in your name, with the authority of project leadership.

Grant us as a **CHURCH** an **attitude** of unconditional thankfulness for your generosity to us as individuals and as a church. Preserve our unity. Save us from selfishness, pride and arrogance, and from every evil way.

Should **challenges** arise, let not **our trust** in you waver, but rather let it be strengthened, that in the end, together we may see you do your work to fashion into one godly people, the multitude out of many nationalities, languages and backgrounds that you will bring to this place.

Amen

