

Thank you for your prayerful participation in our **Equipping the Next Generation** stewardship campaign.

OUR CAMPAIGN PURPOSE

To equip the rising generation,
(and the leaders who love them),
so that children, youth, and young adults
go the distance with Jesus.

WHY THIS AND WHY NOW?

In this campaign, we're standing on Jesus' promise in Matthew 16: 18. "On this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it."

When we look at our culture today, it clear that "the gates of hell" have been unleashed on all that is valuable and good, and kids are the target. Everything in media, social media and educational curricula seems designed to disrupt childhood as early as possible and sow seeds of confusion and doubt.

Parents are rightly concerned about this. They wonder who will stand with them as they raise children to be strong and courageous during a season of great challenge.

As a local church, we want to be that empowering force.

In this season of our ministry, our aim is to **grow as a church family** and partner **with families** so that our kids and students pursue Jesus with confidence as they move into the next stages of life.

Rod Marshall

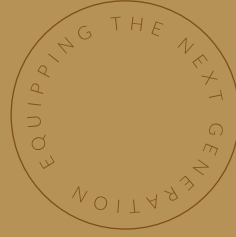
G R A C E

GRACE COMMUNITY CHURCH
1500 KINGS DR.
BARTLESVILLE, OK 74006

Equipping
THE NEXT GENERATION

WE WANT TO PERSONALLY INVITE YOU TO BE WITH US ON
SUNDAY, JANUARY 22ND FOR VISION SUNDAY.





WHERE WE'VE COME FROM

Twenty-eight years ago, about a dozen youth and children (along with their moms and dads) gathered on a snowy Sunday morning to plant Grace Community Church. Today, those kids are adults. They're working in the marketplace, they're serving in the military, they're planting churches. Some are missionaries. Many are actively advancing the cause of Christ.

During their time at Grace, they encountered transformation, and today they extend our ministry around the world. We're humbled and grateful that God has used us to shape them. But now our sights are set on the next generation. Who will equip them?

We accept that call.

We're convinced that greater days are ahead. Together let's rise up and equip the next generation to carry the beacon of Jesus into our city, state, nation and world.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

WE WANT TO PERSONALLY INVITE YOU TO BE WITH US ON SUNDAY, JANUARY 22ND FOR VISION SUNDAY.

JANUARY 22/TWENTY 23

TWO MISSION-CRITICAL GOALS

FIRST GOAL

Financially, our mission-critical goal is retiring the short-term debt on our building.

Three years ago, we envisioned a hopeful future in which God might use us to transform the next generation. Even though our dream was only on paper, our church members patiently listened, reviewed our plans, rose-up in faith, and sacrificially gave.

IN THE WINTER OF 2020, WE RAISED \$2 MILLION IN PLEDGES AGAINST A \$3.8 MILLION PROJECT.

In the ensuing years, God was gracious, and our church family was generous. During a very tumultuous three-year period, nearly all the pledged money came in. Moreover, during a time of rising building costs, we finished our project under budget.

The result is not just the building that we're enjoying now..., but the ministries that immediately began to flourish the day we opened.

Truth be told, this project has become an Ephesians 3:20 experience. "God has done exceeding, abundantly beyond all that we asked or thought."

In the process of building (and trusting him for kingdom work), our church matured. People came to Christ, they grew in their faith, and they found their hope in Jesus.

So, our first mission-critical goal is to retire the remaining debt, so that we can use this building to its fullest extent. To be clear, we are seeking to raise \$2 million in pledges over the next three years – over and above our regular giving.

A SECOND GOAL

Our second mission-critical goal is spiritual. We want to excel in the equipping process.

- Jesus' mandate in Matthew 28:19 was "Make disciples."
- Paul's mandate in Ephesians 4:12 was "Equip the saints" (that would be all of us).

So, over this next three-year period, we're asking all of us to step out of our comfort zone, get equipped, and serve in ways that facilitate fresh growth.

What might that mean?

- Invite someone to church, who is far from Jesus, then follow up with coffee or acts of kindness.
- Commit to a small group and then come to contribute.
- Participate in an adult class with intent to connect with others and grow.
- Discover a new spiritual discipline and apply it with a friend.
- Lead a youth small group.
- Bring a struggling friend to Celebrate Recovery and patiently be with them as they grow.
- Work with our Grace Kids with intent to model Christlike service.
- Help Natalie with administrative tasks.
- Decorate for events where the name of Jesus will be lifted up.
- Serve in our city with our local mission partners like Nehemiah House, The Cottage, or Building Bridges.

In a sentence, we seek to grow a more vibrant community that gets equipped, in order to equip the next generation.