



Invest in the Promise!

Capital Campaign News from St. Matthew Episcopal Church

March 2017

Issue 2

Upcoming Campaign Events

Enrichment Gatherings (Informational meetings)

March 6 through
March 31

Children's Sunday School Activity Day

Sunday, April 2

Prayer Vigil

Thursday, April 13
(Maundy Thursday)
through Friday, April 14
(Good Friday)

Advance Commitment Gathering

Saturday, April 29

All-Church Celebration Banquet

Saturday, May 6

Commitment Worship Services

Sunday, May 7

Celebration Worship Services

Sunday, June 4

Promise Keepers

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: "There is no way, on God's green earth, that we have time to do justice to another project." And then we realized: "Who are we to say no to God?"

After much prayer, discussion, and meetings with that amazing Rector of ours, we felt certain of one thing. God was calling us - all of us - to step up in ways above and beyond the abundant, selfless giving that already occurs at St. Matthew's on a daily basis.

As part of this process, we have heard amazing stories about the living history of this church, such as the donation made by the Monahan family, the opening of the Kennedy household for services when there was no physical structure in which to kneel, and the twisting path along which God led Father Kendall to this holy place.

But Christianity is not compatible with resting on

one's laurels. There is always another challenge, and Jesus is always there extending His hand to lead us on the way. He 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 you will have treasure in Heaven." Speaking personally, we are a long, long way from being this unselfish. The grace of Christ, however, washes away and overcomes our shortcomings, and makes miracles occur when we live in that grace.

We have been astonished at how God is working in our midst to make *Invest in the Promise* a reality. Team leaders have stepped up with exceptional talent and enthusiasm. Father Kendall has led with grace, as always. And perhaps most impressively, you have stepped up - seeking, volunteering, assisting, and serving.

Invest in the Promise. Join us, and join the sovereign, living God as we embark on this journey together to keep His promise.

Enrichment Gatherings Begin March 6

Wondering what *Invest in the Promise* is all about? During the month of March, several of our church families will be opening their homes and inviting you to come and share some food and fellowship, watch a short video, and dialogue about our campaign. It's a wonderful way for you to get information and answers to your questions in a cozy, friendly environment. The purpose of these Enrichment Gatherings is to inform and involve the membership of St. Matthew Episcopal Church in our *Invest in the Promise* campaign. We pray that each person and family will be truly encouraged and inspired to be involved in this gathering experience. Our goal is to have 100 percent attendance.

For more information, contact: Terry Elofson at 253-670-1948 or thelofson@gmail.com.

Prayer Supports Us In Our Work and Our Daily Lives

“Pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests.”

Ephesians 6:18

A part of our *Invest in the Promise* campaign involves deepening our connections with God and our church family. One of the ways to accomplish this is to spend an hour - yes, just one hour! - totally devoted to prayer. These prayers could be for yourself, your family, your church family, the success of the campaign, and, of course, for specific prayer requests from others.

In Ephesians 6:18, St. Paul reminds us to “... pray in the Spirit on all occasions, with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints.” And in Philippians 4:6, we are advised: “Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.”

Our Prayer Vigil is a vital time for us to sense and support the ways in which our Lord is working through each of us in our church. You are invited to join us for an hour of prayer sometime during the 24-Hour Prayer Vigil beginning on Thursday, April 13 (after the Maundy Thursday service) concluding at 7 PM on Good Friday, April 14.

What you can do:

- Sign up for one hour of prayer
- Offer your Prayer Request(s) using the enclosed card. Place your Prayer Requests in the box that will be placed near the chapel entrance for your Prayer Requests.
- For more information, contact: Linda Pomeroy-Hull at 253-279-2089 or lindan@lindan.com.

Bible Studies Provide Guidance For Our Campaign

Our *Invest in the Promise* campaign provides a wonderful opportunity to accelerate our growth as followers of Jesus. One way to enable this growth is to spend purposeful time reading, contemplating, and discussing scripture.

Jesus talked a lot about money, but in most of his encounters and parables, the deeper issue was that of peoples' hearts.

Over the coming weeks, everyone is encouraged to spend more time in God's word, and to take part in Bible Study groups at church.

Be listening for announcements about how to get involved.

For more information, contact:
Jeff Clapp at 253-906-9484 or
clappja@plu.edu.

*“Grow in the
grace and
knowledge of
our Lord and
Savior Jesus
Christ.”*

2 Peter 3:18

Our Campaign Includes Children and Youth

Children and Youth Co-Directors, Anne Hartwig and Nan Martin-Clapp have planned activities and lessons to share with our children and youth during the months of our *Invest in the Promise* Capital Campaign. Thank you to those of you who have already reached out to us, offering your gifts of time, talent, energy and enthusiasm during this campaign.

Lower Youth:

February 26th - God's Gifts, Come and See what God has done.
March 26th - Caring for God's Gifts
April 2nd - Children's Sunday School Activity Day
April 30th - Godly Giving
May 6th - All-Church Banquet
May 7th - Children "noisy offering" during offertory in worship services

Upper Youth:

February 26th - "Stewardship Sleuthing"
March 26th - Identifying your Stewardship "Attitude"
April 2nd - Youth Group Activity Day
April 13 & 14 - Prayer Vigil
April 30th - Weighing in with Sacrificial Gifts
May 6th - All-Church Banquet

Whether or not you have young children at home, you can get involved by:

- Praying for our campaign, the campaign leadership, and activity leaders
- Considering how you might be an example of stewardship for our children and youth
- Volunteering to help out
- Giving thanks for the young people in our midst, their gifts and skills, and the opportunity they have to grow up in such an amazing church family

For more information or to get involved, contact Nan Martin-Clapp at 253-905-1701 or clappjnb@yahoo.com.

HIGHLIGHT THESE DATES AND PLAN TO PARTICIPATE!

Enrichment Gatherings

(Informational Meetings)

March 6 - 31

Signup at Church

Bible Studies

March and April

Signup at Church

24-Hour Prayer Vigil

8:00 PM Thursday, April 13

through

7:00 PM Friday, April 14

Submit Prayer Requests

Signup at Church

All-Church Celebration Banquet

Saturday, May 6

INVEST IN THE PROMISE!



St. Matthew Episcopal Church
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