



NEWSLETTER THREE

NOVEMBER 2017

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A Letter from Our Pastor

Dear Urban Grace Community,

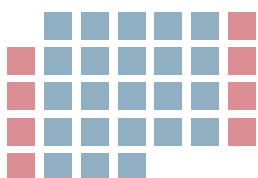
I hope you all are well. The last few months have been quite a blur as we have celebrated the season of creation, hosted our annual Halloween party, remembered loved ones on All Saints day, and hosted Family Housing Network, all while learning about our **Building Together** Capital Campaign. It has been quite a season and we are grateful for your presence throughout.

The **Building Together** Capital Campaign will soon be wrapping up as we each reflect on how we will participate in investing in our future together. For most of us, this will happen on December 3rd at Commitment Sunday. In worship on that day, we as a congregation will bring our commitment cards along with our regular offerings to dedicate them as our generous gifts to God's work through our church. If you are unable to attend worship, or are not ready to make your commitment by that date, a member of our campaign team will follow up with you to answer any questions about participation in our campaign.

Enclosed you will find a commitment card for our annual ministry program and our **Building Together** Capital Campaign. You will notice that in addition to the opportunity to make a 3-year pledge to the campaign, we are also asking that you estimate your regular giving in 2018. Including your estimated regular giving helps us differentiate Capital Campaign gifts from giving that enables us to support the daily operations of our church. This is especially helpful this year as we plan for how we will meet the needs of our growing church.

We have set ambitious goals for our church and our future; to accomplish those goals, we will need to make sacrifices. Making sacrifices sounds scary, but my prayer is that each of us will give a gift that comes from a place of joy. My hope is that we will use the next couple weeks to reflect on what Urban Grace means to us, what we hope for our future, and in how we might be able to commit to all that we are building together. May our joy in what we have been and what we are becoming lead us into the future.

Ben Robinson
Pastor



**UPCOMING
CAMPAIGN
EVENTS**

Celebration Banquet
Saturday, December 2

Commitment Sunday
Sunday, December 3

Celebration Worship Service
Sunday, January 28

Key Culminating Events in Our Campaign

Our **Building Together** Capital Campaign is in full swing. This fall our church has actively been praying, sharing stories of faith, gathering to discuss our vision and ministry to our community, and communicating the process for our capital campaign. It's been a rewarding experience to get to know people in a deeper way, talk and pray together about the vital mission we share, and consider the ways in which revitalizing our church facilities will help us strengthen our work together at Urban Grace.

Building Together Celebration Banquet

You've received invitations and heard in church about the Celebration Banquet on December 2. Please RSVP to Emily Wickman at emilywickman@gmail.com to reserve your place with us that evening!

*Saturday, December 2, 5:45pm
Lower Temple at Urban Grace Church*

Giving Opportunities

We're at that point when each of us will soon be encouraged to offer financial commitments to our campaign. As we draw closer to making our commitments to resource the vital needs of our church, celebrate this opportunity to serve God with what has first been given to you.

Our campaign is about more than just finances. Ours is the privilege and opportunity to carry forward the legacy of our facilities, celebrate the abundance God places in our lives, and carry forward God's vision for us here. Thank God for what's been provided to you and for the opportunities yet to come.

○ Sunday, December 3: Commitment Worship Service

After prayerful consideration, each of us will decide on the amount of our financial commitments to both our annual ministry (regular offering) and the **Building Together** Capital Campaign. Pledges to our capital campaign are above and beyond our regular offering and may be contributed as a one-time gift or in monthly, quarterly, or annual payments over the coming three years ending in December 2020. Included in this newsletter are a commitment card and an envelope. Bring these with you to church on December 3rd.

○ January 2018: Commitment Follow-Up Visits

Because we hope to have a 100% response to our capital campaign, we will reach out to those who have not made a commitment by December 3rd. The purpose of these visits is to answer any questions, provide information, and receive each household's response.

○ January 28: Celebration Worship Service

We will share the results of the commitments received to date and give thanks to God for provisions in the life our church.

"The body is a unit, though it is made up of many parts; and though all its parts are many, they form one body. Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it."

1 Cor. 12: 12, 27



Reaching Our Goals

Our financial goals are set for our Building Together Campaign. Every dollar given will be a step forward toward bringing our vision to life. The more we're able to raise, the more we'll be able to accomplish toward taking care of the necessary facilities renovation projects.

Our campaign team has challenged us to consider generous financial commitments over and above our regular offerings in order to meet our campaign goal of raising a significant amount over the next three years. Please prayerfully consider the important part you play in helping meet this challenge. Everyone's gifts are needed!

"Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up."

- Luke 18:1



FOUNDATION GOAL = \$225,000

Achieving this level will allow us to complete urgent repairs to the roof, masonry, and stained glass windows, replace our aging plumbing, and renovate our bathrooms.

FORMATION GOAL = \$350,000

Achieving this level will allow us to complete our Foundation Goal projects AND renovate the sanctuary, upgrade the Lower Temple kitchen, and replace carpeting on the first floor.

PINNACLE GOAL = \$500,000

Achieving this level will allow us to complete our Formation Goal projects AND restore the Lower Temple ceiling, install new sanctuary lighting, and replace carpeting on the second floor.

The Joy of Generosity

Our church family does a wonderful job of being stewards of their resources. We are all enticed to buy new things. New cars, new homes, new clothes. These new things can bring excitement and are sometimes necessary, but we know that Scripture teaches that we learn the joy that comes from generous giving, rather than through the accumulation of things or the abundance of material possessions. In 2 Corinthians 8 and 9, the apostle Paul makes it clear that the Corinthian people's giving to the church in Jerusalem is just as important to their own spiritual welfare as it is for the physical welfare of the Christians in Jerusalem. Paul emphasizes three important concepts:

"Good works is giving to the poor and the helpless, but divine works is showing them their worth to the One who matters."

- Criss Jami, Killosophy

1) Give voluntarily, give joyfully, and give first to the Lord. "God loves it when the giver delights in the giving!" (II Corinthians 9:7b)

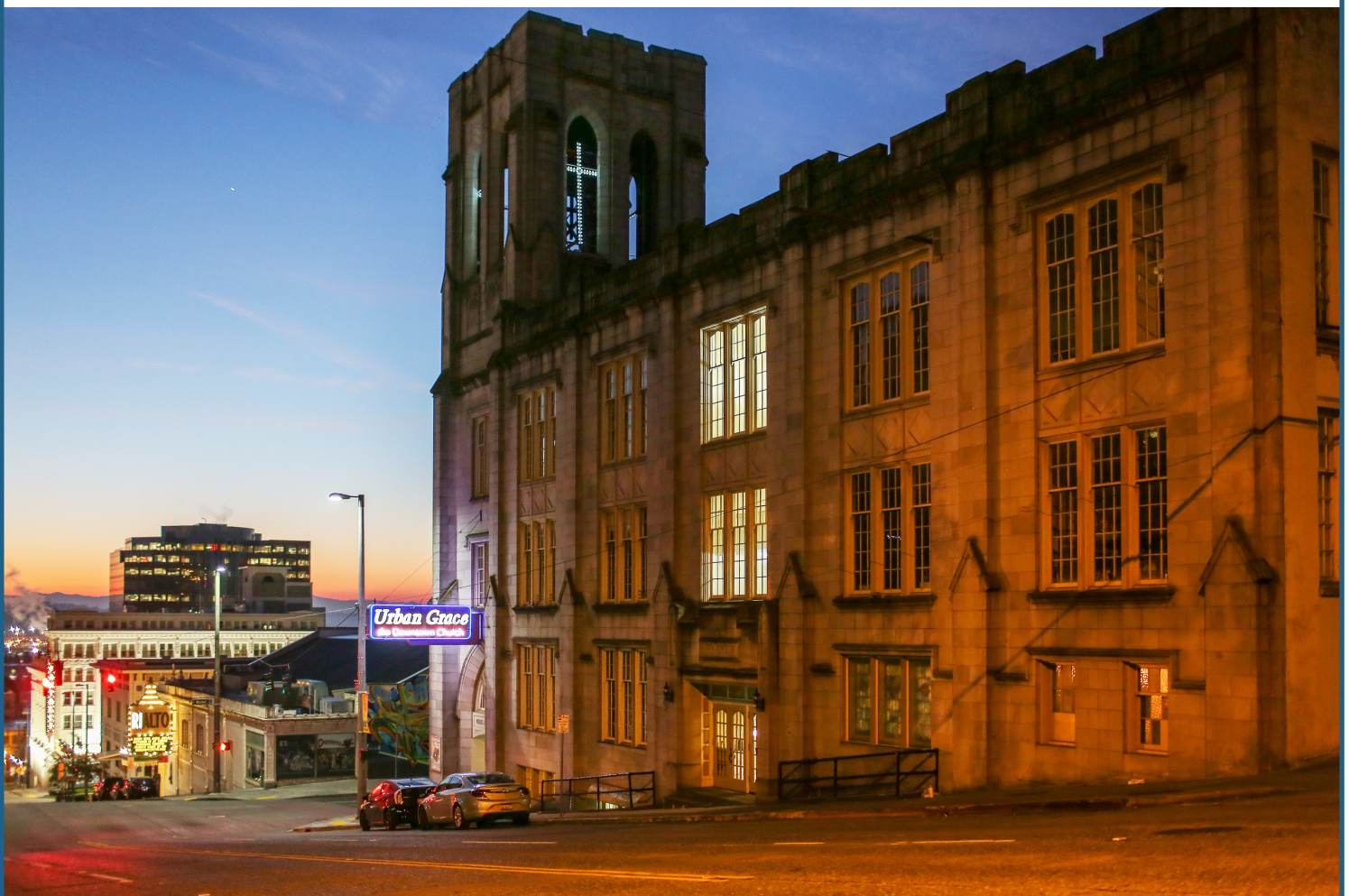
2) Give as a way to thank God for provisions. Different members of our congregation have different circumstances and different experiences. Giving to our campaign is a way to thank God for what's been provided to you by supporting God's work at Urban Grace in whatever way you are able to be generous.

3) Trust in God to provide for your needs. "God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of every-thing, you may share abundantly in every good work." (II Corinthians 9:8)

Please prayerfully consider how you can give joyfully and generously to the ministry of Urban Grace. Giving in this way allows you to celebrate being a part of the wonderful ministries our church provides. Remember the words of Jesus, "Where your treasure is, there will your heart be also." (Matthew 6:21)

Sacrifice and Generosity

- When we think about our giving to the church, have you ever noticed how easy it can be to think we can't possibly do any more than we're already doing? But when we take the time to be still with God, we realize how much we've been given—all of our time, all of our talents, and all of our financial resources.
- Before any of us can make a good decision about our true ability to support the regular ministry program of Urban Grace and our Building Together Campaign, we need to look inside ourselves. We need to pray, and then we need to listen for God's guidance. What are we being called to do?
- As you consider how God has blessed you in your life and through your participation at Urban Grace, please consider with joy what you can commit.
- We can do all things in God who strengthens us. With all of us working together, we will indeed fulfill our mission!



URBAN GRACE CHURCH

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