

Living Above and Beyond

God has blessed our church with financial health and we owe a deep debt of gratitude to Him for providing the facilities, staff and ministries that we enjoy today. We thought it would be helpful and informative to review some of our recent financial history, especially as it relates to our facilities.

WHERE WE HAVE BEEN . . .

1994 – Bethel Church moves from its South University location to our current home.

2004 – Growth requires the construction of a new auditorium, offices, and adult classrooms at a cost of approximately **\$7 million dollars**. Our Bethel Church family generously pledged to pay most of this debt over the next several years through designated giving.

2011 - Bethel leadership initiates ***Financial Peace University*** training church-wide and then in **2012** decided to eliminate our remaining building debt (**\$2.3 million**) through the ***Living Above and Beyond Fund (LAB)***. It was also decided to create an ***Emergency Reserve Fund***, and to regularly budget for larger facility needs through a ***Facility Contingency Fund***. In **2016** a special effort with matching gifts then brought the momentum necessary to **completely eliminate our debt by February 2017**. Praise God!

Since **2012** we have **budgeted funds to complete major projects** such as **paving our parking, re-carpeting/painting** most of our buildings, handling significant repairs/upgrades to our **HVAC/roof/electrical/plumbing systems**, changing all **lighting to LED**, replacing our Worship Center and FLC **video and audio systems**, renovating and outfitting our **classrooms/foyer with updated technology**, replacing **chairs and tables**, a complete **renovation of our Kitchens and FLC**, building a **maintenance garage**, purchasing a **skid steer and truck**, installing a **facility video system**, outfitting our new **Bethel Church at Kindred campus with tech equipment** and building a **dedicated Counseling Office wing**. All these projects have been fully funded with a combination of budgeted monies and gifts from the ***Living Above and Beyond Fund***. In the last 13 years, **over \$4.5 million dollars** has been invested in order to be good stewards of the facilities God has graciously provided as our ministry hub and to further our mission. This past year we were able to purchase and install an **energy-efficient air conditioning system**, a \$700,000 value.

During these last few years, we have also been able to increase departmental ministry funds, add new ministries, increase Global and Local Outreach support, significantly improve compensation and benefits for our staff, and create an Emergency Fund of \$400,000. Even during the COVID-19 pandemic God has generously provided on-budget giving through his people, allowing us to retain our staff and strategize for future ministry in these uncertain times.

AND WHERE WE ARE GOING . . .

As our elder and pastoral leadership have prayerfully considered how to continue to fulfill our mission of **Loving God Passionately, Loving Others Intentionally, and Serving the World Sacrificially**; they have prayerfully decided that the next large ministry investment should be **to restore our Adult Wing basement floor to full function after the recent flooding event.**

Adult Wing Restoration Project

On Tuesday night, August 6th, our locale received 3.5 inches of rain within a couple hours. Significant street flooding occurred as the city's storm water system was overwhelmed for a time. This resulted in hydraulic back pressure that caused our pipe connection to the city system to burst and flood our lower-level classrooms. Twenty-five inches of water accumulated in the southern mechanical room and at the northern end of the hall there was seven inches of water in the Choir Room.

Upon discovery of the damage we immediately repaired the burst pipe and began removing all the furniture and equipment from the lower level. Restoration specialists were soon on site. They dried the area, removed the damaged drywall and carpet, and sanitized everything. Now we are beginning the long and expensive process of rebuilding, while also considering how to prevent any possible reoccurrence of this type of damage in the future. We are gathering construction proposals and are hoping to restore this area for ministry use in a few months. We are working with our insurance provider and awaiting their determination of coverage. Please pray for God's wisdom as our leaders make major decisions in the restoration process.

The expense of the recovery effort is now our ***Living Above and Beyond*** target. The projected total cost will be near **\$500,000**. This will include the cleanup and demolition of damaged materials, new interior drain tile, drywall installation, plumbing and tile work to reinstall four bathrooms, floor tile and carpet, and refurnishing Rooms A- E and the Choir Room. Our plan is to use any budget surplus from our 2024-25 budget and to raise funds through gifts to this ***Living Above and Beyond Fund***. If needed, we can also borrow funds from our ***Emergency Reserve Fund***. We are inviting you to consider this project and make a special gift towards this large cost. Together, with the generosity of many, we will be able to see the project funded. We thank both God and our congregation for their generosity in giving and believe this initiative will allow us to continue to strategically advance God's Kingdom. Further questions can be directed to Pastor Gary at GarySiefers@Bethelcf.com