



February 24, 2019

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As you read this we are making ready for one of the most important seasons of ministry in the history of our beloved church, as we prayerfully begin our capital campaign, *Building the Heart*. In the last thirty months we have witnessed an average worship attendance increase of 20%; we have experienced a 50% increase in pledged giving to our annual ministry budget; our nursery has climbed from an average of 5 children to 30; our children's ministry has increased by 46%; our youth participation has increased by 96%; we have celebrated 57 baptisms; and of the 234 new adults we have received into membership, 131 of those adults joined our church by profession of faith in Christ!

Following the discovery of the needs of our community, its projected growth, and the experience of our church significantly expanding in size as well as program offerings, we have adopted a six-year strategic plan for ministry. We discerned that the mission of Perdido Bay United Methodist Church is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world, and God's vision for PBUMC is *to be the heart of the community*. In order to resource our growth, the needs of the community, and God's vision for us it is time to expand our physical campus.

What we are able to build will depend entirely on what the church decides to support with above-and-beyond, sacrificial giving. Every family, including my own, will be asked to prayerfully consider what they can give over a three-year period (above and beyond their annual operational giving) to make this dream a reality. Even before our campaign has officially begun, the generosity of our leaders has been breathtaking, and we closed 2018 with zero debt and over \$350,000 already in hand, a phenomenal start to our \$2,775,000 capital campaign pledge goal.

When we achieve our goal we will be able to (1) break ground on a new sanctuary that will seat 350-450 persons and hold all services of worship (contemporary and traditional); (2) add an administration building with workspaces that meet the needs of tomorrow as well as a modern choir suite; (3) create a new welcome lobby with added restroom facilities to foster a hospitable gathering space and "front door" to our campus; (4) totally remodel the preschool and nursery facility (including the playground) to accommodate the growing needs of our

church and community; (5) renovate the existing sanctuary and east side of our campus to offer updated children and youth classrooms and worship spaces; (6) refashion the Activities Center to create remarkable senior adult programming and fellowship spaces as well as more effective outreach ministry space and updated Sunday school classrooms; (7) create a new and sound traffic flow with additional parking spaces.

You have heard during our current sermon series, *Building the Heart*, the vision of where we are going, and you will have opportunity to hear what God is calling each of us to do in order to get there over the next two Sundays. Please be in prayer for the future of our beloved church and mark your calendar for **Commitment Sunday on March 10** where we will all have the opportunity to make a one to three-year campaign pledge as we leave a Christ centered legacy that will endure long after we are gone.

Whether it's the explosion of the church at Pentecost (Acts 2) or the blessed growth of PBUMC, when we open our hands and hearts to God, He makes miracles happen. At every stage of our church's thirty-year history, the PBUMC family has never failed to follow God's lead as we serve the community and dream with God for the next generation. I am already anticipating the great celebration that is to come, when families of this church and community again step up to answer the call of Christ, and God blesses our generosity into something greater than even our best-laid plans.

I hope you will join us in worship this Sunday as we further explore God's vision for PBUMC and then again on Commitment Sunday, March 10.

God's Peace,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. R. Saliba', written in a cursive style.

Rev. Dr. David R. Saliba

Senior Pastor

To see an architectural rendering of the master plan, a digital fly of the updated campus, read our multi-year strategic plan, or to find more information about our capital campaign, giving, or our building committee and its process please visit
www.perdidobay.church/buildingtheheart

The vision of Perdido Bay United Methodist Church is to be the heart of the community.

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