



BETHANY-UMC.ORG/BEYONDWALLS

## Building God's Kingdom: Our Next Step

Bethany UMC has been blessed with a beautiful campus that has served our community well for many years. However, as we plan for the future and consider expected population growth in our area, it's become clear our physical space is limiting our ability to fully utilize the spiritual gifts God has entrusted to us. In other words, our current walls are keeping us from ministering beyond our walls.

driving rather than joining us. In January 2013, the Administrative Board approved an infrastructure project that will add an overflow parking lot with 366 spaces and a new entrance from Anderson Mill Road. Construction will begin late spring of 2014.



About two years ago, Bethany's Lead Team (which consists of chairs of various committees, representatives from each worship service and other at-large members) began looking at "pinch points" or limitations in our facilities. They discovered ministry growth could only occur if corresponding pinch points were addressed. The first identified pinch point was parking and traffic congestion. Upon seeing a full parking lot during peak hours, many worshippers are choosing to just keep

The following pinch points remain unaddressed: limited worship capacity and problems with sound, visibility and air; constricted chancel stage space for music groups and lack of adequate rehearsal space; lack of an inviting greeting/gathering area close to the sanctuary; outgrown student ministry facilities; inadequate storage space; and lack of a visual focal point of campus (Where is Bethany? Oh, you're the church across the street from the arch!).

We worked with architects to explore two approaches. The first, expand our current sanctuary space. The second, to build a new worship center and repurpose vacated spaces for growing ministries. The Lead Team determined the first approach would only partially address some of the identified pinch points, while building a new worship center would address all of the pinch points and prepare for future growth.  
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## Meet the Capital Stewardship Program Directors



Mark and Gayle Rolland

**Three couples have stepped up to be Program Directors for Beyond Walls: Transforming Lives — Mark & Gayle Rolland, Alan & Cindy Goldsberry and Aaron & Holly King. In this issue, learn why the Rollands have agreed to this leadership role.**

"Following the attacks on 9/11, we were hungry to bring God back into our lives and began a search for a church. We visited many churches but quickly decided after our first visit Bethany was for us. We've had involvement with many ministries offered at Bethany: Hospital Visitation, Environmental Stewardship, Step into Africa, Mobile Loaves and Fishes, Emmaus, IHN, and Lead Team. Gayle has served as a Trustee and Mark regularly ushers at the 8:15 service.

All these activities serve as expressions of our commitment to deepen our relationship with God. From the moment we first began worshipping at Bethany, **our lives have been transformed**....often in incremental steps, but sometimes in profound

"mountain top" experiences. We are deeply committed to extending this transformational process beyond our marriage, beyond the walls of Bethany, beyond our neighborhood and into the world. We are humbled by the opportunity the stewardship program offers to take a giant step, both personally in our own faithful giving and in encouraging others to do the same. With more accommodating spaces we believe we can increase the likelihood that the next seeker who walks through our doors will be transformed and made new.....just as we were 12 years ago."

## A Pastor's Vision: Going Beyond

**By Tom Deviney, Lead Pastor**

2012 was a wild year for me. My mother's death, General and Jurisdictional Conferences, and two international mission trips made for a hectic schedule. In the midst of that, I became aware that we had "plateaued" in several areas. I asked the Lead Team to research why this was occurring.

After much study and much prayer, they developed a list of "pinch points" or limiting factors on our campus. From there, they began consideration of what we all thought would be a series of modifications to our campus. However, God has bigger plans for

us than we expected – which seems to be the Bethany story.

Our founding members never imagined Bethany would thrive as it has. Ten years ago, no one imagined the numbers of people we would have serving beyond our walls or the three-quarter of a million dollars we would give to missions (well, maybe Bob Mossman did). We certainly didn't think we would see more than 100 people going to serve Palacios, or missions in El Salvador and Kenya. We didn't imagine the scope of the music ministry. We didn't expect House of Friends, Bags of Grace, PETs, or our Special Needs ministry. But God called us to go beyond our expectations.

So, again, we are being called.

Over the next few weeks, you will hear a lot about the proposed campus transformation. But remember that it isn't about the construction and buildings. It is about answering God's call, again, for Bethany to go "Beyond Walls" to "Transforming Lives."

*"The God of Heaven is the one who will give us success, and we His servants are going to start building..."*

*Nehemiah 2:20a*

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How would this approach address all of the identified concerns? Creating a new worship center would free up other areas for ministry growth. For example, our current sanctuary would remain a mid-size worship area, but the back part would be converted to student ministry classrooms. A new ministry center connected to the new sanctuary would free up space in our Disciple building for ministries such as House of Friends and Special Needs that require handicap access. Moving the students ministries out of the Lighthouse

area would free up space for mission-oriented ministries. A new worship center would provide an inviting welcoming area for visitors and a multipurpose gathering space. Creating an expanded music rehearsal space in the new worship center would enable our music ministry to grow to its potential, while freeing up space for other ministries. Plus, our visitors wouldn't be relegated to the back pews behind columns where sightlines are terrible! For a full explanation of the research process, pinch points and proposed plans, view the informational documents at [bethany-umc.org/beyondwalls](http://bethany-umc.org/beyondwalls).

On January 26 of this year, after hearing about the discernment process that went into the proposal for this campus transformation, our church conference overwhelming agreed to proceed with a capital stewardship program as the first step toward this goal. Several concerns were voiced and taken seriously by program leaders. However, most in attendance felt strongly that God is calling us to this next step — a step that really isn't about a building, it's about transforming lives with Christ's grace and love.

## Prayer Corner: 40 Days of Prayer

**Beyond Walls: Transforming Lives**, falls within the season of Lent. Lent is traditionally a time in the life of Christians for self-examination and drawing closer to God through prayer and fasting. Our calendar of meditations serves the dual purpose of Lenten Reflections and prayers for the success of Beyond Walls. Printed copies will be available soon, and prayers will also be posted daily on Facebook at [facebook.com/bethanyumc](https://facebook.com/bethanyumc).



**Nehemiah's prayer before he undertook the rebuilding of the wall around Jerusalem is also our prayer:**  
*O Lord God of heaven, great and awesome God who keeps covenant and steadfast love with those who love him and keep his commandments; let your ear be attentive and your eyes open to hear the prayer of your servant that I now pray before you day and night... Nehemiah 1:5-6*

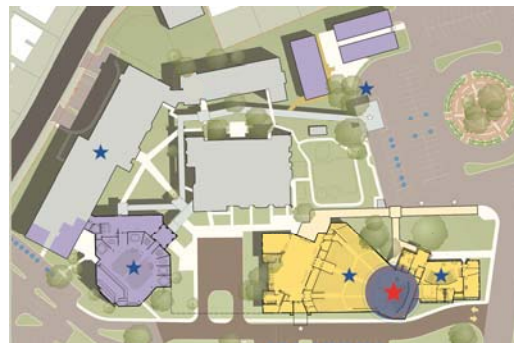
## SAVE THE DATE! Sunday, March 23, 2014

### *"Destination...Transformation!"*

#### Mark your calendars for a very exciting day for Bethany UMC!

- ◆ Worship services at 8:45 am or 10:45 am as we thank God for blessings and opportunities to transform lives. Both services will be identical, combining traditional and praise elements.
- ◆ Exhibits that will help you visualize how our campus, and ministries, can be transformed!
- ◆ Special activities for children.
- ◆ Fellowship and food!

*More Details to come in Beyond Walls and Epistle newsletters!*



Learn how each starred area will be transformed!

## Envision Transformation! Ministry Highlight: Inviting Ministries

### Transforming Lives

A welcoming spirit and hospitable environment are two of the best expressions we have of how Christ treated others. We know that 40% of visitors make up their mind about a church before they even see the pastor, according to Barna Research. Within two minutes of the beginning of a service visitors have formed an opinion about the congregation and if it's friendly. Whether we are greeting people at our doors, giving information at the Connection Point, talking with visitors at the Welcome Orientation, providing dinner on Wednesday nights or setting spiritual foundations through our Alpha Course — first impressions matter. The first step in transforming a life is welcoming a person into the family of God.

### Transforming Space

Envision a new worship center that addresses welcoming pinch points and reduces congestion! Envision a relaxing area for fellowship and coffee, an easy-to-find Ministry Center to get people connected, and a prominent Connection Point for our visitors — all in one place! No longer would we have to point visitors in several different places to get the information they need. As Inviting Ministries volunteers Carl and Jan Dodd point out, "This new area will create an inviting space and help us expand other ministry areas throughout the campus. All-in-all, it will help us to better welcome our guests."



**Pinch Point:** Crowded Information Desk can be frustrating for visitors



**Pinch Point:** Crowded Narthex makes it hard to get to Ministry Center and restrooms

### How Can I Help?

- ◆ *Be in prayer* and earnestly seek God's leading.
- ◆ *Be informed* how this campus transformation project will allow Bethany's growing ministries to transform lives.
- ◆ *Be involved* in the "Destination...Transformation!" celebration.
- ◆ *Be excited* about how God is blessing Bethany with this next step!

### Questions?

- ◆ You'll find lots of information on our website at [bethany-umc.org/beyondwalls](http://bethany-umc.org/beyondwalls), including FAQs and presentation materials.
- ◆ Feel free to call Cliff Wells, Bethany's Administrator, at 512-258-6017 or [beyondwalls@bethany-umc.org](mailto:beyondwalls@bethany-umc.org).

*Special Newsletter*

*Beyond Walls: Transforming Lives*

*Capital Stewardship Program*

Online: [www.bethany-umc.org/beyondwalls](http://www.bethany-umc.org/beyondwalls)

Email: [beyondwalls@bethany-umc.org](mailto:beyondwalls@bethany-umc.org)



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**IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER**

*March 5:*

Ash Wednesday and Beginning of  
40 Days of Prayer

*March 23:*

"Destination...Transformation!" Celebration

*April 13:*

Palm Sunday and  
Capital Stewardship Commitment Sunday

*April 20:*

Easter