



NEWSLETTER TWO

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Answering the Call Together

We confess that when we were asked to be co-chairs of this capital campaign, we had to wonder, "Why us?" This was quickly followed by the thought: "Why not us? Who are we to say no to the call of God?"

After some prayer and discussion with Pastor Ben, we felt certain of one thing: God was calling each of us to serve Urban Grace in ways that stretch beyond the already consistent giving that happens regularly in our community.

As part of our campaign, we've heard amazing stories about the living history of this church, and the ways in which it – and its members – have served the people of downtown Tacoma for generations. We've also heard people reflecting on what it means to "Build Together" for our mission now and into the future.

Christianity is not compatible with resting on one's laurels. There is always another challenge, and God is always there to support us along the way as we all have experienced in some fashion. Jesus told the rich man, in Matthew 19:21, "If you want to be perfect (truly righteous), sell all your possessions and give the money to the poor...and then you can follow me." While we are a long way from being this unselfish, the grace of God washes away and overcomes our shortcomings, delivering abundantly when we live in that grace.

We have been in awe at how God is working in our midst to make Building Together a reality. Team leaders have stepped up with exceptional talent and enthusiasm, and so many people have already committed their time, effort and creativity. Perhaps you have stepped up – seeking, volunteering, assisting, and serving. Thank you!

Building Together. Join us as we embark on this journey together to live out our mission and ministry at Urban Grace.

Willie Stewart and George Kovats, Campaign Co-Chairs

The logo for Upcoming Campaign Events, featuring a grid of blue and red squares. Below the grid, the text "UPCOMING CAMPAIGN EVENTS" is written in blue and red. UPCOMING CAMPAIGN EVENTS	Home Gatherings (informational meetings) October 10 – November 1	Building Together Celebration Dinner Saturday, December 2
	Prayer Vigil Friday, November 10 - Sunday, November 11	Commitment Worship Sunday, December 3
	Children's Sunday School Activity Day Sunday, November 5	Celebration Worship Services Sunday, January 28
	Advance Commitment Gathering November 19	

Urban Grace Can Define the Word “Home”

When I was 17-years-old, I felt God's presence for the first time. I was pressed by the crushing weight of a broken home. Just one year earlier, after 16 years of actively raising me, my father abandoned my mom, my two sisters and me. It was now my senior year of high school and my sisters were grown and out of the house. My mom and I struggled, emotionally and financially, to pick up the pieces of everything my dad had so easily broken apart. I remember praying, asking for help and feeling God had heard me.

It's been a slow, unfolding answer to prayer in the 16 years since. The life-giving “home” I so desperately needed came in 2007 in the form of Urban Grace. Where I found community. Where I met my future husband in the pews. Where I was married. Where we dedicated our daughter and where we'll soon dedicate our son (due this December). I never would have thought a church, of all places, could be a home. God and the healing and hope I have found at Urban Grace have shown me otherwise.

- Holly Powers

Stories like Holly's are what create the community that is Urban Grace. We all have a story to tell that has led us to this place at this point in our lives. Some of us have been here for a year or two, while others have been here for several decades. No matter what brings you here, you're welcome at Urban Grace.



Join us for our regular Sunday morning services during the Building Together campaign to hear more stories from the community of Urban Grace.

"The body is a unit, though it is made up of many parts; and though all its parts are many, they form one body. Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it."

1 Cor. 12: 12, 27



Kids Teaching Us to Build Together

On November 5th, 2017, we will have a special treat for our children during Sunday School. A local artist and one of our own, Elizabeth Reeves, will lead our children in a unique art project celebrating our Building Together campaign.

The project itself is still a secret – anything to instill an air of mystery and excitement, right? But here is the hint I've been given: each child will have the opportunity to create their own art project and then they will work together to link all of them together into one collective design. They will, quite literally, be building together.

"Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up."

- Luke 18:1

At Urban Grace we pride ourselves on our ability to learn from our children. It only seemed fitting that they lead the way in teaching us as a congregation how to Build Together. The children's final design will be unveiled at our Sunday service on November 12th.

Supporting the Campaign Through Prayer

Building Together is about more than a building, it's about the people of Urban Grace coming together to be a blessing to the larger community of Tacoma for years to come. All are invited to attend the Prayer Vigil, beginning on November 11th at 10am and ending on November 12th at 10am. This will be a time where you can come to the church to pray for yourself, the church, and our future together. We will have some prayer stations set up for guided prayers and meditations, or you can just come and have a quiet space to pray away from the busy distractions of your day (or night!). The whole campaign is a time of reflection and prayer, but hopefully this 24 hours will be a meaningful time for everyone where we can continue to pray for what Urban Grace means to us and how God can continue to grow us in community together.

"Good works is giving to the poor and the helpless, but divine works is showing them their worth to the One who matters."

- Criss Jami, Killosophy

If you would like to volunteer to help at the Prayer Vigil, please contact **Sarah York at (831) 331-6793** or sbgYork@gmail.com. More information about ways to be involved in praying for Urban Grace even if you can't make it to the vigil will be available in the coming weeks.

Prayer Vigil, Urban Grace Chapel

Starts: Saturday, November 11th, 10:00am

Ends: Sunday, November 12th, 10:00am

Learn More About Campaign Projects @ Home Gatherings

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Home Gatherings provide an opportunity to learn about and discuss the Building Together capital campaign in a small group setting. Hosted in various church members' homes, these gatherings will include guided discussion, Q&A, and a video presentation to inform about the campaign in greater detail.

Discussion will focus on the campaign itself and not on individual financial giving. These sessions will be approximately 90 minutes and will include light snacks and beverages. Gatherings begin October 10 and run through early November. Childcare will be provided at select sessions. All are welcome to attend. **Sign up for one of these remaining Home Gatherings at church on Sunday or by following the Capital Campaign link at UrbanGraceTacoma.org.**

- Friday, October 13, 6:30pm (Tracie & Matt Bonjour's home, Hilltop)
- Saturday, October 14, 4pm (Bruce & Betsy Erickson's home, West Tacoma)
- Sunday, October 15, 12pm (Urban Grace Chapel)
- Monday, October 16, 7:30pm (Jack & Sue Comfort's Home, North Tacoma)
- Saturday, October 21, 10am (Adam & Courtney Ydstie's home, Hilltop)
- Tuesday, October 24, 7pm (Brad & Elisa Waidelich's home, North Tacoma)
- Thursday, October 26, 6:30pm (Mark & Maggie Dahl's home, Hilltop)
- Sunday, October 29, 3:30pm (Walker & Amanda Sherman's home)
- Wednesday, November 1, 6:pm (Abbie & Cyrus Brown's home, North Tacoma)

