

DEVELOPMENT

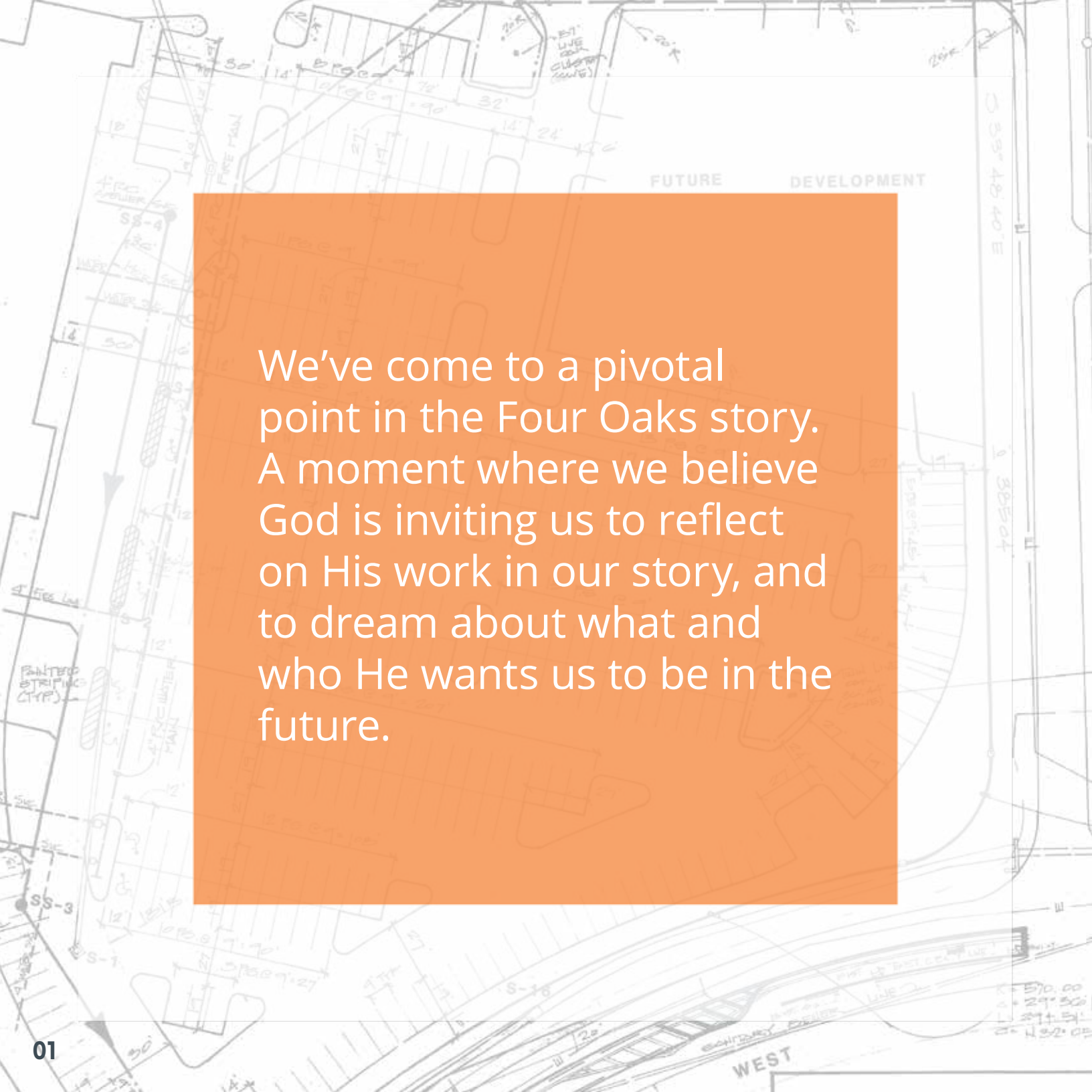


KEPT

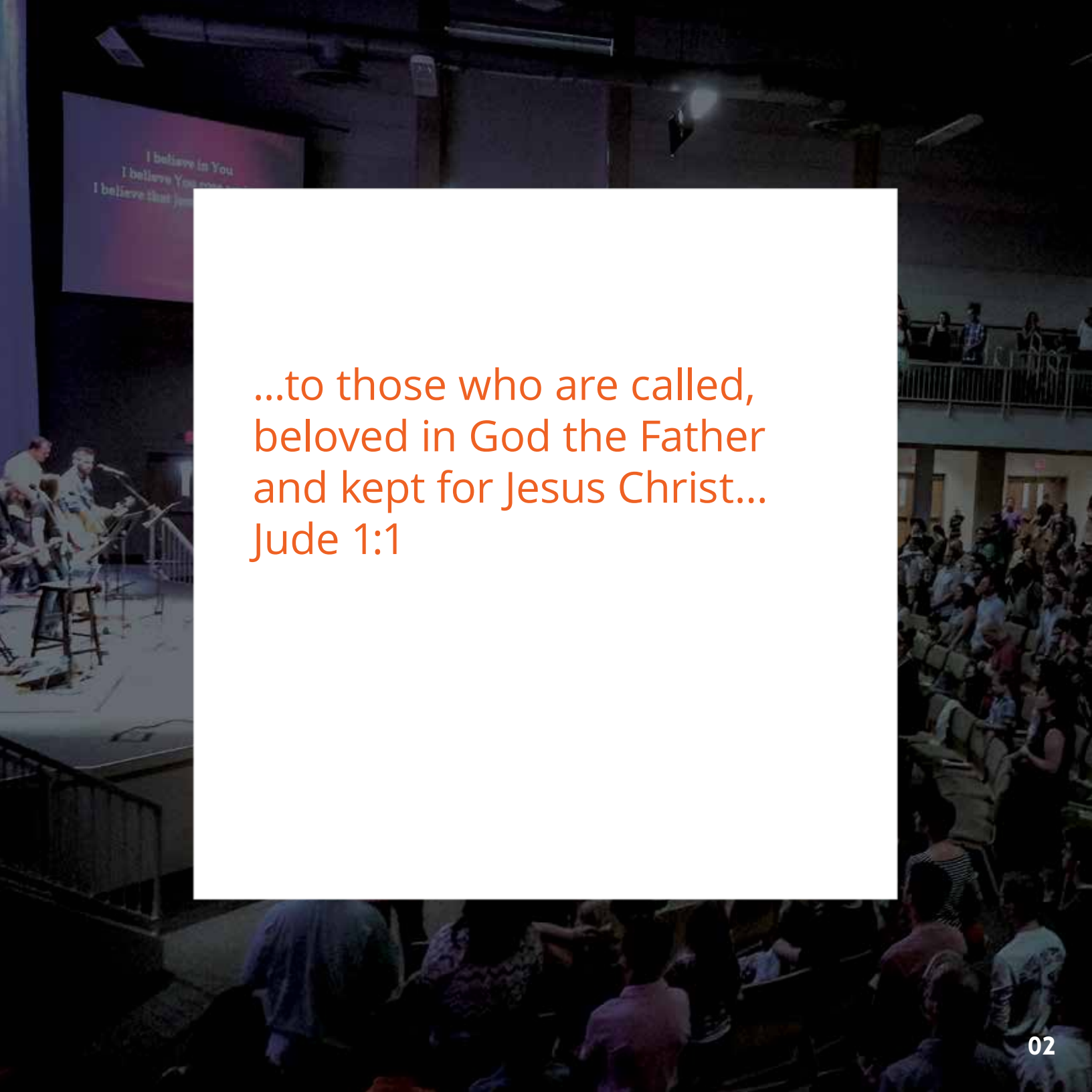
GATHER
—
GIVE
—
SCATTER

CAMPAIGN GUIDE

WEST

Architectural site plan showing building footprints, parking lots, and utility lines. The text 'FUTURE DEVELOPMENT' is visible in the upper right. An orange rectangular box is overlaid on the left side of the plan, containing white text.

We've come to a pivotal point in the Four Oaks story. A moment where we believe God is inviting us to reflect on His work in our story, and to dream about what and who He wants us to be in the future.

A photograph of a church interior during a service. A band is performing on a stage in the background, and a large crowd of people is seated in the pews in the foreground. A screen in the background displays the lyrics 'I believe in You, I believe You are God, I believe that Jesus...'. A white rectangular box is overlaid on the right side of the image, containing orange text.

...to those who are called, beloved in God the Father and kept for Jesus Christ...
Jude 1:1

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“WOULD YOU ATTEND YOUR CHURCH, EVEN IF YOU WERE NOT EMPLOYED BY YOUR CHURCH?”

Not every pastor is able to honestly answer in the affirmative to this question, but I am so thankful that I am able to say, “Yes!” For over two decades now, I have had the simultaneous joy of calling Four Oaks not only my employer, but, most importantly, my home.

While my role in church leadership has morphed over the years from youth pastor to executive pastor to now Lead Pastor, my love for the church hasn't changed. This is why Susan and our family consider it the greatest of privileges to be able to serve the Lord by serving and leading the Four Oaks family. God has been good and gracious to Four Oaks over its 27 years of existence, and I pray that He will see fit to give us, as a people, another quarter century of faithful and fruitful ministry.

The vision that you will hear about as part of the KEPT campaign is one I believe propels us upward toward God, inward toward each other, and outward toward a lost and hurting world.

Paul Gilbert



“MY FAMILY AND I CAME TO FOUR OAKS TO BEGIN SOMETHING NEW”

This was possible because the church believed God would honor the impulse to mission, that He would be faithful to the gospel preached, and ultimately, that He would bring fruit from faith-driven risk. In short, something new was possible because Four Oaks believed something old... God is building His church.

From the first day until now we've been supported, encouraged, and joined by hundreds of folks who want to serve one another and reach out to people who need to know Christ. Four Oaks Midtown is a thriving, mid-sized congregation with an opportunity to plant ourselves in our neighborhood. We have a desire to establish a home base for gospel preaching, for community service, and for continuing Jesus' mission in the world. I'm praying God continues to keep us faithful, in Christ, in Midtown, for the next 100+ years.

Lance Olimb

KEPT BY GOD

In the spring of 2017, we will celebrate 27 years together as a church family. During these almost three decades together, God has continued to astonish us with His grace and faithfulness. We've watched and wondered together as He has rescued souls, reconciled relationships, and restored marriages. He's healed, He's provided, He's graced, He's sustained. He's made us a family.

He's held our church through years of wandering without a home. For two decades we met in a storefront space, a school cafeteria, a Tupperware supply warehouse, and rented auditoriums; but wherever we went to meet, we'd arrive to find He was already there. He has protected us through failed property deals (two to be exact). He's borne us through financial hardship, carried us through crisis, and held us together through seasons of turbulent change.

It's really this simple: We have been kept by God.

Loved. Protected. Preserved. Sustained. Enabled.

KEPT.

KEPT FOR A CAUSE

God has kept us so we can do more than simply settle or survive; we believe we have been kept for a cause. We want you to join us as we consider together how we might embrace that cause. How we might maximize our influence for the gospel in Tallahassee and throughout North Florida. To think of what it could mean for us to be an agent of lasting change in our city, leveraging the resources He has entrusted to us to achieve maximum kingdom impact.

By incomprehensible, unfathomable grace, we have been kept by God.

KEPT TO GATHER, KEPT TO GIVE, AND KEPT TO SCATTER.

FOR WHAT CAUSE HAS GOD KEPT YOU?

The God who made the world and everything in it, being Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in temples made by man, nor is He served by human hands, as though He needed anything, since He himself gives to all mankind life and breath and everything. And He made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined allotted periods and the boundaries of their dwelling place, that they should seek God, and perhaps feel their way toward Him and find Him. Yet He is actually not far from each one of us....
Acts 17:24-27

Members of the Four Oaks family live, work, rest, and enjoy recreation in a strategic and dynamic city. As Florida's capital, Tallahassee is home to a thriving business community, a huge and influential state workforce, and more than 70,000 college students at Florida State University, Florida A&M University and Tallahassee Community College.

We believe we've been placed in this city to be a blessing to this city. We're driven by our conviction that all our friends, neighbors and co-workers are made in God's image and need to hear the good news of Jesus Christ. This is true of the rest of North Florida, our nation, and all nations.

Our vision is to proclaim the good news of the gospel and embody its implications in new and strategic ways in the years to come. In order to see this vision realized, we need God to provide through the investment of His people.

We also need you. Will you join us and say, **"I'M IN"?**

A VISION FOR OUR FUTURE

Our five-year vision for Four Oaks is to see Tallahassee and North Florida saturated with the gospel of Jesus through the establishment of congregations, church plants, community groups, and leaders. What will that look like?

By 2022, we want to be a church of four congregations totalling 1,800 weekly attenders doing life together in 70 community groups. We also want to establish two church plants in the panhandle region, churches planted by Four Oaks through our partnership with the Sojourn Network.

We are asking God to enable us to raise an additional \$2 million over the next two years (March 2017-March 2019) to begin funding this vision.

We're doing this because we believe He has kept us to pursue gospel work where we're planted, and to establish new gospel works around us.

OUR GOALS

PRIMARY - 100% PARTICIPATION

Our primary goal is that as close as possible to 100% of our people would, before the Lord, own the mission and vision of Four Oaks and commit to making a commitment through the Kept Campaign.

SECONDARY - \$6 MILLION OVER TWO YEARS

Our secondary goal is to see our generous giving grow over a two year period from our budgeted amount of \$4 million to \$6 million. This additional giving will enable us, by God's grace, to see the first steps of this new vision become a reality.

WE'RE KEPT TO GATHER

We are kept to continue the legacy of good stewardship of our people and places, using the buildings God has provided as strategic launch points for worship, teaching, and loving our neighbors.

We want to continue the original vision of our Killearn facility. We began purchasing it in 2009 with a vision for it to serve as a home base for ministry, and the challenge before us is to continue purchasing it by retiring a significant portion of the remaining debt. Doing so will free up funds that can go directly into ministry to the people we are called to reach.

It was from this same vision that we launched our Midtown Congregation in 2012. And as this congregation has grown, the need to expand and put down roots in that community has become increasingly apparent. Renting the Open Bible Church facility carries a feeling of impermanence and communicates transience to our neighbors. We want Four Oaks congregations woven into the fabric of the neighborhoods in which they are positioned, establishing permanence in order to be a meaningful and faithful presence to our neighbors in community.

GOALS

- Pay off our smaller (second) mortgage at Killearn
- Pursue a permanent ministry home for Midtown.
- Increase neighborhood visibility to be a greater gospel presence.

COST: \$1,550,000

WHAT'S THE STORY ON OUR DEBT?

BY THE NUMBERS

We have two loans. The larger mortgage is \$4,295,384 and the smaller is \$862,420. Our first goal is to pay off the second mortgage. Service on this smaller loan represents approximately \$70,000 per year in principal and interest payments, or \$5,833 per month. If we continue to make these payments for another five years, we pay an additional \$350,000 over that period of time due to interest. Additionally, the interest rate on the loan will reset in February 2017 and is likely to go up. This will further increase the amount we have to pay if we simply make our payments.

By paying off the smaller mortgage, we then "right side up" the equity position at Four Oaks Center. In addition to our monthly savings, this also gives us flexibility to refinance the center with a local lender if we so choose.

More importantly, this also gives us freedom to begin strategizing for a permanent home for our Midtown congregation, giving us the many benefits of a permanent home in that community.

THE BENEFITS OF OWNING A BUILDING

1. **STABILITY** - Renting is risky for a church seeking to be a permanent presence. Losing our space due to a sale could be destabilizing for our Midtown congregation and hinder our mission.
2. **SERVICE** - Purchase means permanence and communicates to our neighbors that we aren't merely passing through, but instead are rooted and committed to their flourishing.
3. **STEWARDSHIP** - We save money in the long run by owning instead of renting.

FOUR OAKS STORIES: JON AND LORELL DINGES

Jon and Lorell Dinges, with their five children, moved from Lake City to Tallahassee in January of 2015. The Dinges family had a lot on its "to do" list. There was the business of moving in to their new Lake Shore Drive area home, unpacking, getting acquainted with a new workplace, and familiarizing themselves with their new community. However, at the top of their list of priorities was finding a Tallahassee church home. "We prayed earnestly for a church," said Jon. "We feared we would be floundering along."

The family's prayers were answered quickly. Their neighbors (Erik and Jana Sayler) invited them to join them for a service at Four Oaks Church. Jon said he immediately did his homework and listened to one of the teachings from a previous Sunday. He listened to the Vision Sunday teaching and was thrilled to find a church that was theologically sound and had a compelling vision. The family agreed to go to church with their new neighbors.

"When we attended the first time, we felt welcome immediately. The experience was great. We picked up on the structure and it was apparent this was a healthy church," he said. "Specifically, we could see that there was accountability in leadership. That means a lot. We also were taken by the expositional teaching. That's so powerful. We knew we had found our church home."



FOUR OAKS STORIES: DAVID AND JUDY MURPHY

David and Judy Murphy, who retired to Tallahassee over 15 years ago, went on a quest to identify an enthusiastic, mission-minded church, with a rich theology and welcoming embrace for older, more seasoned Christians. At Four Oaks, they say they found a church that delivers on the intergeneration front, where people of all age groups can invest in each other and encourage each other.

Dave says it's not an easy task finding a church fit in today's culture, where the most complex issues are addressed on social media in 140 characters or less. The business of sharing faith journeys and the dispensing of life-experienced wisdom isn't always welcomed. He says that's not the case at Four Oaks.

"I love how the church connects with multiple generations," said Dave. "The depth of wisdom in Sunday teaching delivers a rich and purposeful gospel message to every demographic. Our family represents three generations at Four Oaks. When we discuss what we love about the church, everyone is engaged and enthusiastic. It's nice how the pastors connect with so many people, no matter the age range."



FOUR OAKS STORIES: SUSAN COLLIGAN

When Susan Colligan began working at the Pregnancy Help and Information (PHI) Center in 2012, she immediately felt the weight and implications of her convictions about the sanctity of human life. Suddenly, to be "pro-life" meant something very real and personal; it meant sitting, talking and weeping with women who felt their lives were over, counseling them toward life and holding out to them the hope of the gospel.

Each day, our partners at the PHI Center, and A Women's Pregnancy Center meet with women facing unplanned pregnancies (many of whom are considered "abortion-vulnerable"). They also care for moms and dads who have chosen to carry their babies rather than abort them. Susan says, "surprisingly, the latter work is often the most difficult. While unplanned pregnancy is the tip of the iceberg, just below the surface we frequently find a history of abuse, dysfunction, fear and identity confusion. On top of that, those who need the most help often face the greatest barriers: lack of resources, limited income, no support, low education levels, etc."

In the Titus Homes program, a woman in need is welcomed into the home of a Four Oaks family for care and discipleship. Susan sees this as a unique opportunity for the church to do what only it can do. "Titus Homes are meant to provide care and support to the woman who has made the decision to raise her child but doesn't have the physical, emotional, or spiritual resources to do it. This is where the gap is - There are services for women who are pregnant. There are agencies who specialize in adoption. There are state programs to remove children from a home if they are in danger. But there are limited options for a mother who desires to parent well and doesn't know how.

"I see Titus Homes being a picture of the gospel played out through the adoption of whole families for the purpose of demonstrating the unconditional, steadfast love of God through the reconciling work of Christ. But we need the church to do it. If not us, then who?"



WE'RE KEPT TO GIVE

We are set in our communities as stewards, called to impact where we live as God's agents of renewal, giving away ourselves and our resources to see God's purposes advance.

Four Oaks is deeply committed to God's work in Tallahassee. We want the coming years to be marked by significant growth in our service to those around us who are in need and have no voice.

Through the Kept Campaign, we will meaningfully equip those in our faith family who are caring for orphans, standing for the unborn, and meeting the needs of the poor.

GOALS

- Establish the Orphan Care Fund: We will fund the first 10 percent of the cost of adoption for 10 Four Oaks Families. This fund will also serve to help offset costs incurred by Four Oaks foster parents.
- Raise, train and release 20 new guardians ad litem to contend for children in foster care.
- Establish the Titus Home Fund that will offset the cost to Four Oaks Families who open their homes to single moms who carry their babies to term through the ministry of A Woman's Pregnancy Center and the Pregnancy Help and Information (PHI) Center, as well as to other single moms in our congregations.
- Establish a Deacon Fund for benevolence needs in our community.
- Raise up 30 new deacons to administer and execute service and benevolence ministry in the church.

COST: \$150,000

- There are an estimated 140 million orphans worldwide.
- Florida has 20,000 children in foster care and less than 5,000 foster homes.
- Leon County has almost 400 children in the foster care system and fewer than 85 foster homes.

Four Oaks members are deeply involved in serving through Guardian ad Litem, fostering, and serving at crisis pregnancy centers like A Women's Pregnancy Center, the Pregnancy Help and Information (PHI) Center, and the Pregnancy Center of Gadsden County. We want to partner with them to see women in crisis cared for and orphans welcomed.

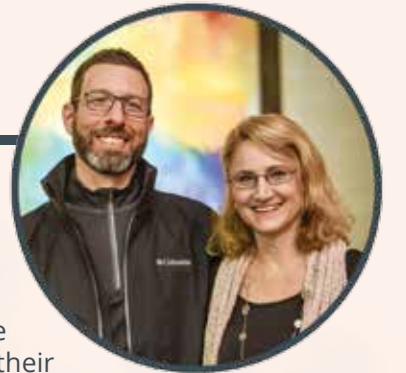


FOUR OAKS STORIES: LEO THURBER

Leo Thurber experienced the power of a fully engaged Community Group when her husband passed away unexpectedly the weekend before Thanksgiving in 2012. Members of her group immediately came together to walk alongside her during this difficult time. The burden of planning and coordinating funeral arrangements were eased, the service was planned and meals were prepared and delivered to Leo, her daughter Briallen, and visiting family.

"I was greatly impacted by the outpouring of love to Briallen and me through this body of believers," said Leo. "I can't imagine enduring this without all the support and love."

Leo's community group has continued to walk with her over the past four years as her daughter has entered into college. Though Leo is now transitioning through a job loss, she is comforted that the group is aware of each other's needs and comes together to serve one another. "The Community Group has been such a valuable resource for me," Leo said. "It is a comfort to have deep relationships with brothers and sisters in Christ."



FOUR OAKS STORIES: KEVIN AND ANNETTE EDEWAARD

When Kevin and Annette Edewaard embarked on the adoption of their son Joel, they were overwhelmed with the complexities and costs of the adoption process. The process is extremely challenging, and it was a difficult experience for the couple and their two children, Alyssa and Price. In the midst of the confusion and struggle, the Edewaards say they received an outpouring of support from the Four Oaks Church family.

"Four Oaks Church really stood in the gap for us when we adopted Joel," said Kevin. "God, through His people, provided a huge financial need for our adoption. Also, the support was substantial. Our house was completely outfitted for a newborn when we returned from the hospital."

As a result, Kevin is drawn toward serving in a ministry that supports future and current adoptive and foster families. He said it would be his honor to provide emotional, physical and spiritual support to families who are adopting. "Whether it's coming alongside a family that has just shown its first spark of interest, or a family that adopted several years ago, I'm all in and have a true burden for this ministry."

WE'RE KEPT TO SCATTER

We are kept to go, to preach and proclaim Jesus to a world that desperately needs to hear the good news of life and hope in Him.

The gospel is not good advice or a good way to live; it's the good news of what God has done in Jesus Christ to save sinners. This is the message that has been entrusted to us so that we might proclaim it with authority, boldness and faith in the Holy Spirit's work.

In the same way, the church is not an event, a venue or a social club; the church is God's instrument for the declaration of this good news. We are called to a ministry of proclamation that takes us outside ourselves, outside our comforts, and outside our walls.

GOALS

- Launch a third Four Oaks congregation in East Tallahassee.
- Establish and fund a church planting residency for the training and sending of eight church planters with the goal of establishing new churches in the Florida panhandle and beyond.
- Establish and fund a new Director of Evangelism position to train and equip the people of Four Oaks to reach our community with the gospel.

COST: \$300,000



"Four Oaks has been my family since I was a teenager. I met and married my wife Katie here, welcomed and dedicated children here, discerned my call to gospel ministry here, and experienced the lavish grace of God through the people of God here. The idea of multiplying the work of God through Four Oaks by leading our next congregation absolutely thrills my soul. Leaving the Killlearn congregation certainly represents a deep sense of loss, but it's a loss that Katie and I are convinced is absolutely worth it because of the beauty of the mission God has given His Church. We simply cannot wait to see what he does in our midst as we step forward in faith."

Josh Hughes

FOUR OAKS STORIES: TRISH ENFINGER



Trish Enfinger came to Four Oaks at a point of great spiritual confusion. Her experience at another church had taught her a message of health, wealth and prosperity that she wasn't able to see as she studied the Scriptures for herself as a non-Christian. Through her experience at Four Oaks in gathering worship and in community, God revealed himself to her.

"Four Oaks was the delivery room of my new birth in Christ and the place I was baptized and raised to new life in Christ. I went from a place of blindness, seeing and understanding nothing, to seeing the light of the glory of the gospel of Christ. It's where I learned to eat solid spiritual food and grow in the knowledge of the Word," she said.

Trish has experienced great grace through her relationships in community at Four Oaks as well. "I have found people who spur me on when I get tired, pray for me every time I need it, who hold me accountable, and give me correction. The people in this body of believers are priceless to me. I love this church so much!"

This love Trish has for her faith family is on display each week when she serves in the Son Seekers class at Killlearn. "I feel like I have been served and cared for so well in this church, and that creates in me a desire to serve others. I love to see the kids each week and watch them grow."



FOUR OAKS STORIES: ERIN PETSCHER

Erin Petscher finds joy in joining like-minded members of Christ's family in pursuing truth and personal growth. The importance of developing relationships with great depth are a priority for Erin, who is a cancer survivor. Her desire is to mobilize and dedicate her time into real, lifelong change within families in Tallahassee and beyond.

Erin is enthusiastic about the introduction of Redemption Groups to Four Oaks Church. A Redemption Group is an intense small group where participants experience the transforming love of God in life's deepest areas of sin and suffering. Erin is part of the originating team that began pursuing the introduction of this ministry in January of 2016. Since then Erin has participated in Immersion weekends, gone through intensive training, and served as a leader in the inaugural launch of Redemption Groups at Four Oaks. She describes her experiences with the ministry as transforming.

"I believe Redemption Groups provide the safe, Christ-centered opportunity for every believer to grow and heal," she said. "Participants move beyond their comfortable resting places into a profound awareness of their heart issues. No matter how long participants have been walking with the Lord, they come to recognize their subtle idolatries and are challenged to leave them behind. More specifically, before redemption group I thought I had arrived and wanted to pull others up to my level. Now I know my self-righteousness was driving my days, and recognize my true, lowly place at the feet of the Savior of the world."



FOUR OAKS STORIES: GREG KITCHENS

When the Four Oaks Midtown congregation began, there was a variety of needs to ensure a successful launch. From childcare to preaching and all things in between, leadership assembled the gifted and the faithful. Greg Kitchens was on the front lines, with guitar in hand, to participate in the praise and worship music ministry.

From a front-of-church perspective, Greg has watched God grow the church from a small community to a vibrant congregation operating at near capacity. "Seeing all the growth at midtown is really encouraging," said Greg. "It's amazing how God has worked through the leaders and the servants."

Along with the music ministry, Greg and his wife Emily are helping to shape the new Four Oaks Redemption Group ministry. The couple participated in twelve months of training and preparation and they are eager to serve the Midtown congregation in its pursuit for rescue, reconciliation and redemption.

"I'm most excited about the recently launched redemption groups," said Greg. "They will serve a very important and often overlooked group of people in the modern church."

FOUR OAKS STORIES: JANNA THOMAS



Janna Thomas has been plugged in and active with the Four Oaks Midtown congregation since the first informational meetings were held in 2011. That's when Midtown was in the conceptual phase. She says she has enjoyed being a Midtown pioneer and seeing God's blessings on the Four Oaks Midtown Campus.

"Four Oaks is a family," said Janna. "It's a place where you can love and serve each other and be loved and served in return."

While reflecting on the positive growth of the Midtown campus, Janna can't help but contemplate the mission opportunities beyond Tallahassee. She says global outreach is near and dear to her heart. As she looks toward the future, this is where she wants to invest her energy.

"It's the opportunity we have to partner with God to bring His glory to the nations of the world," she said "This means instilling a missional mindset in our kids, fostering the call for those who desire to serve in ministry full-time, and purposefully investing in the care of our gospel partners, wherever in the world they may be."

And without faith it is impossible to please Him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that He exists and that He rewards those who seek Him.
Hebrews 11:6

In order to see this vision become a reality, we need God. We need him to direct our plans and order our steps. We need him to bless us with His provision. We need Him to increase our faith as we look to Him.

AND WE NEED YOU.

We need the people of Four Oaks to stand with us. We need new servants, leaders and pioneers to emerge from within our membership to own this vision and embrace what God is doing.

OUR GOALS: 100% PARTICIPATION AND EXPANSION IN OUR GENEROUS GIVING, FROM \$4 MILLION TO \$6 MILLION OVER TWO YEARS

We believe God has an abundance of resources and provision within our church, more than enough to do all we've imagined, and then exceedingly and abundantly more. We're asking everyone who belongs to Four Oaks to prayerfully consider what it means to own this vision so that it might come to fruition through sacrificial giving that is embraced by our whole church community. We are asking our faith family for equal sacrifice, not equal gifts. A biblical view of generosity and stewardship calls us to give to God's work in proportion to what He has entrusted to us.

But the Kept Campaign isn't merely a fundraising initiative. It's about God's invitation to us, both as a church and as individuals to locate ourselves within the story He is writing in and through Four Oaks. **WILL YOU JOIN US?**

WHAT'S NEXT?

SEEK

Begin with prayer. Join us in acknowledging how deeply we need God as a church and as individuals. Ask Him to lead us forward in accordance with His desires. Commit to walking in prayer for your neighbors, your community and your church family.

JOIN

We want everyone to engage this vision personally. God is writing His story of redemption in our world and in our city, and we get to be a part of it! Prayerfully consider how God might be leading you to use the time, talents and treasures He has entrusted to you to see this vision become a reality.

GIVE

Generosity begins with a heart that's been captured by God's all-sufficient grace. Begin today praying about how God might want you to leverage your resources in the coming days. We will provide you with a commitment card to fill out at our Commitment Sunday service on March 5, 2017. We're asking everyone who calls Four Oaks their home to walk through this journey with us and present a card on that day.

COMMUNITY GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Week One

- This campaign is an opportunity for our church to think back about God's activity in our lives. Share stories of how God has "kept" you.
- 1 Peter 1 tells us that our salvation is secure because it is being kept by God. How has God worked in your own life to "keep" you?
- Jude 1 promises that God is able to keep us from stumbling and will present us blameless before Him. How can that encourage you right now?
- One of the ways that God keeps us from stumbling is through His church. How has God used Four Oaks in your story?
- How do you feel about money and your relationship with God? Does your money intersect with your faith? What emotions come up when you start talking or thinking about money?
- As you hear about the "Kept Campaign", what thoughts, emotions, or questions do you have? How can your group come alongside you and/or pray for you?

Week Two

- What does it mean to have a sense of place? Why is this important? Any stories to share?
- To what extent do you prioritize Lord's Day worship? Are there ways that you can grow in your commitment to gather with God's people?
- What does it look like for our Community Group to embrace a sense of place where we are? What are the implications for our mission?
- As you consider your posture toward your neighbors and your stuff, do you consider yourself to be a generous person? Why or why not?
- How can your group pray for you this week, as you consider your commitment to gather and to be generous?

Week Three

- James 1:27 says that "Religion that is pure and undefiled before God the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained from the world." What do you think it means for us to "visit" orphans and widows? Why do think this is important?
- What are the barriers that keep us from fostering, adopting, or welcoming women in crisis pregnancy into our homes? If we're not able to do those things ourselves, what stops us from supporting others who are?
- What steps might we take individually or as a group to intentionally live out this instruction from James 1:27 or pursue other mercy ministry opportunities?
- 71% of the world's population lives on less than \$10 per day. Do you think of yourself as wealthy? What are the benefits of having money? What dangers accompany money?
- If you could change your attitude about money, would you? How so?

COMMUNITY GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What steps is God calling you to related to caring for those in need?

Week Four

- What is a story you can share about multiplication (such as having a child, expanding a business, starting a new church or Community Group, etc.)? What were the blessings and challenges with it?
- The book of Acts shows the early church's commitment to multiplication, including sending out its best people. Why is multiplication so hard?
- Given how hard it is, why do we do it? What blessings have you experienced as a result of someone else's willingness to sacrifice for mission?
- What is one way you can pursue multiplication in your life right now?
- As you think about completing the commitment card, are you excited or fighting this process? Why would you want to complete this card? Why would you not want to complete this card?
- Which aspect of the Kept Campaign most excites you? How can you take steps to get involved?

Week Five

- What has God taught you through the "Kept" series? How has he aligned your heart with Him and the church?
- Which aspect of the Kept Campaign are you most excited about? Why?
- What commitment are you making to the Lord, to the church, and the ministries laid out in our Kept Campaign (this commitment is not just limited to financial, but it also could include a commitment to prayer, serving, etc.)? What are you hoping for as you make this commitment?
- What fears or doubts might be creeping in as you commit to give or serve sacrificially? What promises from God's Word might be a source of encouragement and strength to you in these struggles?
- How can our group encourage each other in these commitments we're making to the Kept Campaign?

FAQS

What is the Kept Campaign?

The Kept Campaign is an effort to articulate and fund our vision for the next five to ten years of ministry at Four Oaks. This vision includes expansion, growth in church planting, debt retirement, and significant mercy ministries in the Tallahassee community.

How much is our debt costing us?

Each month we pay \$32,987 for the two mortgages, of which \$5,833 is for the smaller mortgage. Last year we paid \$248,789 in interest, which is \$20,732 per month in interest expense. By paying off the smaller mortgage we reduce the interest expense by \$32,550 per year or \$2,712 per month. This is a significant reduction in expense to the Church.

How do I participate?

Begin with prayer and meditation on God's word (some passages to consider are 1 Cor. 16:2, Prov. 11:25, Prov. 3:5-9, 2 Cor. 8:7, Acts 20:35, Luke 6:38, and Psalm 116:12). Consider how God is uniting your heart with the vision of Four Oaks and how He might be inviting you to participate. If any questions arise that aren't answered in this document, talk with one of your elders. On commitment Sunday, March 5, 2017, we will ask everyone who is participating to fill out a commitment card.

How long is the campaign period?

We hope for all gifts to be received within two years. Your commitment can be paid all at once or over the two-year pledge period ending in March 2019.

When can I give?

Pledges can be given anytime through Commitment Sunday, March 5, 2017 (and beyond if you need more time).

What does the campaign's financial goal represent?

Our campaign goal, should we meet it, represents a major impact in all the areas we believe God is calling us. It means significant debt retirement for Killlearn, an outright purchase of a permanent home for Midtown, and major funding for evangelism, church planting, and mercy ministry in our community, all of which could impact Tallahassee and North Florida in significant ways.

FAQS

Does the fact that we want to expand mean we are abandoning our commitment to depth?

We believe God's word is inexhaustibly deep, but our experience of that depth is short-circuited if we aren't pursuing God's mission as we go deep. The more we see and delight in the grace of God, the more we want others to experience it with us. In other words, we must go wide as we go deep, and we believe we can't succeed at doing one apart from doing the other.

Are we allocating too much or too little to debt retirement?

Allocating resources to achieve the best effect is always a balancing act. In our case, we want to reduce debt and increase the amount of income we keep each month. By paying off the smaller mortgage of \$862,000, we eliminate the monthly payment of \$5,833 and get to keep it to use for ministry purposes. In our projected scenario, this helps us achieve the balance of reducing debt and increasing cash flow. Paying money toward the larger mortgage does help us by shortening the life of that loan, but it does not lower the amount we have to pay each month. This does not help us with the other goals of the Kept Campaign.

Why are we in debt anyway? Is that biblical?

The elders decided in 2008 to begin purchasing the Killlearn facility because after 20 years of being a mobile church, we needed a home base for ministry. We believed at the time (and still believe) God was calling us to a strategic stewardship decision. We believe debt is not wrong and can be wisely undertaken if it means ministry objectives are being achieved and commitments are being met. While the Bible has much to say about debt (Romans 13:8, Proverbs 22:7), it does not say that debt is a sin. Certainly it is a sin to borrow without paying back, but debt in and of itself can be a wise and strategic decision if it allows us to be the church God calls us to be and we are able to repay it in a wise way.

Why attack the debt first?

When we began purchasing the Killlearn Congregation facility in 2009, we strategically broke the purchase and renovation cost into two mortgages, intending to hold a second capital campaign to retire a significant portion of our debt and re-frame our vision for the future. It was the elders' intention from when we first purchased the Killlearn building to have another campaign to retire the second mortgage. We believe good stewardship means retiring this smaller mortgage.

FAQS

What's the timeline for cash flow?

We would love to have the first \$900,000 raised and given by June of 2017. This would allow us to begin funding the other initiatives of the campaign, seeing orphan care and Titus home initiatives funded and the church planting residencies initiated in 2017. We would hope to be in a position to launch the east congregation in the next 12-18 months, then make a purchase for the Midtown congregation some time later in 2018 or early 2019.

How does retiring the debt help Midtown?

The mission of Four Oaks is unified across our congregations. We are working together to reach Tallahassee and beyond with the gospel. In addition to sharing a statement of faith, leadership, and philosophy of ministry, we are also one organizational entity (same 501C3). In order to purchase a home for Midtown, we, as a whole church, must first responsibly handle the existing debt that we own together as one church.

Why buy for Midtown? Why buildings instead of people?

A property and/or building is a strong statement that we intend to be in our city for the long term. We are indeed the people of God even as we are scattered to our homes and places of vocation. But we are also gathered people (ecclesia means called out, together) when we meet each week. A comfortable, accommodating, beautiful church home emphasizes our commitment to gathering. Furthermore, a physical location is a statement of permanence, a sound financial investment in the long term (10, 25, 50+ years) and gives us a launching pad for community outreach.

Why not borrow money for Midtown's building need?

Our intention would be to lead Midtown into a future where current lease funds (\$40k+) are used for ministry and mission, rather than simply transferring them to a mortgage payment. We will maintain an open mind on this issue but currently are praying that we could get to a place where we purchase a permanent home debt-free.

Were other locations considered for Midtown?

It would be an overstatement to say that we have considered every single meeting space in Midtown, but not too much of an overstatement! We attempted to purchase the former St. Peter's building on Thomasville (and were unable to do so because of our existing debt ratio) and have had conversations about numerous other locations. Currently, the 8th Avenue property is appealing due to neighborhood location, acreage to expand (about 2.5 acres total), congregation familiarity, and existing relationship with current owners (who are willing to sell). We are open to the possibility of pursuing a purchase of this location, and we are open to other options as the Lord provides.

FAQS

Why multiply and plant when we have so many needs at our existing locations?

There are two kinds of answers to this question, both in favor of expansion. First, the church doesn't get to choose which aspects of Jesus' teaching to ignore. God has given us a mandate to be a "going" church. The church is surely called to care for and disciple existing Christians, but it is just as much called to preach and pray and go to non-Christians as well. So, we want to be multiplying for faithfulness' sake. Also, multiplication of new churches is the single most effective means of evangelism. It is the pragmatic choice as well. We establish gospel preaching congregations in new neighborhoods because we love the lost and want them to be found.

What sort of giving are you asking me to commit to?

We're asking a representative from every household that calls Four Oaks home to fill out a card letting us know what you plan to give in total to the campaign over the next two years.

Why should I increase giving now? Why here?

There are many organizations that could make good use of your resources. But it's our conviction that the local church is God's primary instrument for accomplishing His purposes in the world and discipling the nations. We believe now is a strategic and wise time for us to re-articulate our vision for who God is calling us to be and push ahead with a bold vision for the next 5-10 years of life together. And in order for this vision to become a reality, we need the church to own it together.

What aren't we doing?

If our giving were to expand by more than \$2 million over the next two years, it would enable us to move forward more quickly with some of our strategic initiatives, further retire debt, and train more church planters. It would also position us to dream together about launching an additional (fourth) Four Oaks congregation in a different part of Tallahassee.



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