

Three Rivers Church Currents

We are just completing a sermon series entitled, "Rising Strong", from the book of Judges. So, it is only fitting that we carry that forward to what I am going to call....**Summer Strong!** We have done some amazing work this past fall and winter. I am so pleased that we have continued to connect with our guests, invest in our leaders, organize fun events, and spruce up our church building. Now it is summer! And while it may seem like a good idea to just relax, we have an incredible opportunity and should remain diligent while there is no school, sunshine, and some free time. We want to encourage everyone to make Three Rivers a part of their summer plans. There are people to meet, places to serve, and the Gospel to share.

Ministry Opportunities

In the Message translation of the Song of Deborah, it says in verse 9, "*Lift your hearts high, O Israel, with abandon, volunteering yourselves with the people—bless God!*" How would like to bless God by volunteering yourself with the people? Here is one way. If your small group or other ministry is taking a break for the summer, perhaps you might consider staying connected by serving in one of these areas for the summer:

Area of Ministry Needing Volunteers	Contact Name	Contact Number
Sunday morning hospitality team (Greeter, Usher, Name tags etc.)	Dale Brantley	815-210-2640
Church cleaning crew (Monday and/or Friday mornings)	Larry Hamilton	815-483-7138
Sunday morning classroom assistants	Joanna Browning	815-577-7154
Outdoor maintenance	Carl Hauert	708-774-7580
This list is ever changing. If you want to explore other service opportunities, please contact me directly.	Eric Fornelli	815-439-8787

Spreading Our Wings

Three years ago we kicked off a capital campaign called, "Spreading Our Wings" (SOW) to generate momentum toward earning permanent occupancy and the completion of Phase 1 of our building (adding a "wing" of classrooms and a "wing" of offices). We are in the final year of the campaign and we are grateful for the ways God has provided.

Within the campaign, we have four financial goals (in order of priority):

1. Give 10% of campaign giving to local and global outreach efforts.

We have raised \$34,500 to support various missionaries and other outreach efforts to date! This has helped us support missionaries and mission projects in Ecuador, Kosovo, and Kenya.

2. Complete the work required for securing permanent occupancy.

Our unmistakable dirt pile is evidence of our progress in this campaign. In order to better manage flood water levels we were required to scrape dirt from a large area behind our church. The scraping work is scheduled to be finished this year. The final challenge will be to find a way to remove the dirt with little or no cost to our congregation. How can you help with this? Pass it on..."We've got dirt!"

3. Pay off the second mortgage on our property.

While we were in the midst of building our church home, we unexpectedly found ourselves needing to finance more than our primary mortgage could handle. In response, five generous members of our church family pledged their own homes as collateral so we could secure a second mortgage. We are committed to freeing ourselves from this debt and freeing these five houses from being counted as collateral!

Extra principal paid on loan	\$206,837 (This is WONDERFUL progress!)
Remaining balance on loan	\$109,104 (It is possible to pay this off in a year!)

4. Complete Phase 1 of our building.

God has not provided for this final goal as of yet. We trust that God knows what we need and clearly a bigger building is not one of them. But let's wait and see what God will do in the future!

Thank you for contributing to the future of this church family. I smile as I consider the many lives that have changed and will continue to change because you answered the call to participate in God's plan!

Financial Update

Two very exciting ministry opportunities will be here before we know it: Vacation Bible School and the Great Pumpkin Giveaway. These are two huge events where Three Rivers Church shares the life-saving message of the Gospel with our community. Please make sure to stay Summer Strong with your giving. Outreach is a priority for us. The leaders of these events work very hard to stay under budget, so it is vital we all do our part to fully fund these powerful ministries!

Specific Prayer

- ◆ Pray for Summer Strong giving (Please consider setting up automatic giving. Ask your banking institution for information.)
- ◆ Pray for a positive spiritual impact of this year's Vacation Bible School.
- ◆ Pray for our teens as they minister to the Sioux Indians in South Dakota this summer.
- ◆ Pray that God would help us pay off the second mortgage by the end of the SOW campaign.
- ◆ Pray that the dirt pile would be removed soon without a major financial impact.