

## **Question and Answers About Open Hearts Open Doors Campaign**

### **What is the purpose of the Open Hearts Open Doors Campaign?**

Open Hearts Open Doors is about *spiritual growth*. Everyone who makes a pledge will be attempting something great for God. We will discover that as we give with open hearts and open hands, God transforms us from fearful givers to cheerful givers.

Open Hearts Open Doors is about *financial freedom*. This campaign will grant us the financial freedom to create ministry opportunities in the future by eliminating the \$930,000 debt which encumbers us. Erasing this debt would release \$102,000 presently used for mortgage payments.

Open Hearts Open Doors is about *mission*. God has strategically located Peace Church in the mission field of Crowfield Plantation and Goose Creek. We sit in a family oriented community between Westview and Stratford schools. Additional funds would allow us to expand our children, youth and adult ministries. In addition to mission inside Crowfield, we also see a need to reach out to the Brazilian population in Goose Creek who are in need of a church home.

### **What are the dates for the Open Hearts Open Doors Campaign?**

The four weeks in February will be devoted to this campaign. February 3,10,17,24. At the end of the campaign everyone will be asked to make a three year financial commitment.

### **How will the money be used?**

The vast majority of the money will be used to reduce our mortgage. However, the Session has identified five priority projects that will make our church more welcoming and appealing to visitors. These projects are dependent on the amount of money raised.

1. Repave the parking lot around the sanctuary and seal the remainder.
2. Create a welcome center that is connected to the sanctuary.
3. Remodel the chancel steps providing more space at the front of the sanctuary.
4. Reupholster the pews
5. Replace the chancel furniture.

### **How long do I have to pay my pledge?**

You will have three years beginning in March 2008 to pay your pledge. You do not have to pay your pledge all at once or in equal installments. The rate at which you fulfill your pledge is up to you.

### **Can pledges be fulfilled using assets other than cash?**

Yes. Any type of asset or investment [stocks, bonds etc.] can be used to fulfill your pledge. By transferring ownership to the church, you could avoid capital gains taxes on the sale and receive an income tax charitable deduction for the full market value of the asset. You may want to check with your tax advisor for specifics.

### **How is the Open Hearts Open Doors Campaign different from the annual Stewardship Campaign?**

“Open Hearts Open Doors” will be a transformational experience involving the whole church through prayer, powerful small group bible studies on “Lifestyle Stewardship,” sermons, and a major celebration event! “Open Hearts Open Doors” will be an exciting month that launches us forward, creating opportunities for ministry and allowing us to do some other improvements that will make Peace a more attractive and inviting place. You won’t want to miss out on one of the biggest events in the history of Peace Church!

### **Are we using an outside company to help us with the campaign?**

Yes we are. After thought and prayer, the Session decided to enlist the services of Generis, a leading church stewardship company based out of Atlanta. Statistics and experience prove that churches that use outside companies raise twice as much money as churches that do not. Consultants are exceptionally helpful in clarifying the purpose, organization and process of the campaign as well as providing professional advice and experience which translates into successful campaigns.

Our consultant’s name is Dr. John Bash. He is a life long friend of Will Dietrich and was available to work with us which made the decision relatively easy. John has a great depth of knowledge and experience having started three churches. After pastoring for 25 years, John reconfigured his life to help churches achieve their spiritual and financial goals.

### **Does the Session support the Open Hearts Open Doors Campaign?**

Absolutely! In August 2007 they voted unanimously to approve this campaign. They understand that this is an opportunity for us to grow spiritually, increase our mission and ministry opportunities and gain financial freedom. In addition to the Session, a great many of the leaders in the church have made a commitment to be on the Steering Committee in support of the campaign.

### **When will the money be used for its designated purpose?**

As soon as funds are received and the stewardship account grows, the Session is committed to using them for either debt reduction or the identified capital projects.

**How will the congregation be informed about the progress of the campaign?**

The congregation will be kept informed by announcements, newsletter articles, email and via our web page.

**How do I know that the money I give will go to the Open Hearts Open Doors objectives and not into the general fund to be used for other purposes?**

We will have a separate account which will be used strictly for accomplishing our campaign objectives. The funds in this account will be published in the monthly newsletter and in the monthly treasurer's report to the Session.

**What will be the financial condition of the church at the end of this campaign?**

It will be significantly better than when we started, that is guaranteed! By the grace of God and the power of the Spirit, we expect to be either out of debt or have significantly lowered our mortgage balance. If the latter, we should be in a great position to pay off our mortgage in less than the current 15 year plan.

**How does this campaign fit into our vision for Peace?**

The vision for Peace is that we be a church full of people who have a heart for God, a vision for the world and a place for anyone. Open Hearts Open Doors is designed to help us turn that slogan into a reality! Open Hearts Open Doors is focused on raising up people who are committed to the work of God in their hearts and in our community. We would love to expand our ministries to fulfill our mission but we are currently unable to do so.

**How much am I expected to give?**

The answer is, "What did Jesus do?" He gave sacrificially! But it's not about how much one gives, it's the level of sacrifice which catches God's eye and pleases Him. For some people, a pledge of \$1,000 a year is a huge sacrifice and requires a lot of faith, but for another, \$1,000 a year wouldn't even begin to impact their lifestyle or faith. God requires a sacrifice, and the two of you are the only ones who knows what that amount is.