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THE TIME IS  
NOW

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TEACH  
US TO  
NUMBER  
OUR DAYS,  
O LORD,  
THAT  
WE MAY  
APPLY OUR  
HEARTS  
WITH  
WISDOM.  
—MOSES,  
IN PSALM  
90:12



HE IS NO  
FOOL WHO  
GIVES  
WHAT HE  
CANNOT  
KEEP  
TO GAIN  
WHAT HE  
CANNOT  
LOSE.  
— JIM ELLIOT,  
MISSIONARY  
MARTYR

WE  
MAKE  
A LIVING  
BY WHAT  
WE GET —  
WE MAKE  
A LIFE  
BY WHAT  
WE GIVE.  
— WINSTON  
CHURCHILL



I TELL  
YOU,  
NOW IS  
THE TIME  
OF GOD'S  
FAVOR,  
NOW IS  
THE  
DAY OF  
SALVATION.  
— PAUL, IN  
2 CORINTHIANS  
6:2





In the movie *Gladiator*, the Roman General Maximus prepares to go to battle. Just prior to ordering the charge, he valiantly rallies his troops. Sitting atop his horse, he looks out over his cavalry and yells, “What we do in life echoes in eternity.”

What might have been somewhat true for a Roman army, is most certainly a reality for every follower of Christ. The choices we make now will have an undeniable impact that reverberates throughout eternity. We rarely know up front the eternal significance of a single choice. But every life story is the result of a multitude of individual decisions.

In today’s confusing world, it is not always easy for people to make the right choices. Fear, discouragement, and emptiness reveal that many are desperate for hope. Economic uncertainties warn us that wealth is fleeting and the future is not guaranteed. Natural disasters remind us that life is unpredictable and fragile.

Yet, we have been entrusted with a message of truth and hope, and there are thousands of people waiting to hear it. We live in a place and a time of immense opportunity – but opportunity is always fleeting. Time waits for no one. Time never stands still.

helping people find  
the way back to God.

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Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil.— Paul, in Ephesians 5:15–17

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Our mission has not changed – we are still passionate about helping people find the way back to God! But the financial strategies for pursuing this mission change. While it made sense in the past to borrow money to build and renovate, in this season in the life of our church it is prudent to pay down our debt as much as possible.

Time is of the essence. By choosing to sacrifice now, we can reduce the financial burden on ourselves and the next generation. This would bring freedom to make an even deeper impact in Northeast Pennsylvania.

This brochure includes information about our efforts to reduce our debt and prepare for the future. Please join me in praying for the success of this campaign. More specifically, I ask you to pray about what God would have you do. Our success will require prayer, sacrifice and commitment. So many of you have given and sacrificed greatly in the past, and God has honored that. Once again, I believe God is calling us to take significant steps of faith. Let’s step forward and live in a way that will truly echo into eternity.

The time is now,

Mark Stuenzi

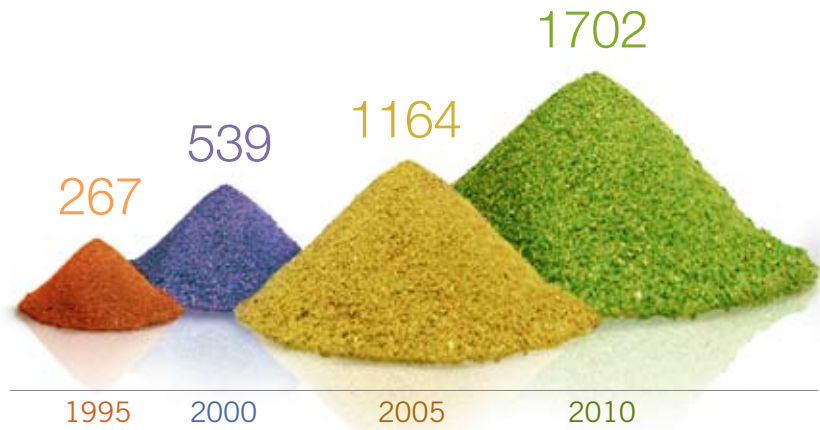
## WHERE WE HAVE BEEN

During our 158-year history, thousands of followers of Christ have taken timely steps of faith. It all began in 1853, when Stephen and Lea Parker stepped out to meet a spiritual need in their community, and opened their home (the Parker house next door to the Clarks Summit Campus) for the beginnings of our church. In the years since, through many relocations, building projects, and name changes, countless people have been obedient in their service to the Lord, each other, and their community.

Over the past generation, Parker Hill Community Church has increasingly become a place that opens its doors to non-religious and nominally religious people, helping them find the way back to God and become deeply committed Christians. At the same time, we have sought to inspire and equip our people to be Christ's hands and voice outside the walls of this church, meeting the practical needs of our community and the world.

For the last 25 years, we have seen God's Spirit at work in incredible ways. Our church has grown from a group of 35 people to a typical weekend attendance of 1,800 people. Many of these were unchurched prior to attending Parker Hill.

## ATTENDANCE GROWTH



We have moved from one church in one location, to being one church in multiple locations, with a ministry focus that encompasses the greater Scranton/Wilkes-Barre region. Our attenders have volunteered hundreds of thousands of hours of time, as well as given tens of millions of dollars in resources, all to positively touch the people of Northeast Pennsylvania and around the world.



## WHERE WE ARE GOING

In Psalm 78, the Israelites were challenged to teach the commandments to their children so that, “the next generation might know them, the children yet unborn... so that they should set their hope in God and not forget the works of God, but keep his commandments.” (Psalm 78:6–7)

Now listen, you who say, “Today or tomorrow we will go to this or that city, spend a year there, carry on business and make money.” Why, you do not even know what will happen tomorrow.—James, in James 4:13–14



In the same way, we want today’s movement of the Gospel to outlive us and ripple into the next generation and beyond. The choices we make today will determine the legacy of our lives, and the memories we have to look back on someday. The sacrifices we make now will be part of the story we write - individually and as a church.

Our investment in the future is worth tremendous sacrifice. There are still thousands of people in this region who have not personally experienced the grace of God. The time to reach them is now! We want to be a place where they discover truth and become filled with hope that reverberates for generations to come.

We continue to be committed to helping people find the way back to God through three critical pursuits: immersing ourselves in worship and in the teaching of God’s truth, fusing our lives together through participation in community with other believers, and radiating God’s grace and advancing His mission by serving and giving.

As we look to the future, we believe that God’s greatest plans are still ahead of us!



## HOW WE CAN GET THERE

The financial commitment of so many people to God's work at Parker Hill Community Church has been amazing! If we can continue in this faithfulness, we will be able to take some big steps forward in our ministry. At the same time, we still have some crucial financial needs that necessitate a new capital campaign. This campaign will fund the following projects.

### Debt Service

NOW IS THE TIME TO FREE UP FUNDS FOR MINISTRY!

The time to maximize our funds for ministry is now. Over the past four years, we have funded the cost of expanding our facilities through financing and a capital campaign, while resourcing our mission and ministry through our regular offerings to the General Fund. Without this next campaign, we would have to make our loan payments from our General Fund, thereby greatly reducing our effectiveness in spiritually serving our region.

Ultimately, our goal for the next few years is to see continued growth in the hearts of our people, resulting in even greater faithfulness in tithing. The cost of expanding our ministry and making debt payments would then be funded more by our General Fund and be less dependent on campaigns or special offerings. It is our goal that all future debt payments be absorbed into our General Fund giving by the end of 2015. This capital campaign will bridge the gap for the next few years.

### Early Debt Payments

NOW IS THE TIME TO REDUCE OUR TOTAL DEBT!

Instead of waiting to make payments over the life of our construction loan, let's pay down the principal now. Because interest rates are at historic lows, we have been blessed with a very favorable rate of 3.55%. The rate will remain unchanged for three years, but due to possible market forces, the future rate will most likely increase significantly.

By paying down some of our debt in the next few years, we will save thousands of dollars that would otherwise be paid in interest, gaining the freedom to pursue our mission unencumbered in the years ahead. The amount of money designated for debt reduction is not a fixed sum, but will increase as our giving to this capital campaign increases.

### Future Needs

NOW IS THE TIME TO PREPARE FOR THE NEXT OPPORTUNITY!

We believe that many great things are yet to come for our church, and the best time to prepare for them is now. Our history has included some incredible, unexpected opportunities, and we want to be ready when the next door opens. A small portion of the funds from this campaign will be set aside in preparation for that next open door. This future opportunity may be the chance to create a new worship gathering in another nearby location or it may be the opportunity to increase the parking capacity at our Clarks Summit Campus. It may even be something that we can't foresee at this time.

For the time being, our two campuses are able to accommodate growth in attendance. At some point, however, limited building space and our love for the people in this region will compel us to make room for more. When that time comes, we will address the need for more space by creating a new worship opportunity in another, nearby location. Rather than opening a fully-developed Parker Hill campus, we plan to launch our next location in a way that is simple and economical. We are praying that God will open the door to ministry space that can be rented inexpensively or even donated. When the time comes to launch a new location, we want to be prepared to cover the start-up costs, such as minor remodeling and basic equipment purchases.

***For every dollar we give to principle reduction over the next three years, we could save up to \$3 in interest.***

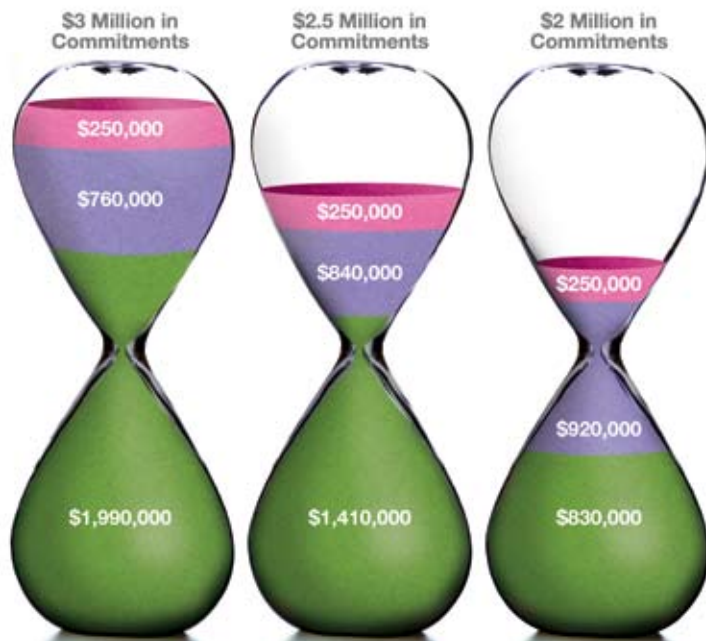
## THE TIME IS NOW

God-given opportunities require Christ-like sacrifice. Great dreams always have a great cost. In order to remain effective in the future, we must take steps of faith today.

Please prayerfully consider what role God may be asking you to fulfill as we step forward. Our aim is not equal giving but equal sacrifice. We ask that each person contemplate making a special gift that requires some measure of sacrifice. Our deep desire is for everyone who considers Parker Hill their church to make a commitment and join us on the journey. With all of us moving together, we can achieve something tremendous for Him!

With God's power working with us, God can do much, much more than anything we can ask or imagine.

—Paul, in Ephesians 3:20



- Future Opportunities
- Loan Payments
- Principal Pre-Payments

*As demonstrated in this graph, more giving now would allow us to pay down more of the principle, therefore reducing the remaining debt payments. Greater generosity now would have an exponential effect on the future!*



