



Together We Grow

not equal gifts, but equal sacrifice

Volume One Issue Two
February 2012

A Word from Our Pastor

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

We have experienced some wonderful growth over the past 3 years, but we believe it is God's will that we continue to grow. Our community is filled with people who need Jesus Christ and the life changing relationship that He brings. We cannot rest on our past success. We must continue to join with God in building his kingdom.

For us to continue growing, we have some important decisions to make as a church. That's why Together We Grow is so important. As we unite in prayer — seeking to align ourselves to God's will for us — and as we give sacrificially as a church God, will continue to bless us.

Obedience to God always results in blessings from God.

Your involvement in Together We Grow will have an impact in building God's kingdom for years to come.

Brother Hal



What is Together We Grow?

"From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work." Ephesians 4:16

What is "Together We Grow?" It is a ten week campaign to guide our church in our efforts to seek God's will for our church and to align ourselves to his will. And specifically it is to put us where we need to be spiritually and financially so God can continue building his kingdom through us in the days ahead.

These ten weeks are divided into three sections and accomplish God's will in our church.

1. Four weeks of preparation from January 8 – February 5.
2. Four weeks of intensive prayer and information, February 6 – March 4.
3. Two weeks of celebration and collecting of pledge cards, ending on Victory Sunday, March 18, 2012.

By seeking God's wisdom, each family can determine their Together We Grow commitments. 'Not equal gifts, but equal sacrifice' is the emphasis for our program. Though everyone's gifts may not be equal in quantity, each family should give sacrificially.

"...I will not sacrifice to the LORD my God burnt offerings that cost me nothing." 2 Samuel 24:24



Willingness to Pledge

Sometimes people will say, 'I don't believe in pledges and I don't think the church ought to ask people to make pledges.'

Well, let's think about the logic of that statement for a moment. A pledge is a commitment. It is something you obligate yourself to pay.

Most of us make some sort of pledge on a weekly basis. For example, every time you write a check you are making a pledge. You are obligating yourself to pay from your checking account the amount you write on the check. Every time you use your credit card, you are pledging to pay the bill. When you buy a house, you sign a 15 year or 30 year pledge to pay a certain amount every month.

We believe in pledging because we do it all the time. However, we have a tendency to resist making pledges to God and we shouldn't. God commands us to make pledges and vows to Him because it demonstrates our commitment to Him and our trust in Him.

Numbers 30:1-2 (NIV) says "*Moses said to the heads of the tribes of Israel: 'This is what the LORD commands: When a man makes a vow to the LORD or takes an oath to obligate himself by a pledge, he must not break his word but must do everything he said.'*"

Psalms 76:11a (NIV) says "*Make vows to the LORD your God and fulfill them...*"

Commitments So Far

Some of our church leaders are being asked to make advance commitments to help set the pace for the giving of the rest of our church. This amount will be revealed at the Challenge to Build Banquet on March 4.

Determining Your Commitment

The basis by which we give should be determined by seeking God's guidance through prayer. The theme of our Together We Grow campaign is "not equal gifts, but equal sacrifice." The commitment that you make should be what you feel God has placed on your heart to give. It should be a real sacrifice to demonstrate your willingness to be a true part of the body of Jesus Christ.

We have many wonderful opportunities ahead of us and the need for sacrificial commitments is part of that success.



Not Equal Gifts, But Equal Sacrifice. What Does It Mean?

One wonderful thing about WRBC is that we are a mixed group of people with varied experiences, occupations, opinions, lives and financial levels. Being so diversified allows us to compliment each other in ways that would be impossible otherwise.

The Together We Grow campaign gives every Winchester Road Baptist Church family the opportunity to join God and other families in this effort. Not equal gifts, but equal sacrifice means giving to aid God's work at a level that is a sacrifice to you and your family. What is sacrifice? In the Old Testament, sacrifice meant giving up something of value for something of greater value. Many times over a lifetime people sacrifice one thing for something that is felt to be of greater importance. There is no greater cause than the work of God.

Sacrificial giving means giving at a level that is not monetarily equal to your peers, but requiring a level of sacrifice that is comparable. Even though we all may not give the same amount we all are to sacrifice equally. We encourage every WRBC family to pray about a sacrificial commitment.

Victory Sunday, on March 18, will be the final day that all our pledges are committed for Together We Grow. It will truly be a day of celebration.

One of the greatest experiences in the life of a Christian is being a part of God's plan.



not equal
gifts,
but equal
sacrifice

Our Goals

The Building Expansion Project that we completed in August 2009 cost \$1,060,000. Through sacrificial giving, this amount has been reduced to about \$750,000.

The Steering Committee has set the following goals for the Together We Grow Campaign:

- Victory Goal \$250,000**
- Challenge Goal \$400,000**
- Miracle Goal \$750,000**

The first goal, and the easiest to reach, is the Victory Goal of \$250,000 in pledges over the next three years. This would allow us to continue making our payments and reduce our debt over the next three years.

Our next goal is the Challenge Goal of \$400,000 in pledges for the next three years. This would allow us to pay off our loan much sooner and save quite a lot in interest along the way.

Our ultimate goal is the Miracle Goal of \$750,000 in pledges over the next three years. By reaching the Miracle Goal we can pay off our loan in three years, save a whole lot of interest, and place ourselves where we need to be for continued growth in the years to come.

To reach these goals we must all sacrifice. Each family will receive a pledge card by mail, and additional pledge cards will be available in the Welcome Center located in the church foyer. Families will fill out their pledge cards so that their pledges are completely confidential. There will be no pressure.

Pledge cards are to be returned to the church by Victory Sunday, March 18, 2012.

Please Be In Sincere Prayer

Together We Grow is really beginning to gain momentum. However, we cannot do it alone. We need the mighty power and strength of our Lord Jesus Christ to help us accomplish our church growth so that we may grow his kingdom for him.

Please be in prayer about how you can personally make a difference. Volunteer to help, give a testimony about how this program has made a difference in the lives of your family, and help financially. Pray that our church leaders will have God's wisdom in making decisions for our church, and pray for God to make this endeavor a huge success.

Remember that God loves us to communicate our needs to him because He loves us and wants to help us. But He does like to be asked. So let's all join together in unison and accomplish this great task with the help of our wonderful God.

Weekly Scale of Giving

\$150	for	156 weeks	\$23,400
\$140	for	156 weeks	\$21,840
\$130	for	156 weeks	\$20,280
\$120	for	156 weeks	\$18,720
\$110	for	156 weeks	\$17,160
\$100	for	156 weeks	\$15,600
\$75	for	156 weeks	\$11,700
\$70	for	156 weeks	\$10,920
\$50	for	156 weeks	\$7,800
\$40	for	156 weeks	\$6,240
\$30	for	156 weeks	\$4,680
\$25	for	156 weeks	\$3,900
\$20	for	156 weeks	\$3,120
\$15	for	156 weeks	\$2,340
\$13	for	156 weeks	\$2,028
\$10	for	156 weeks	\$1,560
\$8	for	156 weeks	\$1,248
\$7	for	156 weeks	\$1,092
\$6	for	156 weeks	\$936
\$5	for	156 weeks	\$780
\$4	for	156 weeks	\$624
\$3	for	156 weeks	\$468
\$2	for	156 weeks	\$312

Children's Scale of Giving

- 5 cents per week plus 1 dollar at each Christmas and Easter will equal \$13.50
- 10 cents per week plus 1 dollar at each Christmas and Easter will equal \$ 21.00
- 25 cents per week plus 1 dollar at each Christmas and Easter will equal \$ 43.50





Poster Contest Winners

(clockwise from top left)

Children

First Place – Grades 3 & 4 – Teacher: Michelle Woosley

Second Place – First Grade – Teacher: Brenda Lewis

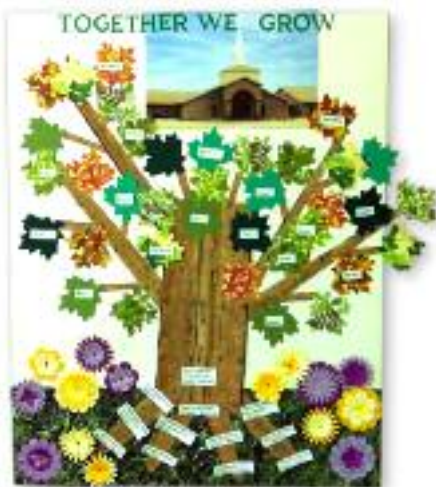
Third Place – Second Grade – Teacher: Hank & Tolly Fincher

Adult

First Place – Digging Deeper – Teacher: Terrie Gipson

Second Place – Ladies' I – Teacher: Kathy Patterson

Third Place – Ladies' IV – Teacher: Margaret Worley



Prayer Visitation

By this time, most families should have been contacted by Prayer Visitation team members. Pairs of prayer warriors have been visiting each and every family to see what prayer needs they may have and to pray for our church. We consider this to be a wonderful opportunity to get to know one another much better and to show that we are concerned and love one another. It also unites us in the greatest thing of all: building the kingdom of God.

We feel that this is a ministry that will greatly benefit each and every person within the church — both those being prayed for and those doing the praying.

If no one has prayed with your family please call the church office at 256-852-0044.

Please continue to pray for Together We Grow and for every single member of our church family.

Additional Questions

If you have questions that you would like to have answered about Together We Grow or the church, please send them to office@wrbcfamily.org or call the church at 256-852-0044. We will do our best to answer your questions.

Capacity Crowd Expected at Together We Grow Banquet

Soon everyone will receive a special invitation to the upcoming Together We Grow Banquet to be held on March 4 at 5 p.m. To ensure there is no confusion, the banquet hostesses, under the leadership of Dale Cassidy, will be calling each and every family by phone to answer any possible questions. Please be prepared to confirm the number of family members who plan to attend, as well as the number of children who plan to attend the Children's Party. If you have not been called by February 26, call the church office at 256-852-0044 to make your reservations.

This banquet should prove to be one of the high points in the history of our church, and we are expecting a capacity crowd to attend and be present in the WRBC sanctuary. The banquet will be the inspirational climax to the ten-week Together We Grow campaign. Children sixth grade and under will attend the Children's Party. Everyone seventh grade and older will attend the banquet. There will be no charge, no solicitation, no offerings and no fundraising at the banquet.

Special Sunday School Lesson

Every youth and adult will be studying a special Together We Grow Sunday School Lesson on March 4. The lesson will help us understand the Biblical basis for commitment and sacrifice, actions which are essential to the success of Together We Grow.



Name: _____
Address: _____

Together We Grow
Three Year Pledge

"not equal gifts,
but equal sacrifices"

Victory Goal: \$250,000

Challenge Goal: \$400,000

Miracle Goal: \$750,000

Name	Amount
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Members of family participating in gift.

Beginning April 1, 2012

\$ _____ WEEKLY (13 weeks) for a total of \$ _____.

\$ _____ MONTHLY (12 months) for a total of \$ _____.

\$ _____ for a total of \$ _____.

"Lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven... for wherever your treasure is there will be your heart also." - MATTHEW 6:20-21

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Together We Grow for the Glory of God.

This statement of intention may be revised or cancelled should circumstances make it necessary.

Testimony

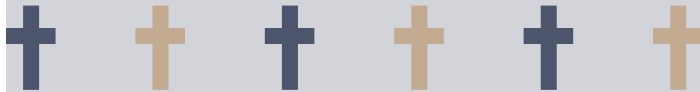
by Dave Wilburn

Over the years my wife and I have struggled to raise our family, meet our financial obligations and be a good example to those around us. We found ourselves living our lives without seeking God's wisdom — contrary to how things should have been done. For years we stubbornly did what we thought was right and as a result experienced financial difficulties.

When we truly realized we needed to get in step with our Heavenly Father's plan, we prayed for his guidance, wisdom and support.

After several months and several financial U-turns, we have put God's kingdom ahead of all our earthly needs and are trusting him. He answered our prayers. Now we are better able to give tithes plus extra to support his works.

We have never been happier.



But just as you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in your love for us—see that you also excel in this grace of giving.

2 Corinthians 8:7



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Calendar of Events



- Feb 6-18 Prayer Visitation
- Feb 15 Prayer Meeting and Testimonies
- Feb 19 Church Growth Sermon and Testimonies
- Feb 20 Advance Commitment Event
- Feb 21-24 Advance Commitment Follow-up
- Feb 22 Prayer Meeting and Testimonies
- Feb 26 Stewardship Sermon and Testimonies
- Mar 4 Special Sunday School Lessons, Testimonies, and Banquet
- Mar 5-18 Return Pledge Cards
- Mar 18 Victory Sunday