

Metropolitan PATH

*Inhabit the Land...Inherit our Destiny!
 "Forging the PATH to our New Church Home!"*

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NEWSLETTER STAFF

Contributing Writers:

Rhonda Bowman

Cyndii Cospier

Nate Harring

Carolyn White

Mary Williams

Roz Davis, Editor

Samette King, Reviewer

La Verne Ford Wimberly, Ed.D.,
 Editor-in-Chief

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Pastor's Corner



Ray A. Owens, Ph.D.

The Met is growing and the blessings are flowing. Let us position ourselves to receive the blessing with our name on it. In the days and weeks to come you will surely

want to stay closely connected to all that God is doing to push us forward on the *PATH* to our new church home. In this issue of the *PATH* you will find all the details and dates needed to keep you informed and on track with our *PATH*.

During the month of July, I am excited to meet with every member of the Metropolitan family to cast the vision for our new church home. I hope that each of you will avail yourselves to one of the many "connection" meetings to catch the vision for our future and learn all the latest details of our progress

toward the goal of becoming the church on the hill.

Our time has come! It is our time to reap the harvest that God has promised us. "Consecrate yourselves, for tomorrow God will do amazing things among you (Joshua 3:5)." These are the words spoken by Joshua to the children of Israel as they were about to cross the Jordan into their land of promise. And these words ring relevant for us today as we prepare to Inhabit the Land...Inherit our Destiny in our new church home on the hill.

Growing by Leaps and Bounds! By Rhonda White

YES WE CAN!! The phrase made famous during our historic Presidential election. Now it is our turn to apply that phrase to this era in the life of our church. We can do it Metropolitan! We can build that new church on the hill, but only with your HELP! Look around and what do you see?!? You don't know?!? Well, I can tell you. I see an 11 a.m. service with members and visitors having to come through the back doors instead of the front because we have filled up the parking lot. I see a sanctuary that is so full of members and guests that we have to break out the folding chairs. I see people having to relocate their offices to new areas of the church to make room for more babies in the nursery. Sunday School classrooms have become Children's Church classrooms because we have increased Children's Church from two Sundays per month to EVERY SUNDAY to better meet the needs of our membership! We

are growing Metropolitan! WE ARE GROWING!

I went back to our financial expert Brother Rodney Watkins, to see where we stand financially in reaching our financial goals and forging the *PATH* to our new church home. Brother Watkins updated me with information that was presented to the church body in May. We are currently in discussion with Commonwealth Church Finance to fund a construction loan for \$1.7 million which will convert into permanent financing of \$3 million in the form of a Church Bond Program at some point later this year, but we also need your help Metropolitan. Like Pastor Owens said one day in his sermon, "I have some good news and some bad news. The good news is, we have the money to build our church on the hill. The bad news is that it is in everyone's wallets and pocket books!" During the month of June, he preached a series

of sermons about "God's Stimulus Plan" with the purpose of helping us prepare our hearts by prayerfully seeking God for His direction about our individual participation in the 2009-2012 Capital Campaign. Although we'll be funding the construction of the new facility with the financing we're seeking, this step only represents phase one of a three-phase project. God's desire is to see this church stand together and commit its resources towards His plan for Metropolitan. From the youngest child to the most senior saints, everyone can play a part. God wants to show us His power as we show our faith in Him to deliver. We will all be able to express our faith in God and His power through our three-year commitment, our pledges on August 2, 2009, and bringing a significant portion of our gift that is above and beyond our tithes and offerings on First Fruits Sunday, August 16, 2009.



Deacon Nate Harring leads the Capital Campaign Prayer Team. His wife Arnett also serves on the team.



Forging the PATH to our New Church Home with

Prayer

Attendance

Tithes & Offerings

Hospitable Invitations



The Promotion Team is responsible for Campaign communication.

What is the Prayer Team up to? by Nate Harring

The Prayer Team, chaired by Nate Harring, is busy praying for our church and the Capital Campaign. The following is a prayer submitted by this "most important team."

Father God, we come to you in the mighty name of Jesus to seek your counsel. Father, you have looked upon us with favor, and we thank you. We're asking you to touch anyone who may have concerns about our PATH and future. We look to you because we have wit-

nessed your power whenever we need an answer. We know that life brings many changes that are sometimes difficult to accept. You said in your word that you would never leave us or forsake us. That is why we put our trust in you, Lord. Father, lift up our pastor as he leads our people up the PATH you have directed for the Metropolitan Baptist Church. We pray for all of our leaders. Give us wisdom, understanding, and compassion for all of your people as we lead them to the land

you have given us. Father, lead us as we unite in our commitment to Prayer to be faithful in our Attendance and with our Tithes and Offerings and to always provide Hospitable Invitations to others. Help us Lord to be good stewards with what you have given us as we look to the light that leads us to the land you chose for us to build a new dwelling place for your Holy Spirit that we may come worship and fellowship with you Father. This is our prayer in the name of Jesus the Christ. Amen.

Meet the Telephone Team! by Cyndii Cosper

There was a buzz in the air and sincerity in Pastor Owens' voice in April when soliciting volunteers for our 2009 Capital Campaign. I remember him saying, "I need a lot of people for the Telephone Committee. You'll play a key and vital role in making our campaign a huge success." Me and several others eagerly signed up and have been working diligently since that time.

We are currently a team of 29

dedicated members; however, the invitation to join us still stands for anyone interested in helping with the campaign. We have been working to prepare ourselves for the task at hand; surely by now everyone has seen us in the halls hounding members to update their contact information.

Our team is responsible for making two vital phone calls to remind everyone of the two important upcoming events, Pledge Sunday

and First Fruits Sunday. In addition to the reminders, we will also be answering questions and taking prayer requests. Met members can expect to hear our friendly voices on their telephones or answering machines the week of July 26–August 1 and again August 10–15.

The Telephone Team is honored to do their part in keeping Metropolitan on the PATH to Inhabit the Land...Inherit our Destiny!

Building Design Update by Carolyn White

We are forging the PATH to our new church home. It will be here before you know it! Brother O.C. Walker, chairman of the building design and operation committee, informed us we have filed a permit for our site's infrastructure. This includes water lines, sewer lines, storm sewer, streets, etc. We are waiting patiently for the permit to be granted.

Brother Walker's committee con-

tinues to meet with the architect, and recently learned that 95% of the construction drawings are complete. We are filing a permit the first part of July to begin construction.

The exterior design of the building will be a contemporary style of architecture with natural earth tones fitting in nicely with the area that surrounds the church. The committee is working with an

interior designer to ensure that the interior of the church will coordinate nicely with the exterior. This includes the kind of windows, carpet, and many other amenities that will make our new church home extraordinary.

Metropolitan Baptist Church is moving on up!!

2009-2014 Strategic Plan

OUR MISSION

The mission of the Metropolitan Baptist Church is to evangelize, equip, and empower a community of believers to care for the mind, body, and soul of members of our church and community. Metropolitan actively seeks those who are unsaved, unchurched, and uncommitted as potential candidates for church membership by witnessing to the gospel of Jesus Christ and inviting them to experience Christ through our worship services, Bible Study, and small group ministries. In addition to offering opportunities to experience the presence and power of Christ, Metropolitan Baptist Church—through its various relevant ministries—offers opportunities for spiritual growth, meaningful fellowship, relationship building, family ministry, and community service. As “the church that cares” for its congregation and community, Metropolitan serves the needs of those outside its walls by sharing its financial, physical, and human resources throughout the community.

OUR CORE VALUES

- Metropolitan will operate with a standard of Excellence in all areas of ministry.
- Metropolitan will demonstrate the practice of Holy Hospitality toward all with whom we come in contact.
- Metropolitan will operate in accordance with the highest standards of Integrity in all areas of ministry.
- Metropolitan will embrace and nurture a spirit of Creative Innovation that opens our minds to the creative and innovative ways that the Holy Spirit wishes to move in our midst.
- Metropolitan will engage in ongoing acts of Christian Service toward those in need in our congregation, community, and world.
- Metropolitan will operate with an attitude of Acceptance of all God’s people, regardless of where they are in their walk with God.
- Metropolitan will work to promote the Spiritual Growth of all its members.

Met Kids Prepare First Fruits by Roz Davis



Father’s Day was also a special day for Metropolitan’s Children’s Church. In conjunction with our Capital Campaign, Pastor Owens gave each child a piggy bank as a way to include our children in the future of Metropolitan. The children were asked to join the adults by making a commitment to give on First Fruits Sunday, August 16, 2009. Between now and

then, the children can save their “gifts” in the piggy banks. Jesus loved making children part of His kingdom and said, “Suffer little children to come unto me and forbid them not for such is the kingdom of heaven.” We thank God for all of Metropolitan’s children, and we know they will be blessed by this activity.

Nine year old Madissen Davidson, the daughter of Tracy White-Davidson, is

on the *PATH*! She received a piggy bank and says she thinks it will hold “100 cents!” Madissen also said that she is looking forward to moving into our new church, “so I can meet new people and members won’t have to sit in chairs in the aisle.”

If your child would like a bank and did not receive one, contact the church office (while supplies last)!

Capital Campaign News You Can Use

July 2009

Connections Meetings—Group meetings will be held throughout the month at member homes and the church to discuss details of the capital campaign. Members will have an opportunity to have their questions answered. Invitations will be extended to all members by email or phone. Also, an informative brochure and copy of the new edition of the *Metropolitan PATH* newsletter will be mailed during the month.

August 1

Annual Church Picnic & Prayer Rally—A special prayer rally will kick off the church picnic at 11 a.m. on the site of our new church home located at 1228 West Apache Street.

August 2

Pledge Sunday—Commitment Cards will be completed and turned in for pledges to support the capital campaign. All members are asked to be in prayerful consideration now of a three-year pledge towards the retirement of debt for the first phase of the building project. *Communion will be moved to the special Day of Unity and Prayer on August 9.*

August 9

Communion will be served during this special Day of Unity and Prayer at the 8 a.m. and 11 a.m. services.

August 16

First Fruits Sunday—Giving to fulfill your faith pledge to the capital campaign begins on this day. Everyone is encouraged to give the largest one-time sacrificial gift you have ever given to the church! This is over and above your tithes and offerings for the glory of God! Children should bring their piggy banks full of their first fruits offering.

Ongoing

The Telephone Team will contact members in the coming months with information concerning the capital campaign.

The Prayer Team would like every member to commit to daily prayer and complete a card located in the foyer.

If you have any questions, please contact one of the following team leaders:

- Stacey Bland (Follow Up Team)
- Cyndii Cospier (Telephone Team)
- Roz Davis (Promotion Team)
- Nate Harring (Prayer Team)
- Heather Johnson (Connections Team)



Met Kids will participate in the Capital Campaign and lead the membership in giving on First Fruits Sunday!

METROPOLITAN



BAPTIST CHURCH

4025 N. Hartford
Tulsa, OK 74106

www.metropolitanbc.org

Phone: (918) 425-5402

Fax: (918) 425-0988

Ray A. Owens, Ph.D., Pastor

E-mail: revowens@tulsacoxmail.com

GOT QUESTIONS?

Check out the FAQs on our website
or email us!

Capital Campaign Begins August 2, 2009 and ends 2012!

Capital Campaign Q&A

Question

I have heard that there are plans to purchase church bonds to finance the new church. What are church bonds and what is the difference between church bonds and a conventional bank loan?

Answer

Church bonds are Certificates of indebtedness sold by churches to obtain funds for capital needs (i.e., purchase property, build or renovate facilities, refinance debt). The church is the borrower and the bond purchasers (many times the church members) are the lenders.

Bank loan interest rates to churches are generally adjustable and above prime, and do not encourage church participation or benefit members financially. Bonds offer fixed rates over the length of the financing and are usually sold at average rates below those available from banks. Additionally, bond programs encourage membership involvement and reward participation with a rate of return higher than most alternative comparable investments.

The typical bond program establishes church debt repayment over a period of 20 to 25 years. The church has a choice of repayment plans. Flexible plans may provide for fixed payments for the life of the bond program or allow for graduated payments during the program's early years.

Because a bond program complements a capital stewardship campaign, it can often make up the difference in funds needed following completion of a fundraising event.

Attendance on the PATH in Spirit, Soul, and Body by Mary Williams

In our tele-Christian world, many members of the body of Christ no longer feel it is necessary to congregate in a local assembly of believers. For some sincere Christians, like Brother Derrick and Sister Priscilla Reed, a busy schedule with work and family was once the culprit.

Although, as Brother Reed expressed, "we were making good independent decisions and prospering, I still felt a void." In John 17, Jesus prayed that the disciples and future believers would be "one" as He and the heavenly Father are one. Jesus also said in John 13 that we would be identified as His disciples by our love for one another. The question is whether this is possible without joining an assembly of believers. Sister Reed remembers attending church as a perfunctory duty. "It was just the right thing to do, but, I did not experience the growth I needed. I still felt a hunger to understand God's Word." Because Sister Reed was busy being a good wife and mother, it was not easy to

attend church faithfully. She was busy taking care of the needs of a family of seven and Brother Reed being a proud husband and provider for the family.

The Apostle Paul cautioned the early Christians not to forsake assembling together, and he reminded them that in unity there is strength. The void and the hunger the Reeds felt is clearly identified and remedied in God's Word.

Today, the Reeds are active members of Metropolitan as they recognized over 2 1/2 years ago that no church attendance or half-hearted attendance would not fill the emptiness they both felt within their souls. Now, their *PATH* is filled with dedicated service and faithful attendance. Brother Reed serves as a deacon and Sister Reed as a deaconess. They are both on the Capital Campaign Prayer Team and actively attend Bible Study and Sunday School with their youngest son Austin.

They both have testified to the blessings they've received as a result of attending church regularly. Through the prayers of Metropolitan members, they have received traveling grace while in a car accident that totally destroyed the other vehicle. Passengers in both vehicles walked away without a scratch.

The way to achieve the type of fellowship conducive to Christian growth and development is through a community of believers. It bonds us together in effectual prayer and enduring hope. This blessed hope anchors and feeds the hungry soul, brings healing to the body, and connects us in spirit, soul, and body as one in Him.

So, as Pastor Owens says, "invite somebody to church next Sunday!"