



So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow.

Help Us Grow 2 Stewardship Campaign

Newsletter #3
March 2011

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HUG2
1 Corinthians 3:7

Commitment Celebration
Sunday, April 3

One Outdoor Worship Service
9:30 a.m.
(located under big tent on Trinity's ball field)

BBQ Lunch
(following the worship service)

Activities for young and old
(bouncers, ball pit, games, balloons, clown, etc.)



Education Building Dedicated on March 6

Almost 1,000 people attended worship on March 6th for the dedication of the new Education Center. During the dedication, contractor Shawn Boatman handed the keys to architect Stuart Campbell who then handed them to the Building Committee on behalf of the congregation.

The keys were then lifted up to the Lord as Senior Pastor Michael Dorn spoke these words: "We now dedicate the Education Center in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. May the Lord Almighty, bless it to the praise and honor of His Holy name. Amen." The keys were then handed to Principal Amy Boatman and Director of the Early Childhood Program Amy Drosche.

Other members of the Building Committee, as well as Steve Block, Executive Director of the Texas District Church Extension Fund, were also present for the Rite of Dedication.



Pictured front row: Amy Boatman, Director of Educational Ministries, receives key from Jean Minsch, Building Committee/Governing Board. Pictured back row from left to right: Michael Dorn - Senior Pastor, Steve Block - Executive Director of Texas District CEF, Faye Faszholz - Building Committee, Russell King - Building Committee, Stuart Campbell - Architect, Shawn Boatman - Contractor, and Amy Drosche - Director of Early Childhood Program.



Members and guests enjoy the view from the second floor patio.

The new Education Center was open throughout the morning for those who had attended worship to tour the facilities. Faculty and staff of Trinity were on hand to guide people through the building. Over and over again, comments were made about how wonderful the building is and what a blessing it will be to the ministry of this congregation.

The Early Childhood program is now seeing the addition of several new students each week. This gradual fill rate is expected to continue until the building reaches capacity in August. "The opening of the new building means that we can truly carry out our mission of reaching out to the community," Amy Drosche said. "We now have some room for parents from the neighborhood who desperately want to enroll their children at Trinity," she added. The Early Childhood program is a front-porch ministry of Trinity through which many people have come to know Jesus as their Savior. A number of families have chosen to make this congregation their church home as a result of the relationship established through the care provided to their children.

If you missed the opportunity to look around the new building, you'll have another chance to do that. On Sunday, April 3rd, there will be a special celebration worship service held under a tent on the ball field adjacent to the Education Center. The tent will seat a thousand people and we hope to more than fill it. Trinity will have just one worship service that day at 9:30 a.m. Following worship, there will be food and games so that members and guests will have an opportunity for fellowship and rejoice together in the gift that God has given Trinity.


Steve Block Joins Celebration

Steve Block, Executive Director of Texas District Church Extension Fund (CEF), was present to join in celebrating with Trinity on the dedication of the Education Center. Steve challenged the congregation saying, "My prayer for you this week is when you get to work and you talk about what happened this weekend it won't be a TV show, it won't be some athletic activity that went on, but that you participated in the dedication of a new tool that's going to be used to proclaim Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior so that other people can join us in heaven." The mortgage for the new building is through CEF which is a unique savings and loan ministry. In addition to providing loans to congregations, CEF is a great place for individuals to save and invest. CEF offers competitive rates to investors and gives a discount on its loan rate to Trinity based on the amount of investors from this congregation. For more information check CEF out on the web at www.texascef.org.





Making Your Commitment



MY/OUR COMMITMENT

I/We have studied God's Word and prayed about my/our financial commitment in the Help Us Grow 2 Capital Stewardship Campaign. Moved by faith to sacrifice and desiring God's will be done, I/we commit to give:

\$ _____ weekly for 156 weeks, for a total of \$ _____, or
\$ _____ monthly for 36 months, for a total of \$ _____, or
\$ _____ annually for 3 years, for a total of \$ _____, or
as follows: _____, for a total of \$ _____.

Name: _____
Address: _____
Signature: _____

I/we want to be contacted about gifts other than cash, such as stocks, bonds, real estate, etc.

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In a few weeks, you will be receiving a Commitment Card, like the one pictured above, in the mail. This card will be your opportunity to step forward in faith and help us grow. We encourage you to go through the following process before deciding on a number.

The Commitment Process

As you consider the "Help Us Grow 2" campaign, you may want to ask yourself:

- **"Have I prayed about my gift?"**
Pray for guidance in reaching a decision that will be right for you, your family, and for our church.
- **"Is this amount pleasing to the Lord?"**
Pray to God and ask Him to confirm or challenge that decision, until you come up with a final amount.
- **"Does my gift have an element of faith?"**
Allow faith to become a part of your decision. Leave room for God to act and He will give you direction and opportunities in the decision you make.
- **"Is my gift truly sacrificial?"**
Setting apart a portion of all you have - giving something that you value dearly - is a way of expressing your love for God and His church.

There is only one way for you to determine your commitments. Asking God's guidance through prayer, you will determine your own gift. It should be one of sacrifice and show a willingness to do without something you had planned for. Indeed, our campaign involves "Not Equal Giving, but Equal Sacrifice." Clearly, we don't all have the same resources, but we do all have the same God!

Key Dates to Remember

March 13

Pastor John Kieschnick will be guest preacher at all services. His topic will be "What Legacy Will You Leave?"

April 3

Commitment Celebration Event
Bring your HUG2 Commitments
(One service, BBQ, activities)

April 17

Dedication Sunday

April 24

First Fruits Sunday
Easter Sunday
(You are asked to make your first gift to HUG2 on this Sunday)



Initial Commitment Event

On March 21st at 7:00 p.m. HUG2 leaders and volunteers, as well as congregational leaders will gather together in worship to make their commitments. The intent is to have the leaders set a spirit of enthusiasm and model a level of giving by making their commitments first, setting the example for the congregation. Anyone who would like to participate in this event is welcome and may do so by calling the church office.



Trinity Lutheran Church & School

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Houston, TX 77007

Address Service Requested

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Expanding God's Kingdom Both Today and Tomorrow

You've probably heard about "elevator stories", and how a good salesperson can effectively communicate their message within the span of an elevator ride, or 30-45 seconds. With that in mind, why should you support the HUG2 campaign? In simplest terms, supporting HUG2 gives you a chance to expand God's kingdom, both today and tomorrow, and it will benefit you personally.

Your contributions to HUG2 will have an impact today, by enabling Trinity to continue reaching out to our neighbors and community with the message of Christ. As you've seen, the area around Trinity is changing, and with our new Education Center, we have positioned ourselves to realize the benefits of that change.

As for tomorrow, author C.S. Lewis, who wrote *The Chronicles of Narnia*, may have said it best: "If you read history, you will find that the Christians who did the most for the present world were precisely those who thought most of the next." The HUG2 campaign shifts our focus to things that will last, even long after we're gone.

In our own lives, we have seen, time and again, where God gives us the opportunity to support His work, just as He said He would (Ephesians 2:10). And when we have joined in that work, we have realized two very tangible benefits. First, God has given us more than we could ever give back. We can't explain how it happens, but it does. Second, our giving has brought us true joy. Think of the last time you did something that truly brought joy to someone else. Remember how you felt? Giving brings incredible joy, because we get to see how our actions benefit others.

We are excited about HUG2, and what it means for Trinity and the opportunities it will provide to experience true joy. We hope and pray you will join us on the journey.

Sincerely,

Gregory and Ann Gunn



Ann and Gregory Gunn