

# CONNECTING

CHRIST + COMMUNITY + CALL



**GILROY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

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Dear Friends,

Everything we are called to do as a church and as individuals is summed up in a phrase: **Connecting to God**. When our church was founded the need for a connecting ministry for Jesus was clear. As we watched Gilroy grow, the need to connect the families moving to Gilroy prompted our move to Miller Avenue. Our entire history at GPC has been about connecting people to God. Now, for the last three years at Gilroy Presbyterian Church, we have been hearing a renewed call from God to again step out.

**The call** to connect the people of this valley to God by connecting them to Christ, to deepening community, and to their God given call.

We stand now on the cusp of a defining moment. At the beginning of a renewed movement of God to connect the disconnected. This movement will expand our ability to connect families in Gilroy through expanded Children's and Youth facilities, change the look of our campus and establish a powerful way for the disconnected people in our community to connect.

This defining moment is for every single one of us who are a part of this body. Now is the time, individually, to listen to God and hear His specific call for our lives. You are invited to step into this new, dramatic connecting work that God wants to do through us.

I am looking forward to what God is going to do in our lives over the next several weeks as we, all of us, engage with God around His desire for our church and our role in fulfilling this call.

**Now is the time!** Now really is the time to...

"Go and make disciples..." (mat. 28:19)  
do "the ministry of reconciliation..." (2 cor. 5:20)

It is time to take the sacrificial step to live out our call to connect people to God!



# CONNEC+ING: Why?

For nearly a century and a half, Gilroy Presbyterian Church (GPC) has defied the odds. Even though most early Presbyterian churches in California have disappeared, GPC has sustained a long track record of stepping out to connect people to God.

Past generations sacrificed to insure the church would be connecting future generations. Their “visionary generosity” allowed GPC to continue on, sharing God’s grace with people those early pioneers would never even meet. They knew that the sacrifices were not actually sacrifices, but were, in truth, investments. Investments in the kingdom of God. They “invested” to connect generations of people they didn’t know (during their time on earth, that is).

Twenty years ago our church made another decision – a difficult decision – but one rooted in the same connecting spirit and vision for the future. Rather than taking the easy route and choosing to “stay put” in their downtown location, they took a step of faith and decided to relocate to an area west of town where thousands of new homes were scheduled to be built bringing many young disconnected families.

There is something even more amazing about GPC than simply our longevity or our willingness to step forward in faith. It is richer than our 146-year heritage; greater than our music programs or our pastor’s messages; more warming than the cup of coffee in the courtyard between services. It’s our heart, our spirit, and our passion.

**We want to connect people to God by connecting them to Jesus, to others in community, and to God’s call in their lives.**

Like many churches committed to breaking through spiritual barriers, GPC has been hindered by obstacles. Some were unique to our church like endangered tiger salamanders, while others we share with most churches across the country such as a slowing economy, and the weight of debt. Now, in 2010, we find ourselves at a true defining moment.

We have to decide:

- **Do we continue in the legacy** – in the tradition and courage – of those who have gone before us?
- **Do we step forward in faith** – prepared to reap the harvest of seeds planted 20 years ago?
- **Do we keep our eyes fixed on Jesus** – who is calling to us to “get out of the boat,” or do we lose ourselves in fear as we turn our attention to the waves?



When it comes to the future growth of Gilroy, the statistics are staggering. But it's hard to get excited about statistics. Moreover, for many of us there are times – if we're honest – that we're actually less-than-excited about the growth that's going to take place over the next decade (and is taking place even now!). We like our "small-town" feel and don't want to lose it. But we need to remember: this is not about facts, figures, feelings or statistics. This is about people.

So like it or not, people are coming; they're choosing to move to Gilroy. Yet that's the good news: families are moving ... to us! God is sending "to us" an entire mission field. And not just any mission field. This is a mission field we understand. We know the language. We know the culture "first hand." We have felt (and experienced) many of the same feelings these families will experience. Like most of us have felt when we've moved to a new community, they feel lonely, alienated, and even hopeless. Most of them don't know Jesus and even for those who do, many of them have never experienced real community.

Yet, in order for us to best embrace them, we have to address three obstacles:

**Our debt:** It looms over us - the weight of it pulling us down, keeping us from moving at full speed. It's time to get rid of the debt.

Paying off the debt will free up – literally – hundreds of thousands of dollars. Funds that are needed to launch and maintain important ministries. But paying off the debt is more than just freeing up funds for ministry. It's time. It's *"time to get the monkey off our back"* as one leader put it. With regards to moving forwards, getting the debt behind us is as much a spiritual issue as it is a practical one.



**Our facility:** We are out of space necessary to minister to the children and youth that God is bringing to us.

The best way to reach families and their kids is by offering excellent environments (and opportunities) for kids and teens to be introduced to Jesus. This does not mean that our church must focus exclusively on children & youth. But providing great environments for them is a primary avenue for connecting to the entire family. While great environment and ministry to kids and teens does not guarantee parents will get involved in our church, there is one guarantee - a poor ministry environment will keep them away!

**Our Mission Partners' Resource Shortages:** We are not in this connecting mission alone, we have three amazing mission partners: Advent Ministries, St. Josephs, and World Vision. There is a dire need for both facility and material resources for their connecting works to teens in recovery, to the poor, and to our partners in Swaziland.

Stepping out in faith is tough. It's risky. But the question we have to ask ourselves is: "Do the rewards out-weigh the risk?"

Perhaps the better question is: Which is riskier?

Staying "safe?"

Or stepping out in faith to connect people to God?

# CONNEC+ING: What?

Our capital campaign fund will provide the resources to fulfill three distinct goals.

**Goal 1: Payoff the debt** – we cannot begin moving forward with our eyes focused on the past. Disconnecting the debt from around our neck will allow us to focus on connecting to our future.

(\$1.2 Million)

**Goal 2:** Creating new space for kids and teens – A Children’s and Youth Center (the same dimensions as the fellowship hall) will be constructed within our existing parking lot. This new building will house ministry for K-High School. The existing classroom building will be re-modeled into larger administration space, adult education conference rooms, and will continue to house the Nursery and Pre-school. Additional parking will be added to both the South West and East ends of the current parking lot. This construction will add 6,600 Sq. Ft. of classroom space and will increase available parking. We will also be creating an area for play structures between the old and new buildings and playing fields on the East end of our property.

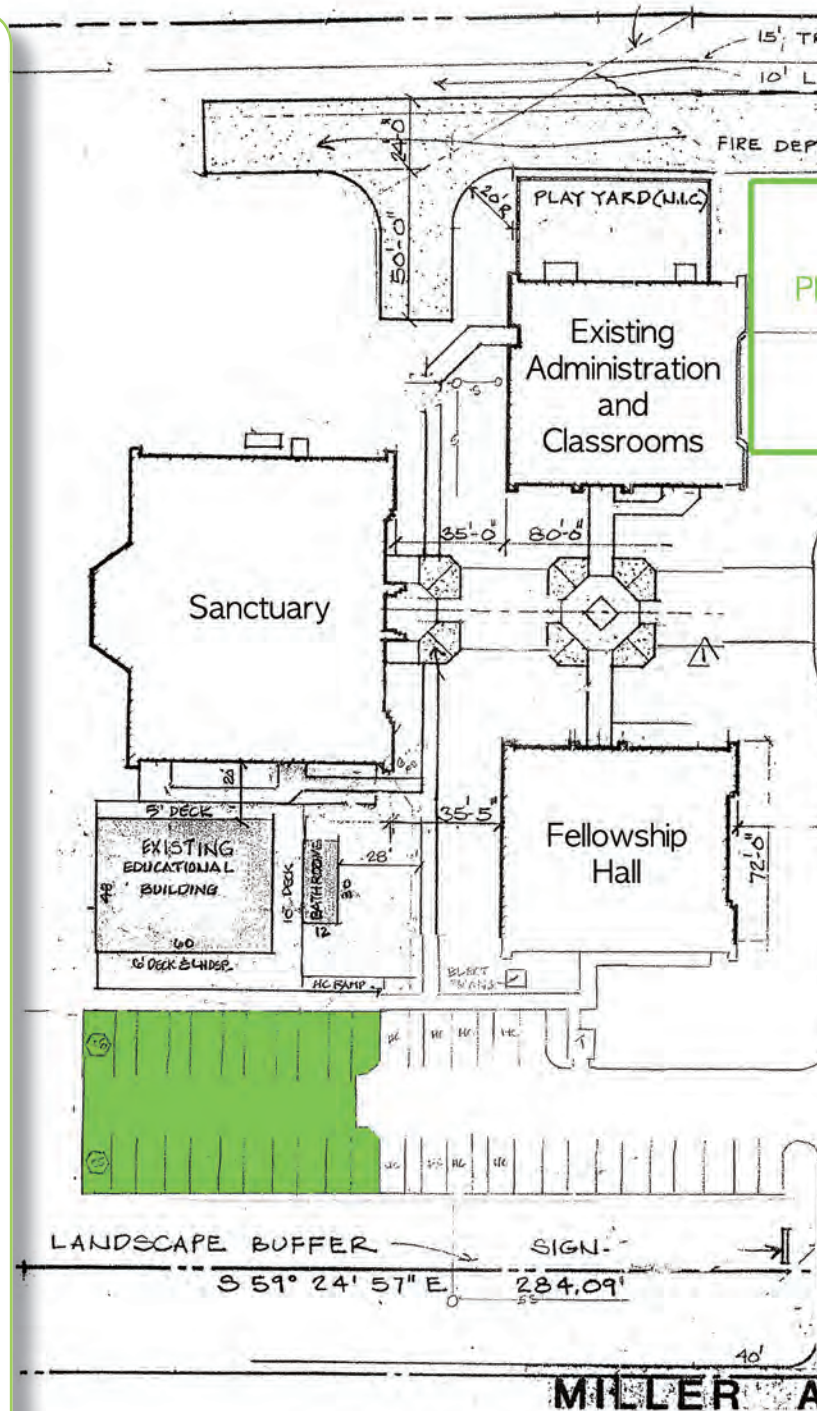
(estimated \$1 Million)

**Goal 3: Giving back** – Our mission partners are a priority and our connection to them is an important part of the DNA of GPC. To that end we will be funding a priority project with each of our partners.

St. Josephs and Advent Ministries – We’re currently working with them to define these projects.

World Vision – Construction of an Aids clinic in Swaziland Africa

(estimated \$100 Thousand)





# CONNEC+ING: How?

*How will we meet this challenge...*

## Only One Way – Together!

Fulfilling a vision this important and reaching a goal of at least \$2.3 million in cash and commitments is significant, but we believe this is our calling.

It is not beyond reason, and we are eager to see how the Holy Spirit will move us toward this goal and beyond. God is faithful in providing the resources needed to accomplish His will, and our leaders and staff are humbly expecting to see how and where God will lead us.

Make no mistake: it will take the hand of God to meet and even exceed this goal. It also will require each one of us to faithfully consider our response and take action.



## What Am I Being Asked To Do?

Pray! More than anything else, pray.

First and foremost – make prayer your priority. Pray by yourself and with others. Pray that God will continue to use the people and ministries of GPC to impact others.

Pray that this capital fund raising campaign and everything we do during it will continue to be consistent with God's will for our life and our church.

And pray for boldness. Ask yourselves, *“What bold and wonderful thing would I do for you, Lord, if I knew You would not let it fail?”* And when asked to participate and make a commitment, step forward and take part. Be bold. Have faith that when you make your commitment, God will provide.



## How Much Am I Expected To Give?

While we cannot all give the same amount, we can all sacrifice together.

It's about equal sacrifice, not equal gifts. Your participation – at any level – will help change lives. Our gifts will help more people, just as someone in the past has helped us. All gifts are welcome, regardless of size, recognizing that for some a small gift may represent a portion of their income that is equal to a much larger gift by another.



## How Do I Contribute Financially?

### Commitment To Give

A commitment is an intent to give, a good-faith estimate of what you believe the Lord would have you present to Him. Your commitment may be fulfilled over a three-year period. Commitments are significant to this campaign, as they allow us move forward with each succeeding phase.

“Since you excel in so many ways – you have so much faith, such gifted speakers, such knowledge, such enthusiasm, and such love for us – now I want you to excel also in this gracious ministry of giving.”

2 Corinthians 8:7

## How Does A Three-Year Commitment Work?

Over the course of these next three years, a family may choose to make a weekly commitment, a bi-weekly commitment, or even a monthly commitment. The adjacent table demonstrates how easily a weekly or a monthly commitment can add up over that period of time.

Weekly	Monthly	3 Year Total
\$20.00	\$86.67	\$3,120.00
\$25.00	\$108.33	\$3,900.00
\$35.00	\$151.67	\$5,460.00
\$50.00	\$216.67	\$7,800.00
\$75.00	\$325.00	\$11,700.00
\$90.00	\$390.00	\$14,040.00
\$100.00	\$433.33	\$15,600.00
\$125.00	\$541.67	\$19,500.00
\$150.00	\$650.00	\$23,400.00
\$175.00	\$758.33	\$27,300.00
\$200.00	\$866.67	\$31,200.00
\$225.00	\$975.00	\$35,100.00
\$250.00	\$1,083.33	\$39,000.00
\$300.00	\$1,300.00	\$46,800.00
\$350.00	\$1,516.67	\$54,600.00
\$400.00	\$1,733.33	\$62,400.00
\$450.00	\$1,950.00	\$70,200.00
\$500.00	\$2,166.67	\$78,000.00
\$750.00	\$3,250.00	\$117,000.00
\$1,000.00	\$4,333.33	\$156,000.00

# CONNEC+ING

## Mission Advancement Campaigns

Mission Advancement Campaigns – concentrated efforts to increase the impact of the church – rely upon church members making financial gifts **over and above** their current level of giving to the church. Even though there are specified projects involved (and specified costs associated with them), it is important for each of us to remember that a Mission Advancement Campaign is a spiritual endeavor, where we set our hearts on things above.

By doing this our **spiritual priorities** then shape our **financial priorities**. The Kingdom of God begins to shape and impact our lives and, when our lives are impacted, we are changed.

We need to remember that it's not about debt or a building, but it is about allowing God to build in us; it's not about the amount of money we give (that will be different for each for us), but it is about our willingness to give up something of **temporary value** for something of **eternal value**.

We encourage everyone in our church to join together as we enter into our “**14-Days Of Prayer & Fasting.**” Talk with others; encourage them to be engaged in ongoing discussion and prayer about their commitment. Think about your involvement in the future of God's work as we invest together in the Kingdom of God. Then the real fruit will be:

- Spiritual Maturity – personal and spiritual growth in us all
- Stewardship – a deeper understanding of stewardship and Biblical generosity
- Unity – a passionate connection to God's vision and mission for GPC

Our hope (and prayer) is that through our Connecting campaign we will all commit to prayerfully examining our lives and that we would open ourselves up to God to consider finding ways that let our giving touch our living!



## **Key Dates For** CONNEC+ING

### **March 7**

Begin CONNEC+ING Special Season Of Prayer  
14-Days Of Prayer & Fasting

### **March 10**

10+10  
All-Church Day/Time Of Prayer  
10:00 AM

### **March 11**

Leadership “Advance Commitment” Dessert

### **March 21**

Commitment & Celebration Sunday  
Special All-Church Worship Service @ 9:30AM

### **April 11**

First Fruits Sunday  
Special CONNEC+ING Offering  
Begin Receiving Gifts

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