



Oglethorpe  
Presbyterian Church

The community is our congregation. Church Office: 404.233.5469

www.opcbrookhaven.org

# Campaign News

## Oglethorpe Presbyterian Church

3016 Lanier Drive  
Atlanta, Georgia 30319

### Support Is Strong for Capital Campaign

*Campaign Would Fund Repairs, Renovation and Plan to Welcome New Members*

**R**eplace the heating and air conditioning in the sanctuary was the number one priority of OPC members in the recently-completed Feasibility Study. Following priorities were 2) upgrade restrooms, 3) repair the roof, 4) reach out to new members, 5) replace the glass entrance doors, 6) update the kitchen and 7) reconfigure the sanctuary entrance.

Half of the members of OPC participated in the study conducted by Church Development. Below is a summary of the findings. The complete report can be requested from the church office.

→ Eighty-five percent (85%) of respondents said that OPC is meeting their spiritual needs, and 80 percent believed they have ample opportunities for community and fellowship.

*Results of Feasibility Study and Session decision continued on page 2.*



**Eighty-three percent (83%) of all respondents believed OPC should conduct a capital campaign to address the issues outlined in the Feasibility Study.**

### A Message from Marthame

Dear friends,

First, let me thank all of you who took part in the Feasibility Study. According to our consultants, Denis



Greene and Ed Dobmeyer from Church Development, we had one of the highest rates of participation they had ever seen with half of OPC members participating.

I was not sure what to expect from the report, but when I read it, I immediately saw that this congregation cares deeply about our church and how we strive to live according to Christ's teachings.

I appreciated all of your comments that can help me and the church as a whole better meet your needs. Please be aware that some things we can do in the short term; others will take a longer period of time.

Along with you, I want to see OPC remain a vital part of this community for years to come. I want it to be a place that serves our current members and provides a spiritual haven for those searching for a home in which to worship, learn and share in fellowship.

Please read over this newsletter carefully. It includes a summary of the results of the Feasibility Study including recommendations and a fundraising forecast.

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## Session Decides to Move Ahead with Campaign

The OPC Session voted to begin a capital campaign immediately. Specifically Session agreed to:

- ❖ Conduct a combined Capital Campaign and Annual Stewardship Campaign this fall.

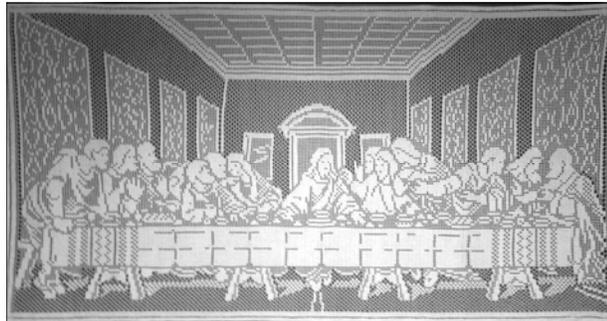
- ❖ Contract with Church Development to manage the campaigns. The reasons to bring in an outside consultant are:

1. We do not have the staff to devote the approximately 500 hours needed to manage the campaign or the expertise a consultant can bring to the campaign.
2. All of the research shows that we will raise more in pledges with an outside consultant which will more than pay for Church Development's fee.

Ed Dobmeyer who conducted the Feasibility Study will be our lead consultant. He will be assisted by Denis Greene, president of Church Development.

**Jean Cox and Paul Reynolds** have agreed to serve as the Campaign Co-Chairpersons for the campaign. Thank you Jean and Paul, and thank you to the team leaders who have volunteered so far!

## Support Is Strong for Capital Campaign continued from page 1



- ➔ Seventy-nine percent (79%) expressed confidence in the pastor, church staff and lay leaders to make the right decisions regarding the future of the church.

- ➔ Seventy-four percent (74%) of all respondents agreed it is urgent for

Oglethorpe Presbyterian to conduct a capital campaign now to raise money to allow us to address these needs.

- ➔ Only 18% agreed that the church's financial condition was strong while 19% were neutral and 65% thought the

condition was weak.

- ➔ If all their questions were answered adequately, 82% of respondents indicated they would be willing to make a financial commitment to the campaign; 14% said "I don't know."

- ➔ Forty (40) households offered a potential \$255,500 to a three-year capital campaign.

**An Executive Summary of the report is on the OPC website at [www.opcbrookhaven.org](http://www.opcbrookhaven.org)**

## Recommendations and Forecast from the Feasibility Study

In its report, Church Development made the following recommendations to OPC:

1. Conduct a capital campaign this fall in conjunction with the annual stewardship campaign culminating with a Commitment Sunday in December.

2. Focus on prayer and stewardship, and emphasize the sacrifices that have been made in the past by members to build and maintain OPC.

3. Invite all members to participate as volunteers, and provide opportunities for everyone to express their



concerns and have their questions answered.

4. Address the issue of the deficit in the annual budget and how that will be resolved.

5. Present a comprehensive plan and budget for the capital expenditures. Note: **All funds raised through the capital campaign will be used for capital expenditures.**

6. A high level of information sharing should flow through the campaign. Weekly communication on every aspect of the campaign should be planned.

7. The donation of property, stocks and bonds should be part of the campaign effort.

8. Church Development projects a 90% probability of raising \$300,000; a 75% probability of raising \$375,000 and a 50% probability of raising \$520,000 in a three-year capital campaign which includes much prayer, member involvement and clear communication.

## Lend a Hand—Join a Campaign Team

The campaign offers opportunities for OPC members to volunteer for a campaign team. These include:

### Prayer Team

This group will create a prayer that will help guide us toward God's purpose for our church in the campaign. The team will also plan a variety of ways to involve all members in prayer throughout the campaign.



### Events Team

The Events Team will plan and schedule several campaign events to provide fellowship, to present the details of the facility plans and provide a time for questions and answers with Pastor Sanders and campaign leaders. The team will encourage each church family to attend an event.

### Thanks Team

The Thanks Team will work on an appropriate way to express gratitude to those who make a commitment to the campaign.

### Youth/Children Team

The Youth/Children Team will explore fun and helpful ways to involve children and youth in the campaign that will help them learn about stewardship.

### Ambassador Team

The Ambassador Team will follow up with all OPC members to make sure they receive a commitment packet and have all of their questions answered about the campaign.

### Communications Team

This team will work closely with the campaign consultants on a variety of ways to communicate the details of the campaign through newsletters, bulletin articles, worship announcements, e-mails, website information and testimonies. The team will develop a campaign theme and logo.

### FAQs about the Teams

*Do I need any special training to be on one of the teams, and when do I need to decide on which team to serve?*

No, you don't need any special skills or training. You can decide which team you would like to serve on at the September 20 meeting.

*How much time do I need to commit to one of the campaign teams?*

The teams will meet 3 to 6 times from September 20 through January.

*Who will lead each of the teams?*

OPC members will co-lead each of the teams, and our Church Development consultant will meet with those leaders on a regular basis.

So far, the following team leaders have been named:

Prayer Team

Jeff Chance and Linda Hawthorne

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## Campaign Teams Volunteer Meeting

Thursday

September 20

7:00-8:15 p.m.

Fellowship Hall

### AGENDA

- **Overview of feasibility study and campaign**
- **Introduction of team leaders**
- **Initial meeting of teams**

**Sandwiches and beverages will be served**

**Childcare will be available**

## A Message from Marthame continued from page 1

On page 2, you will find details on Session's decision to move ahead with a combined Annual and Capital Campaign this fall.

And on page 3 is information about how you can volunteer by joining one of the campaign teams. **Please note that in addition to being very important to the success of the campaign, volunteering is a short-term commitment on your part.** If you are able, please join one of the teams. The first meeting will be Thursday, September 20. (Details about the teams and the meeting are on page 3).

Like me, I'm sure you have questions and will have more as we proceed over these next few months. There will be ample opportunity for two-way communication about the campaigns and plans to make improvements to our facilities and end the deficit in

our annual budget.

As we move ahead, please keep our OPC community in your daily prayers, and ask God to guide us in our endeavors. Join a campaign team if you are able, and keep yourself informed about the campaign.

In Christ,

Marthame Sanders



Pastor



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## Lend a Hand continued from page 3

### Events

Amy Chance and Emily Texter

### Children/Youth

Mark Kelly and Donna Poseidon

### Communications

Julia Berry

### Thanks

Samantha Cassidy and Georgia Gunter

### Ambassadors

Charles Hawthorne

***If I am unable to attend the meeting on September 20, can I still join one of the teams?***

Absolutely. Just e-mail our Campaign Consultant, Ed Dobmeyer at [ed@church-development.com](mailto:ed@church-development.com), and let him know which team you would like to join. You can also call him at 404-931-6873.

***Join one of the Campaign Teams  
Sept. 20-7:00 p.m.***

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