



Show us the Way

GPOH I

Phase I: "God's Plans...Our Hands,
Show us the Way"



GPOH II

Phase II: "God's Plans...Our Hands,
Preparing for the Future"

History of Pentecost Celebration

One of the principal days of the Christian year, celebrated on the fiftieth day after Easter. The Greek word pentecoste means "fiftieth day." Pentecost is the day on which the church commemorates the coming of the Holy Spirit upon the apostles and others assembled in Jerusalem. It marks the beginning of the Christian church (read Acts 2) and the proclamation of its message throughout the world and is often referred to as the birthday of the church. The liturgical color for Pentecost is red. Red is a color of fire, symbolizing the Holy Spirit. It is used on the Day of Pentecost and at other times when the work of the Holy Spirit is emphasized.

Time to Celebrate our GPOH Accomplishments

Celebration Sunday, May 31

Barbecue Lunch

Bring side dishes and desserts

Wear Red for Pentecost Sunday



Wheatland United Methodist
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Dallas, Texas 75232-4527

Wheatland United Methodist Church



God's Plans...Our Hands Celebration Newsletter

MAY 24, 2009

Time to Celebrate our GPOH Accomplishments

Spring is almost gone and summer approaches. I love spring, when the new growth is on the trees and the flowers are blooming. Everything is so pretty and green. It is a time of celebration. The birds are singing. The new bunnies are hopping about the church property. Everyone and everything is celebrating God's creation. We've had an abundant supply of rain this spring. Even though the rain was inconvenient at times, we will appreciate those filled reservoirs this summer. Showers of God's blessings.

God has indeed showered his blessings on Wheatland Church. The "God's Plans, Our Hands" capital campaigns have been very successful and with God's help we've used that money to make great improvements to the property. Elsewhere in this brochure those projects have been highlighted so I'm not going to list them here.

I just think it is time to celebrate our accomplishments. It was God's Plan, and it was only through His help that we were able to successfully complete these projects. And even though the campaign funding is not complete yet (final payment is in November), I want to celebrate our successes. I love a good party and you deserve a pat on the back for your giving above and beyond your tithe to this campaign.

You may be wondering how we accomplished all this if not all the money has come in that was pledged. Your leaders have faith in you and they allowed us to borrow from ourselves. We

God has indeed showered his blessings on Wheatland Church.

We do need to pay this money back, so as we celebrate our accomplishment, let us also continue to pay into the GPOH fund. We know from years past that we will meet our goal. I also know that some of you are new to Wheatland and have never been approached to help fund these special projects. If you haven't pledged to the GPOH fund, or if your finances have changed and you are able to give more, I do hope you will do so. This church can only be as great as you will make it. It is God's plans, and our hands doing the labor.

As I said, I love a good party. Please plan to come to the **Celebration Event** on May 31, after church. **Wheatland will provide the barbeque; you just bring your favorite side dish to go along with it. Also remember to wear something red as this is Pentecost Sunday.**

See you in worship,
Pastor Kay

GPOH I Campaign

November 2003 to October 2006

In an effort to fulfill our mission statement to make disciples of all people, we wish to become more visible in the community. To accomplish this, the Wheatland Church family approved the “**God’s Plans...Our Hands**” Capital Stewardship Campaign to complete the projects proposed by the Capital Improvements Committee:

Create a clear and visible direction to the doors of our church

Build a new gravel driveway north of the school from Hampton Road to the church. Clear the line of sight from Hampton to the church by moving the playground equipment to the west of the school buildings and by removing and trimming trees and shrubs. Install a new fence around the relocated playground.

Embrace the School Buildings as part of Wheatland

Paint the exterior trim of the school buildings white to match the church exterior. Install new signage that will provide people with a clear direction of where the church is and that the school is a separate but valued entity.

Emphasize our historic heritage by enhancing our traditional church facility

Erect a white gazebo to provide an area for wedding pictures, Sunday School Class fellowship, and roofed smoking area.

Before GPOH I: Can you find the church? Look closely, past the sign, over the fence, through the trees, past the playground, just beyond the cars...having a hard time?



One of the goals of the GPOH I capital campaign was to create a clear line-of-sight to our church from Hampton for the whole community to see us and feel welcome.

GPOH II Campaign

October 2006 to November 2009

With the successful completion of the Capital Campaign **Phase I: “God’s Plans...Our Hands, Show us the Way”** at our annual Charge Conference meeting on Sunday, October 29, 2006, came the introduction of a new campaign, **Phase II: “God’s Plans...Our Hands, Preparing for the Future.”** The Capital Improvements Committee identified the following improvements for our church, to be accomplished during GPOH II:

Stained Glass Windows.

The beautiful stained glass windows were installed in 1912 and were in need of extensive repairs. Some were actually broken, allowing birds to worship in our building. Others had leading that was missing and were sagging. The window frames around the windows were also sagging from age and were repaired.

Connect to City Sewer System.

Over the last couple of years we have had some problems with our septic tank system. The City of Dallas sewer lines run in the creek behind and South of the church. As we look to the future with plans to build an education building, we are prepared for growth by connecting to the city sewer system.

Improve the Water Pressure.

When the restrooms are in high demand, such as when we have funeral services or wedding services, the tanks fill very slowly, creating problems for those wanting to use the restroom. Also, we could not water the lawn or plants and use water anywhere else at the same time. The new water lines have given us the water pressure we needed.

Paint and Replace Rotten Wood on the Exterior of the Sanctuary.

Many areas of the sanctuary had peeling paint and rotted wood. This was scraped and replaced so that the building could be painted, not only to look fresher and newer, but so that the building will continue to endure the years.

Three items not accomplished in our capital campaign improvements to-date:

- Bury the Power Lines
- Improve the Sanctuary Lighting
- Improve the Landscaping

A Timeline of Wheatland Following God’s Plans

- 1838 Thomas Crutchfield holds prayer meeting in his home
- 1847 Wesley Chapel Built
- 1859 Wheatland Methodist Church Built
- 1912 Wheatland Extensive Remodel, added stained glass
- 1947 Cottage Built
- 1958 Fellowship Hall Built
- 2003-2006 GPOH Phase I Campaign
 - new driveway and gazebo, new sign, fenced playground, painted school buildings
- 2006-2009 GPOH Phase II Campaign
 - repaired stained glass windows, connected to city sewer, new water lines, painted and repaired exterior of sanctuary

With an eye toward future growth and the possibility of new construction in the years to come, the Wheatland Church family approved a \$180,000 expenditure for GPOH I and GPOH II. This money continues to be raised by the Capital Campaign to complete the projects proposed by the Capital Improvements Committee.

Your contributions over and above your regular offering make a difference. All these improvements could not have been accomplished without you.

We have 6 months remaining on GPOH II campaign. Your continued support is needed and appreciated. Contribution cards will be available on Celebration Sunday, May 31 for anyone who has not had the opportunity to donate to this campaign. Prayerfully consider your part in this effort.

Broken stained glass repaired, rotten wood replaced and entire sanctuary painted as part of GPOH II improvements.



Wheatland’s Debt-free History

It’s been said that Wheatland United Methodist Church is currently debt-free and has always been debt free, but that has not always been the case.

Jackson Bell, a pioneer builder, who was Sam Penn’s maternal grandfather, began the construction of the original Wheatland Methodist Church building in 1856. The foundation stones were hand-quarried limestone blocks from local rock quarries. The lumber was hauled from Louisiana in ox-drawn wagons. This original lumber still supports the present structure.

In 1912, the need for expansion caused the congregation concern because of its policy to remain debt-free. However, Albert A. Rowe, a local builder, was asked to estimate the cost of a new structure. The \$3,000 required was contributed by ten members of the congregation, who gave \$300 each. With the entire cost of the new church building in hand, the construction began and was completed in the same year. As part payment for his services, Mr. Rowe stipulated that the new structure would have pictured glass windows like Dutch churches in his native state of Pennsylvania. The congregation agreed to this, and Wheatland was to be the first “country” church in this area to have these pictured glass windows.

In the midst of the country’s depression, funds to support a church were hard to raise. Several times the church’s insurance lapsed. The women of the church took on the responsibility to make certain that this did not happen again. They gave socials and suppers, but soon found that they could not raise enough money, so they began to quilt. Quilts were made and sold, and the church insurance was paid with the money raised.

Over the last several decades, loans were necessary for major purchases, such as a new parsonage and new roofs for the education buildings. When the attendance at Wheatland declined so severely that the church could no longer afford a pastor’s salary, circuit riders volunteered to serve the church on a rotating basis. During this period, the parsonage was no longer needed and sold. The remaining church debt was paid off and the balance of money from the sale of the parsonage was put in savings for future building repairs, where a good portion still remains today.

Except for a few renovations over the years, the church buildings remain much the same as they were when originally constructed. In 1965, Wheatland was designated as a Texas historical landmark.