



## Celebrating God's Goodness Embracing our Mission Looking Forward in Faith

Our Campaign Vision is:

**To align our Values, Mission, and Resources to step forward in faith toward God's plan for South Park Community Church's future.**

December, 2017

During the summer of 1872, Dr. Sheldon Jackson founded what was to become South Park Community Church. In May of 1874, the small congregation in Fairplay applied to the Board of Home Missions for \$1,200 to build a church with an additional \$200 to come from the congregation (*that \$1,400 would be \$291,000 in today's dollars, compared to labor costs in 1874*).

After taking a leap of faith to call a full time pastor in the fall of 2014 we have become an even more growing and vital congregation. We came to realize how limiting our existing structure was to be able to serve as a manse for a pastor and his family, a fellowship hall, an education facility, and everything else we use it for.

In the summer of 2017, God gave us the opportunity to acquire the property at 520 Hathaway St., which was enthusiastically approved by the session, the congregation, and Presbytery. Purchasing this house gave us the ability to provide our pastor and his family a larger, more family-friendly home removed from the church office and fellowship hall.

When the Congregation voted this past summer to approve the purchase of the new Manse, and once Presbytery approved it, we put down a deposit of \$35,000, secured a mortgage of \$128,000 through FirstBank, received a \$78,000 grant from the Presbytery (*that we don't have to pay back*), and voted to conduct a Capital Campaign to repay a \$50,000 loan from the Presbytery over five years. \$50,000 is a lot of money....but think of it this way.....**if just 34 people give at least \$25 a month for 5 years, we'll have more than \$50,000!**

We realize that some people may feel that the Congregation voted to conduct a Capital Campaign in the amount of \$50,000, pure and simple, but think about the opportunity that lies in front of us. We have seen in just three short years what God has done and will continue to do through us to make a difference both in our lives and the lives of many in our community. The possibilities to expand our mission through better utilization of our facilities by moving our pastor into a new manse are genuinely exciting. Now that the old manse is no longer housing the pastor, we have a historic opportunity in front of us. We want to be open to God's calling as to how He wants us to use our facilities to further His mission through our church.

We should feel incredibly excited that we're not only able to provide our pastor and his family with a space that they don't have to share with every group meeting here, but that we now also have this amazing opportunity to renovate, to repurpose and to rebuild this space for our fellowship, educational, administrative, and multipurpose use. We can do all this while keeping in mind our goals for expanding our mission in our community.

It's extremely impressive what Session has been able to do over time with the fellowship building in recent years, new windows, a new roof, new concrete and many other items, but that doesn't mean that the building (*configured as it is*) will best meet our future needs 5, 10, or 20 years from now.

Session has charged the Reclaiming-Revisioning Work Group to continue to meet over the next several months to understand our needs and gather additional ideas as they create a plan for how to best utilize our wonderful facility for the future. We want and need your input to be able to do that in the best way possible. Dale, Jan and their committee are very interested in your ideas as to how we can best utilize this space. Please contact them as you become inspired with ideas in the coming weeks.

We are enjoying and utilizing the blessing of worshipping in the sanctuary that was dedicated 143 years ago and the fellowship hall building that was built 94 years ago. These were both achieved and paid for through the faith-filled sacrifices of South Park Community Church members from previous generations above and beyond their regular giving. They foresaw a place to express a shared faith in worshipping God.

The vision of the founders of SPCC and the generations before us that committed themselves and their resources to this ministry is inspiring. God has led South Park Community Church to be proactive in seizing the opportunity that He has provided to support our ministry into the future through improved facilities.

We believe there's a great advantage in being deliberate, not rushing things, doing the research, the homework, the planning, the preparation, and taking the time to do this the right way. We want to identify the mission God is calling us to, and what we'll need as a congregation out of our facilities to fulfill that calling, that mission, for the next 5, 10, 20, or more years from now. It's an exciting time for us as a congregation, and we hope and pray that you'll support both the Reclaiming-Revisioning Work Group and the Capital Campaign Work Group through your ideas, suggestions, and prayers over the next several months as we work to discern God's calling for us in this Campaign.

Session has also charged the Capital Campaign Work Group to continue to meet over the next several months to develop plans and materials for the campaign. At their December meeting, Session approved the proposed Case Statement and Timeline for the Capital Campaign. Current plans at this point are to kick off the campaign in the late spring of 2018. *(Thanks to all of you who have already contributed to the Capital Campaign!)* We have completed the process to have online giving toward this campaign set up before the end of 2017. On our website, click on the "Invest" link to enable you to make a donation yet this year if you'd like to do so for tax purposes *(both for the Capital Campaign and for regular offering giving)*.

Because we'll be considering multiple projects that will benefit from this Campaign *(such as the Manse loan repayment, improvements to multiple facilities, etc.)*, you will have the opportunity to designate your gift to a specific project or area of the campaign.

Sometimes, we're so used to "how it's always been" that we have a hard time seeing "how it needs to be".....and this Campaign is not just necessarily about this facility. Here's a need that we don't always think about that's an example of "**how it's always been**": I personally have heard from multiple people in the last few months that they don't know how much longer they'll be able to navigate the church steps to be able to attend worship services. Also, our daughter-in-law Sarah is a paraplegic and is confined to a wheel chair, and simply could not attend our service without someone carrying her into the church!....and even though she could use the ramp to get into the fellowship building, neither the bathroom, nor the step down into other rooms would be navigable for her. What could be more tragic than not taking advantage of the opportunity that this Campaign can provide to make our facilities accessible to ALL people?

We hope you'll prayerfully consider how, beginning next spring, you can support the Capital Campaign once we complete the plan and officially kick it off.

Sincerely,

*Dave Sykes*

Capital Campaign Work Group, Dave Sykes, Chair

*You are part of this process! We very much want and need your feedback!  
If you'd like to be a part of either work group, please let us know.*

*Please provide your input & feedback to the Capital Campaign Work Group:*

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