

“LORD, WHAT DO YOU WANT TO DO THROUGH ME?”

Frequently Asked Questions

Campaign Scriptures: *“Peter replied, “Each of you must repent of your sins and turn to God, and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. Then you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. **This promise is to you, to your children, and to those far away – all who have been called by the Lord our God.**” Acts 2:38-39 New Living Translation* | *“Unless the Lord builds a house, the work of the builders is wasted.” Psalm 127:1a*

When will the campaign begin? The Fulfilling the Promise campaign has already started behind the scenes. A team of dedicated laity are working with our pastor and a consultant from Horizons Stewardship. Our congregation will begin receiving regular updates in early September. The first Sunday of the campaign will be September 25th, and Commitment Sunday will be October 30th. We'll announce total gifts on November 27th.

How long is this campaign? Fulfilling the Promise is a three-year capital campaign. Your pledge will represent over-and-above giving during the next three years: December 2016 - December 2019

Will a capital campaign have a negative impact on regular offerings? Throughout the capital campaign, we will emphasize that gifts to the building project are to be over and above regular tithes and offerings to the ministry budget. Campaigns guided by Horizons Stewardship encourage faithful stewardship and help strengthen overall giving. In addition to guiding the capital campaign, Horizons will help us conduct our fall campaign in support of our regular ministry budget. This campaign will take place at the same time as the capital campaign.

What will the new sanctuary cost? While we don't have an exact cost, we know the last estimate was \$2.3 million. With increased building and construction costs over the past few years, we anticipate the building will cost approximately \$3 million.

How much has already been given? The Trustees have already allocated \$400,000 to give toward the construction of our dedicated sanctuary space. We have also received gifts totaling nearly \$279,000. This \$679,000 will be used in addition to gifts pledged and received in the “Fulfilling the Promise” campaign.

How much do we hope to raise? Early pledges will help determine our overall giving goal, but we anticipate raising between \$1 and \$1.3 million. At the same time, we are open to God surprising us with a larger amount!

What about the rest of the money? Once we have the totals (totals from the capital campaign, total building costs, any other additional funds, etc.), we will carefully develop a plan to cover the remaining cost. We will be very careful not to overextend ourselves in a way that will negatively impact existing ministries.

When will we build? Our Trustees are committed to moving forward quickly once we have 50% of building costs in hand. Once we have final costs on the project, we'll know exactly what our goal is. That number is tentatively \$1,500,000.

Will we hire a new architect and contractor? The basic master plan will be the same in order to integrate the sanctuary into our existing campus buildings. However, we intend to revisit the existing plans to make sure they are adequate to our current needs. As the contractor we used previously is no longer in business, we will carefully weigh our options and interview qualified contractors. We will then select someone who we are confident will provide us with a safe and secure building.

Will we be able to have input into the building? The building committee will carefully listen to the congregation to make sure our new sanctuary meets the needs of our congregation and those we hope to reach with the life-changing love of God.





Dear Church Family,

In the days and weeks ahead, you'll be hearing a lot about our upcoming capital campaign. Fulfilling the Promise is the title we've chosen for this campaign, which will raise the funds to construct a dedicated sanctuary for our congregation.

I am so blessed to see all the ways God is at work in our midst. We are growing in weekly worship, and most importantly, we are seeing lives changed by the love and grace of God through Jesus Christ!

Partnering together with God, we have an opportunity to do something that will have a significant impact on our community. Our plan to construct a sanctuary is not an attempt to pat ourselves on the back or to be more comfortable. Instead, our heart is to bring glory and honor to God, while providing our congregation with all the tools we need to carry out the ministry and vision God has given us. We want everything we do to help us invite people to experience the life-changing love of God!

Enclosed is a vision brochure detailing for you what the Fulfilling the Promise campaign is all about. Please read the material carefully. It will answer many of your questions concerning our Fulfilling the Promise campaign.

In the near future, you will be receiving a call from a member of our Prayer Team. Their primary goal is to ask you to make the campaign a matter of daily prayer. They will not be asking you for a commitment during this call, but they will be able to share information about the campaign, the vision for our church, and to answer any of your questions. Our prayer team is simply calling to make sure you know what is going on and to urge you to begin praying.

The days ahead are exciting! I believe this campaign will not only raise the funds to accomplish our goal, but will allow us to pull together in faith so that we see the hand of God in all that we do. Please pray with me as we work toward that goal and you'll be amazed at what God can do in and through us for the sake of His kingdom!

Grace & Peace,

Rev. Dr. Matt Judkins
Senior Pastor

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WHAT IS FULFILLING THE PROMISE?

McAlester First United Methodist Church has a strong tradition of meeting people where they are, both geographically and spiritually. As early as 1874, Methodists were in McAlester meeting in brush arbors in the summer and unused box cars in the winter. Over the years, the church moved from an early white frame church building in 1889 to Grand Avenue in 1924. All along the way, we have faithfully sought to share the gospel of Jesus Christ across the city of McAlester.

In recent years, McAlester First United Methodist Church boldly chose to construct a new campus at 13th and MacArthur, a prime location in the heart of the community near local schools, the city walking track, and youth baseball and soccer fields. McAlester First UMC held its first worship service in its new location on December 16, 2012.

In the first phase of the building project, we constructed our Family Life Center and office and education space, with plans to eventually create a dedicated sanctuary for worship.

Now that we have paid off all existing debt, we are ready to complete our building plan with the construction of a new sanctuary.

Fulfilling the Promise is the name of our fall capital campaign, which will help us achieve the goal of constructing a dedicated sanctuary. This will help us fulfill our mission to **"invite people to experience the life-changing love of God"** in two different ways:

- 1.) This will **create a beautiful and welcoming space to experience God in weekly worship**. Worship is the core activity of the church as well as the place where most people first experience the life-changing love of God. We look forward to celebrating the major spiritual events of our members' lives together: professions of faith, baptisms, weddings, and funerals, all in the same space where we gather for worship and prayer week after week.
- 2.) We are currently somewhat limited in the use of our Family Life Center because of the need for extensive set-up and tear-down each time it is used. **A dedicated sanctuary will free up our Family Life Center for more regular use in addition to our current usage.**

We believe our new sanctuary will help us continue to invite people to experience the life-changing love of God by making our Church an even more welcoming and active place to love God, grow in our faith, and serve our neighbors in Christ's name. The project is estimated to cost approximately \$3 million.

