



Westside Presbyterian Church

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Westside Grows News Letter #2

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Our “Why”

We believe a successful *Westside Grows* Campaign will allow us to make the necessary improvements and addition to our building. With an improved building we can strengthen our compassionate outreach in the community around us.

It is our sincere belief that when people give out of their Christian Faith – they are giving to community out of compassion. The Bible does not say, “For God was so challenged by the world ...” God may very well be challenged by the mess we are making of this world, but what the text actually says is, “For God so loved the world ...” [*A statement of compassion*]

Making our building more visible, accessible and functional is our way to answer Christ's invitation to us: “Love your neighbour.”

Our Plans to Meet the Needs

Every time someone agrees to work on the *Westside Grows* Campaign we think, surely we haven't done all this work, made all these plans, considered all these commitments, visited all these people, planned all these events, gathered all these prayers, offered all these prayers — if the Church is going to die.

There are two excellent reasons for all this work and commitment:

1. Westside is one of those churches poised to make a huge difference in the coming years – to the neighbourhood, and to the wider community. We have the leaders and the workers who are willing to make that difference.
2. Surely, Jesus wouldn't commission us to engage the community as his witnesses if there weren't people in the world who desperately long to hear they are loved.

Spiritual Goals

Christian Stewardship is more than our weekly offering – or even a *first-time-in-forty-years* capital Campaign. Christian Stewardship proclaims that God *owns* everything and we are the *managers* of what God's owns.

Spiritual Goals continued

When looking at all households' finances from this perspective, it can be argued that every financial decision is, in fact, a spiritual decision.

In the Parable of the Talents, Jesus tells the story of a master who entrusts three servants with different amounts of currency. When the master returns after a long absence, each servant accounts for how he has used what he had been given. The two servants who worked to increase the master's holdings received praise and a greater inheritance. The servant who did nothing to increase his master's holdings was severely reprimanded and told to depart from the master's presence.

Like those servants in the parable, we are accountable for our attitudes and practices as we manage our earthly assets.

The *Westside Grows* Campaign invites you and your family to do this for yourselves. Take time to discover God's will in the area of Christian Stewardship. How?

- Acknowledge and declare God's ownership over all things entrusted to you
- Identify and name your convictions concerning the appropriate use of wealth
- Provide an accountability measure for your ongoing financial decision making

The *Westside Grows Campaign* provides opportunities for study, prayer, worship and discussion. While each family is unique in its relational dynamics, we believe that every family will embrace these opportunities to find the joy-filled freedom and blessing that comes with placing it all into God's hands and whole-heartedly embracing our role in Christian Stewardship.

Campaign Activities -- Home Visits

To date there have been over 80 very successful home visits according to both the visiting teams and families they have visited. Families have been very welcoming to the visitors. The teams have enjoyed sharing fellowship, prayer, delicious treats and, in some cases, a glass of wine. The visits have provided an opportunity for people to get to know one another better and to discuss the future of Westside church. Folks who are unable to attend services in person have appreciated knowing their church family still cares about them.

The visits have engaged the congregation with a renewed feeling of energy and enthusiasm.

Campaign Activities – Prayer Vigil – An experience to remember

This past Friday evening starting at 6pm and extending to 6am the next day, was a time focused continually on prayer. The leaders for each of the 12 hours provided their own views and perspectives, which included sharing of scripture, readings, and music. Half of our congregation participated and it was a meaningful uplifting time. Over 100 prayer requests brought forth from our recent visitations were prayed for more than once during the time. We prayed for all kinds of concerns, thanked our Lord for family and all the many blessings we have in this country. We asked for God's help to spread a common vision for the future of Westside. We prayed that this shared vision would be a unifying force, compelling us to look to the future with anticipation.

Doug Kelly
Campaign Director