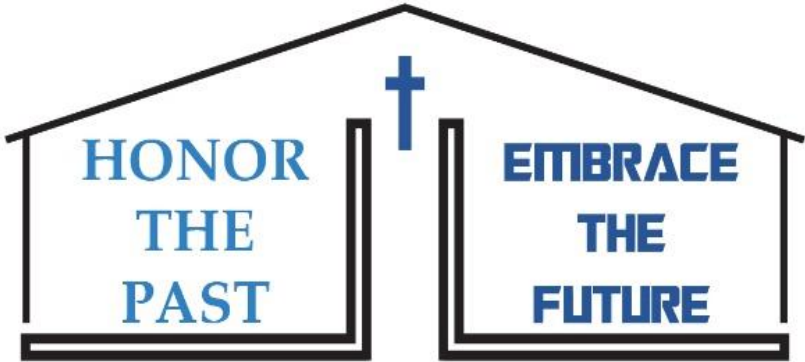


\$ *A Little Book on Generosity*



The very real story of the
generosity campaign at
Stillwater Evangelical Free Church

A brief word of explanation ...

To the families and friends of SEFC:

Some things in life are complicated. Other things are simple. The reason we are conducting a special fund-raising campaign (we refer to it as a “generosity campaign”) is pretty straightforward. Let’s keep it simple.

Next year, we plan to launch a construction project to both expand and remodel our church building. Details about the project and its benefits can be found in this booklet. The project will be significant and will likely cost close to two million dollars. We do not have nearly enough money in the bank to pay for the project. And while we anticipate borrowing money to pay for some of the project costs, we will need still more money.

So, we have launched a generosity campaign to raise money; money which will be designated specifically for our planned building project. This is not without consequence. Simply put, our planned construction project is almost certainly dependent on the success of “Honor the Past/Embrace the Future.” Here then is our story ...

Once upon a time ...

A church was birthed out of a vision to minister to Stillwater and the St. Croix Valley. Stillwater Evangelical Free Church was formed in 1981 and began worship services without a church building (meeting first in the Lily Lake School cafeteria and then at Oak Park Elementary School).

Over the years the church grew in attendance and called its first full-time pastor, Dave Kiel. During his tenure, the church continued to grow. Land was purchased and the current church building was erected in 1990. The new building was a welcomed and much-needed “tool” for effective ministry.

The original architect was Bob Joslin. Bob anticipated future church growth and the need for expansion of the church building. His foresight proved to be both accurate and beneficial.

We've done this before ...

This isn't the first time SEFC has undertaken a building modification/renovation. During the pastorate of Jim Kirkpatrick, the Elders led the congregation to support a major building project. Bob Joslin once again served as architect. During 2003 and 2004, the sanctuary was enlarged, and bathrooms and classrooms were added on the lower level. This was a major renovation which significantly increased the size of the building.

How was that construction project paid for? The money came from three sources; 1) money in the bank (savings), 2) money borrowed from a bank (debt), and 3) money raised from the church congregation (from a fund-raising campaign). The money from these combined sources was sufficient and the proposed building project became a reality. (It is noteworthy that the borrowed money was repaid on an accelerated schedule, saving the interest that would have otherwise been paid.)

It's time to do this again. The combined support of our current SEFC families can make our proposed building project a reality. Let us now honor our past by being generous once again and let us prepare for the future by committing to fully fund our current building project!

Known needs ...

Our Building Committee has been meeting and working for more than a year. They have spent significant time talking with the pastors, staff, Elders, ministry leaders, and members of the congregation. The resulting Phase I building proposal is intended to address several internally identified needs, including:

- The number of infants and children at SEFC is rapidly increasing. We need more space for both Children's Ministries and Student Ministries.
- Security in our building could be improved, especially in the areas where the children meet.
- Our kitchen, while functional, lacks utility and could benefit from a more efficient layout.
- Our worship center has adequate seating capacity but could benefit from a change in seating arrangement and the layout of the front platform could be improved.
- We could use more adult Sunday School spaces.
- We could use more bathrooms.
- Stairway access to the lower level could be both more visible and more centralized.
- Internal signage could be improved.

Discovered needs ...

In addition to meeting with leaders, members, and attenders from inside our church, the Building Committee also talked with people from outside our church (including representatives from Station 19 and the Evangelical Free Church). Those conversations enabled us to discover some other needed building/facility improvements:

- Our church building is not highly visible from the road. This is also true of the main building entrance.
- Our lobby area is undersized given the number of people who attend the Sunday worship service (this will only get worse as our attendance increases).
- Our upper level bathrooms would not meet ADA code compliance for new construction. (Our bathrooms do not currently have handicap-accessible stalls.)
- Our facility looks somewhat dated and, in some respects, does not reflect the youth and vibrancy of our multi-generational congregation.

What we will enjoy (post-construction) ...

Once our construction project is completed, we will be better equipped to minister more effectively:

- We will gain nearly 2,000 square feet of space.
- The aesthetics of our building will be improved.
- Our worship center will benefit from a modest platform redesign and facelift.
- Our building will be more secure.
- Children's and Student Ministry areas will be better defined and expanded.
- We will have more room for fellowship outside of the sanctuary.
- We will have better bathroom facilities.
- Signage and wayfaring will be improved.
- The front entrance will be both more obvious and inviting.
- Our kitchen will be updated and better designed.
- We will have greater flexibility; multi-purpose spaces for adults.

The Elders were unanimous in proposing the adoption of the Building Master Plan and proceeding with the Phase I construction project.

The need for financial resourcing ...

The Building Committee has received a “cost opinion” from Larson Construction. Even so, we do not know what the actual finished project will cost. (The Building Committee and the Elders will have to make some decisions.) So, we are working under the assumption that total, all-inclusive, costs for our project (including the costs for our architect, Station 19, and our generosity campaign) will not exceed \$1,820,000.

How Will We Pay for the Building Project?

- | | |
|--------------------|-------------------------------|
| • \$225,000 | Available, saved cash |
| • \$875,000 | Borrowed money |
| • \$720,000 | Generosity Campaign \$ |
-

\$1,820,000

As you can see from the above chart, the stated goal of our generosity campaign, Honor the Past/Embrace the Future, is **\$720,000**. Our “miracle-goal” is **\$1,600,000**. If we could raise that much money, we could likely complete our planned building project debt free!

Thoughtfully and prayerfully, prepare ...

We truly hope every single SEFC household will participate in our generosity campaign. Some gifts will be large, and some gifts will be comparatively small. Every contributed gift, regardless of size, is important! *

As you think about your response, we suggest you do the following:

1. If you are married, approach this as a couple. Talk and pray about your response together.
2. Consider your financial resources, assets, and your discretionary spending.
3. Pray that God will give you wisdom and discernment in knowing how to respond.
4. Determine if God is calling your household to a season of “sacrificial” giving. (Our generosity campaign is a three-year commitment.)
5. Once you have defined your financial commitment, complete the provided reply card.

* “A poor widow came and put in two small copper coins, which make a penny ... ‘Truly, I say to you, this poor widow has put in more than all those who are contributing to the offering box. For they all contributed out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty has put in everything she had, all she had to live on.’”

Mark 12:42-44

Commitment Card Instructions ...

We have printed commitment/pledge cards for our generosity campaign. You will receive one of these cards (one per household). Use this card to communicate your financial commitment to Honor the Past/Embrace the Future.

To complete your commitment/pledge card:

1. Please print or write legibly
2. Include your name(s) and the date.
3. For each of the next three years, indicate the amount you will contribute to our generosity campaign, Honor the Past/Embrace the Future. (Note: It is understood the designated amount may vary from year to year.)
4. Add the three separate yearly designated contributions together and write that total in the box in the middle of the card. This is your TOTAL commitment/pledge.
5. At the bottom of the card, please indicate the frequency (weekly, monthly, quarterly, annually) with which your Honor the Past/Embrace the Future contributions will be given.

Questions? Contact Scott Larson – Cell: 651-434-5413

Where will the money come from?

We do not know how many people will commit/pledge to our generosity campaign. We do not know how much money will be raised to support our planned building project. We pray every household will contribute. By faith, we expect to raise at least **\$720,000**. The following chart is an example of one way we could collectively meet our goal.

Sample Giving Chart

<u>3-Year Total Giving</u>	<u>Number of Households</u>	<u>Total \$</u>
\$75,000	1	\$ 75,000
\$50,000	1	\$ 50,000
\$25,000	3	\$ 75,000
\$20,000	6	\$120,000
\$15,000	10	\$150,000
\$10,000	14	\$140,000
\$5,000	14	\$ 70,000
\$2,500	12	\$ 30,000
\$1,000	8	\$ 8,000
\$500	4	\$ 2,000
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	73	\$720,000

“Together we can accomplish what cannot be done alone.”



Artistic rendering of remodeled church building.



STILLWATER
EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH