

"What Is My Part?"

When canvassing gets under way in a couple of weeks, many of you will be asking "Just what is my part?"

This is a question that only you can decide. No effort will be made in this campaign to tell any person what he should or should not give.

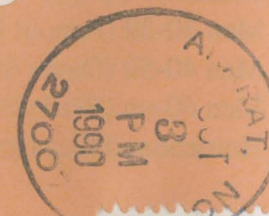
Most pledges will be made in the security of the individual homes and the canvassers will share the pledge card with only one person and that is the tally chairman who must determine if the church is reaching its goal.

Canvassers will be instructed not to tell any person what he/she is "expected" to give. That decision must be made by the individual following the leadership of the Holy Spirit and that is the only way for each of us to determine the size of our pledge. The pledge, of whatever size, should represent a part of our life and the strength of our commitment to Christ and His church.

Pledge cards will be brought to each home by one of the canvass team members during the week of October 8-12. In preparation for the visit by the canvass team member, each person should pray about this matter. Each of us must ask the Lord in prayer for the answer to "What represents a sacrifice for me?" "What is my part?"

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The Vision

Highland Park Baptist Church
Mount Airy, North Carolina

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My Perspective

I think it is time to build a new sanctuary at Highland Park Baptist Church. When I study about the enormity of such a project, I immediately think of other churches, some smaller than ours, who have beautiful facilities to worship in simply because they have already risen to the challenge of undertaking such a project.

We live in an area of rapid growth. The face of our community has changed greatly in the last ten years. New shopping centers, being incorporated into the town of Mt. Airy, use of public utilities with almost unlimited water, sewer, lights, fire and police protection; new housing development, all are evidences of our changes as well as potential growth possibilities.

It has been proven time after time that a church facility needs to expand any time it reaches 80% of its capacity. We have done this some years ago. It's great to see chairs brought out and set along each pew occasionally - - but consider the other side of the picture. Visitors who come home for the holidays - - or new people who may be potential members but do not know the other folks yet - - like to sit together as a family when they come. Quite often the next time they may decide not to go since the place was full last time anyway and they had to be separated from each other. Consider the feelings of that 8 or 10 year old who had to be ushered to another pew by themselves.

I want to be able to see new converts baptized in their own church. This is one of the high points of a new Christian's life. We all remember our baptizing experience - - where it was, when, who did the baptizing - - and I just feel it would mean even more to be able to associate this with your own church and denomination. Also, we've had some who faithfully gave to the Baptistry Fund and waited years now to be able to see folks baptized in their own church.

Our younger generation has often felt the need to go other places for weddings and receptions because of the inadequate size of our sanctuary and fellowship hall. Once again one of the crowning moments of a persons life and our facilities were unable to meet their needs.

People, both young and old, in our church family need to be proud of what we have and what we have accomplished over the years. AND PROUD WE ARE! I hear people talk about our first facilities, about hard times, how some were even laid off from work and came to help build the church. I hear people talk about our educational building and how we had to work and struggle to get financing to complete the structure - - I was away in college then and consequently did not get to be very involved in this achievement.

I feel it is TIME for my generation to get involved and prepare the way for our future generations. We need to continue to build and develop a sense of pride in our facilities - - one that our children can sense as they grow older and become our leaders.

We are NOT a dying church! We are not a STAGNANT church! Look at the children on our playyards when we have cookouts, reunions and VBS commencements! We need to continue to plan for growth and we need to do our part for the future generations so that they too can provide sufficient places to worship.

Over the years we have been and need to continue to be a proud landmark in our community that will bring honor and glory to GOD our Creator!
Dale Parsons, Chairman of Deacons

Canvass Timetable and Procedures

Most of our emphasis during the past five weeks of the building fund campaign has been devoted to training the leadership and informing the membership. Only a few days remain before each member will have the opportunity to make his/her pledge toward the \$86,000. goal.

Advance Division

By the time this edition of "The Vision" reaches you, most of the advanced pledges will have been made. Davis Smith, Woodrow Beamer and Arnold Key, the Advance Pledge Committee, are finishing their work now. The Chairman will announce the totals at the 11:00 a.m. Worship Service on October 7.

Preschool and Children's Division

All children, ages eleven and under, received their special Pledge Cards on Sunday, September 23, at Sunday School. They are to discuss their pledges with their parents and return their signed cards by Sunday, October 7. They are to be returned to their Sunday School teachers who in turn, will give them to the tally Chairman, Dale Parsons. Preschool and children's Pledge Cards not returned by Sunday, October 7, will be picked up in the home by Sunday School Workers during canvass week, October 8 - 12.

Youth Division

Pledge Cards were distributed to all youth present in Sunday School on Sunday, September 30. Youth are expected to discuss their pledges with their parents and return their signed pledge cards on Sunday, October 7. Cards not returned on that day will be picked up in the homes by the Youth and their Sunday School workers during Canvass week, October 8-12. This means that homes which have preschoolers, children or youth may have more than one call during the week.

Adult Division

Canvassers will begin calling in the homes of adults on Monday, October 8. The canvassers will call and make an appointment before visiting in the home.

\$86,000. seems like and is a lot of money. However, when broken down into two year pledges on a weekly basis, it will mean \$826.92 per week, a figure well within the means of the people in Highland Park Church. When we consider that several thousands of the \$86,000. has already been reached, then it becomes evident that we can go well beyond our goal. How far beyond we reach will be determined by the level of our commitment.

Sunday School High Attendance Day

October 14, 1990, will be a very special day in Highland Park Baptist Church. It will be VICTORY DAY for our Building Fund Pledge Campaign, ANNUAL HOMECOMING DAY, and SUNDAY SCHOOL HIGH ATTENDANCE DAY. Each of these represents a special occasion to celebrate and rejoice because of the many ways we are blessed.

HIGH ATTENDANCE DAY is important enough for all to make a special effort to be present in Sunday School. Overall, an attendance goal of 200 has been set. Sunday School Classes and departments have set the following goals:

Class and Department Attendance Goals:

General Officers:	6
Preschool Division (Faye Key, Director)	18
Children's Division (Frances Holder, Director)	25
Youth Division (Jane Utt, Director)	20
Adult Department:	
Single Young Adults (Frankie Parsons, teacher)	6
Married Young Adults (Susan Baughn, teacher)	10
All Age Couples (Mack Collins, teacher)	12
Open Door (Kathryn Creed, teacher)	8
Group Homes (Opal Watson, teacher)	16
Ladies 30-39 (Eloise Branch, teacher)	10
Ladies 40-59 (Annie Laurie Smith, teacher)	15
Ladies 60-up (Erlene Frye, teacher)	12
Men 30-39 (Arnold Key, teacher)	9
Men 40-59 (Davis Smith, teacher)	15
Men 60-up (Wade Fry, teacher)	6
Homebound Department (Lela Collins, Director)	7
Total:	196

We urge everyone to plan to be present in Sunday School on October 14. Make a commitment now to enjoy good Bible teaching with fellow church members. Bring guests and friends to both Sunday School and Homecoming.

Assurance of Success

One of the most fascinating stories in the Bible is that of Nehemiah and the rebuilding of the Jerusalem wall. This account gives a logical, step-by-step approach that any church can use as it faces a building program. Nehemiah was faced with the necessity of preparing the people spiritually and then inspiring them to do the job.

Nehemiah's task was to lead a gigantic building campaign including the responsibility of raising funds to pay building expenses. As one reads the account in the book of Nehemiah, he is impressed with Nehemiah's concern, his leadership and his dependence upon God for ultimate success.

The book of Nehemiah records the steps which Nehemiah used in his building program.

Chapter one tells us he spent much time in prayer and in fasting before he ever began the great task before him.

Nehemiah, in his desire to complete the building program, sets for himself a goal and the time required to reach it. We read in chapter two that he asked Artaxerxes, King of Persia, where he was a captive, for permission to go to Jerusalem for the purpose of rebuilding the wall. He also set a time limit for completing the task. Nehemiah gathered materials, overcame opposition, analyzed the situation in Jerusalem, and then organized for task.

Chapter three is a marvelous account illustrating the minute organizational details Nehemiah put into practice in order to rebuild the wall. The work did not go smoothly every day. Nehemiah faced opposition boldly and the people gave their support to the decisions which were made.

In chapter six we are told that God blessed their efforts and that the wall was finished in fifty-two days.

The same principles used by Nehemiah are being used in our building fund campaign and will be used later in our building program.

Nehemiah's expressed concern for his people is indicative of the concern which we have for both our church people and the lost of our community and our world. The central purpose of this building fund campaign and, eventually, the building program, is to reach more people for Christ. Without concern for and a desire to reach the unsaved, unenlisted and unchurched, a great amount of money and time can be wasted.

As we face decision time regarding our pledge which is to be made, we should spend much time in prayer, in earnest consideration of the needs of people and in seeking God's will in our lives and in the life of the church. God has assured us of success, just as He gave Nehemiah success, as we follow the same principles used by Nehemiah.

Robert B. Holder