

NEWSLETTER

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

Answering The Call

INSIDE

Answering The Call
11th Street Update
ATC . . . to Pray
Personal Story
Ministry Involvement
Leadership Team

ANSWERING THE CALL . . . PAST, PRESENT, AND THE FUTURE

By Pastor Jim Balzano

Almost 3 years ago this body came together in a special business meeting to discuss the possibility of taking possession of a condemned building that sat on the corner of 11th street and 16th avenue. Now known affectionately within PVAG as The 11th Street Project, that building did indeed become our possession. Many of you participated in the 100% vote to take that building and put literally thousands and thousands of dollars in it to once again make it a place for the glory of God. The vote that evening was a clear demonstration of a group of people who were ready to answer the call.

Since that time many of you have given of your time to rid the place of garbage, drug paraphernalia, water damage and the effects of overall neglect. You also gave of your finances to provide for electricity and the new roof. June 10, 2007 was an exciting day when this body provided an offering totaling \$76,000.00. Again, you answered the call.

Faced with the ongoing cost of renovation we had to make a decision on how to accommodate this. We decided upon a 24 month Capital Campaign entitled Answering The Call for the purpose of raising the additional money needed. The goal for the campaign is \$400,000.00. This God mandated project can't be funded simply by taking special offerings once in a while but rather through the consistent giving of God's people.

The revenue from the campaign will be combined with other resources from individuals, organizations and businesses outside of PVAG to ensure the completion of this project.

Beginning October 14 a series of Vision Messages will be preached as part of the pre-campaign era. Then, on November 11, we are going to have a day of Celebration in a one service format. Mark that day on your calendar you won't want to miss it. On that day we will celebrate the commitments made by everybody and give God the praise He deserves. Begin to pray even now as to what He would have you commit to on Celebration Sunday for the next 24 months. Remember, everybody can't give equally but we can all sacrifice equally.

**Everything that has
been accomplished
thus far is because you
answered His call . . .**

Everything that has been accomplished thus far is because you answered His call and I am confident this body will continue Answering The Call. This task was the call of God that required people to answer and answer you did.

This will be one of the most exciting periods of time in the history of this church. I don't know that I can adequately relay what I believe God is going to do in the next several years but I can assure you it will be awesome. Thanks for being people who are willing to be involved in Answering the Call.

11th Street Building Update

By Pastor John Gray

ACCOMPLISHED

- Demolition and removal of debris
- Construction of a 20-foot by 50-foot classroom on the second floor of the building. The room was added so the lower of two flat roofs in the back of the building would be at the same level with the higher flat roof. The addition made possible the erection of trusses and the elimination of rain settling on a flat roof.
- Restructuring of walls, including the removal of a parapet wall at the bottom of the roof that was installed to support a gutter but in reality trapped leaks.
- Completed about seven-eighths of the roof. Roof is to be completed Oct. 12 and 13. Equipment needed to extrude metal for the back side of the roof is being provided by Drexel Wright of Quaker Siding in Millvale. Because of conflicts with PVAG's and Wright's work schedules, the equipment could not be brought in earlier. Drexel is Tammy Gray's brother who is providing the equipment "out of the goodness of his heart."
- Installation of electricity.

NEXT

- Completion of the roof
- Remodeling of the parsonage into offices to create a presence in the neighborhood
- Windows and doors



ANSWERING THE CALL . . . TO PRAY

"Hello God, we're just calling to let You know we're rehabilitating a building. We think You'll like the idea...we're gonna need some help though ..."

As the prayer team assigned to pray for the efforts of the Answering the Call capital campaign, we know that God has ordained the Nehemiah Project on 11th Street. Isaiah 46:9 and 10 reminds us, "... I am God and there is none like Me, declaring the end from the beginning ..." God doesn't begin anything until it is finished. For God, the project is designed and the blueprints are completed. It's up to us to lay hold of His vision and bring it to pass in the neighborhood.

Praying for the project involves faith-filled believing people, praying God's Word so that His vision can



be deposited in the hearts of the people. The Answering the Call Prayer Team consists of Sally Bracken, Tammy Gray, George and Corey Bell, Calvin Kearsse and Randy and Patty Bracken. The thrust of the group is to mobilize and motivate as much prayer during the campaign as possible and will involve everyone with the desire to pray.

We will be enlisting the Monday morning intercessors to supercharge their prayer efforts and also will organize a prayer chain for spontaneous and immediate prayer alerts. The congregation will corporately unite for a concert of prayer at 6 p.m., Nov. 4. During this exciting event, we envision the body as a whole, linking up, joining hearts, lifting voices and receiving "Answers To The Call."

— Patty Bracken



Personal Story

Harold Ferguson's Journey

By Linda Gracy

When Pleasant Valley Assembly of God originally considered purchasing the building known as the 11th Street Project, Elder Harold Ferguson was against it. He saw many problems and agreed with Altoona's city government plan: Tear the building down.

Now, he sees its potential. "I wish it could be completed tomorrow," said Harold who serves as chairman of the Answering The Call Capital Campaign.



A member of Pleasant Valley since childhood, Harold remembers past building projects. During his preschool and early elementary school days, he attended services in the white building that stood where the parking lot behind the stream is.

It was replaced by a brick structure in 1958 and he and Sharen were married in that church's second story sanctuary in 1963. It is now the education wing. Growth in the late 1960s precipitated the need for expansion again and the current sanctuary was built in 1968.

"The 11th Street Project is totally different than any other of the campaigns," said Harold who has served as an elder for more than 30 years. "In the past, the need to build was to provide enough room for our people. Now we are stepping out in faith to help others."

He said if you take a drive through the lower Fairview area, "you will see that the people who live there are never going to come to our church." "A lot don't even have transportation," he said. Harold said the project has raised a lot of interest in the city and that as people grasp the vision, it will be fulfilled.

He admitted that when Pastor Jim Balzano, Pastor John Gray and Elder Randy Bracken thought the structure was sound and wanted to buy it, he had his doubts.

"We have taken steps and God has provided. We need to push ahead."

"When you look at things as a human being – what you have and what you need – you think it is not possible," he said.

What he has seen since that day, including the \$76,000 offering for the roof, makes him know that it is possible. "We have taken steps and God has provided. We need to push ahead."

Ministry Involvement

Children / Youth Ministry

Children's Ministry

The Children's Ministry of PVAG will join the efforts of the Answering the Call capital campaign. The children will learn four valuable lessons on what it means and what is required to be an asset manager for the Lord.

Just as David gave gold, silver, bronze and other articles from his personal treasury to build the temple, we are asking the children to bring from their personal treasury each week to meet our goal for a first fruits offering.

Without giving up the surprise, I feel more than confident that God is going to use each and every lesson to touch the hearts of our kids, and they are going to rise to the occasion. I can already see God smiling down on them saying, "Well done my good and faithful servants."

- Teresa Miller

Youth Ministry

In today's society most teenagers have cell phones. Regardless of where they are, their parents are able to reach them. As accessible as the teens are to their parents call, our goal is that they make themselves just as available to the call of God. How are we going to answer the call? As a youth ministry our goal is to purchase the sound equipment that will be used to reach this community. We want to provide one of the tools that will assist in sharing the message that God wants us to take to the people of Altoona.

- Pastor Ron Ross



EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP TEAM

There will be much work and many activities associated with Answering the Call. Below is a list of team leaders and their area of leadership.

Lead Pastor
 Consultant
 Campaign Chairperson
 Campaign Vice-Chairperson
 Printing and Publicity
 Prayer
 Celebrations Sunday
 Leadership Dinner
 Followup
 Children's Ministry
 Youth Ministry

Jim Balzano
 Peter Joudry
 Harold Ferguson
 Dick Scholton
 Ron Ross
 Patty Bracken
 Karen Maher
 Eleanor Cree
 Will Heller
 Teresa Miller
 Ron Ross, Jr.



Ur turn to TEXT

Do you have a testimony or story connected to the 11th Street Project or the Answering the Call capital campaign? Send us your story to magnify the goodness of the Lord and share with other newsletter readers. E-mail your story of 200 words or less to atcnews@pvag.org or give a hand-written copy to Ron Ross Sr.

PLEASANT VALLEY ASSEMBLY OF GOD
 801 PLEASANT VALLEY BLVD
 ALTOONA, PA 16602

Non Profit Org.
 U.S. Postage
 Paid
Permit #138