

Lifestyle Capital Stewardship Campaign



Construction to Start on the Cathedral in the Fall

On Vision Sunday 2008 (January 20), Pastor Richardson announced that construction on the new cathedral of Grace Baptist Church is scheduled to commence this fall, with the hope of marching in the new edifice on Palm Sunday 2010. Construction is estimated to take 18 months. In addition, the interior architectural rendering was released for the congregation to review. The cathedral's architecture is intended to inspire faith through its grandeur, beauty, use of light and water, and attention to the smallest detail, "all to the glory of God."

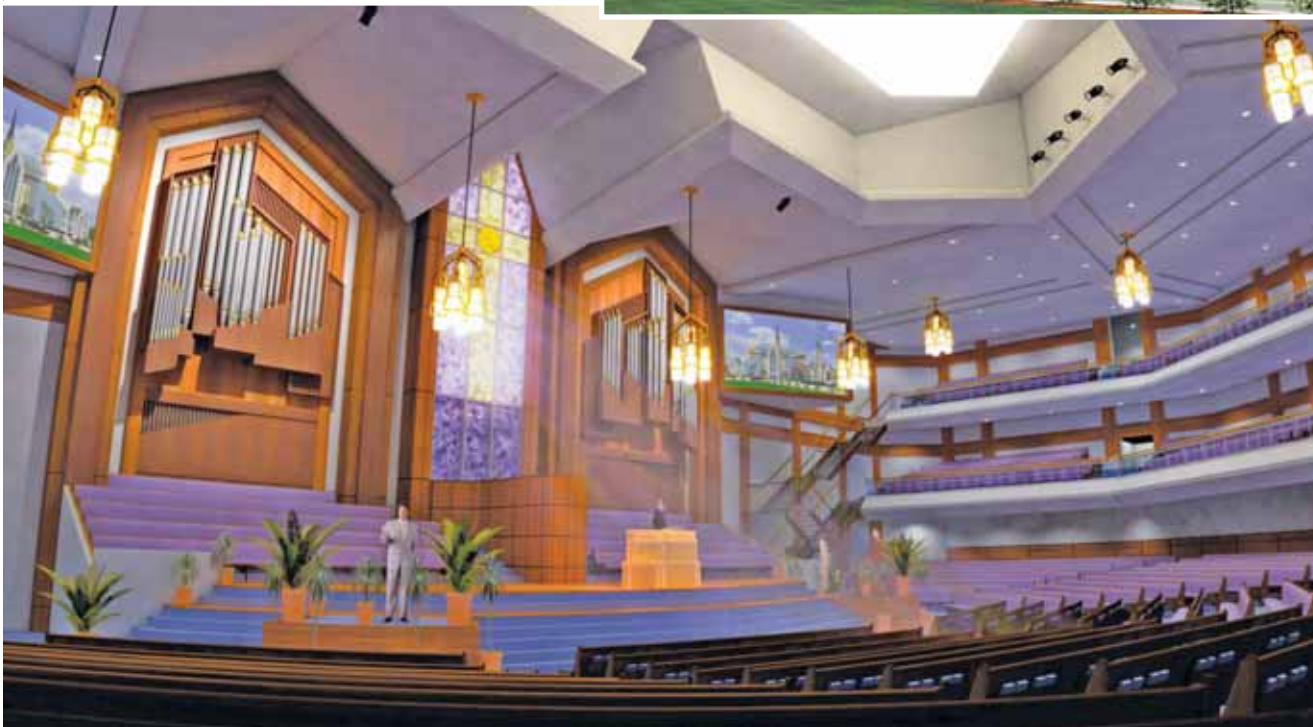
As part of Vision Sunday 2008, the congregation celebrated and thanked God for the accomplishments of the first year of the Lifestyle Stewardship Campaign and preconstruction activities.

- We purchased and demolished the gas station adjoining the church property, excavated eight tanks from the ground, and removed the contaminated soil from the property at a cost of \$500,000, which we have paid.
- As a church family, we have pledged over \$6 million toward the construction of the cathedral.
- We have given more than \$1 million in pledges during the last twelve months.
- We authorized the architect to proceed with the schematic drawings and the interior rendering of the cathedral, at a cost of over \$200,000, which we have paid.
- We secured the necessary construction and long-term bank financing for the project.

*All the glory,
all the honor,
all the praise,
belongs to God!*



The interior and exterior renderings of the new Grace cathedral.



Pastor Richardson further stated that in the immediate future the church will apply to the City of Mount Vernon for a building permit and will authorize the architect to proceed with the design drawings and finish the specifications for the project. We will also enter into contract for the design and construction of the cathedral organ.

The entire construction project is broken into four phases. Phases I, II, and III are the building of the cathedral itself, as well as completing a new music center, dance studio, finance room, and audio/video suite. Phase IV is the reconfiguring and renovation of the current church building into a family life center, which will include a banquet hall, a youth center, and conference space.

This project not only includes the physical expansion and renovation of our facilities, but is intended to expand the impact of our ministry on the lives of the men, women, boys, and girls in this region and beyond. All of the ministries of the church are being critically reviewed for the purpose of being prepared for the larger challenges the new facilities will provide us. In addition, we are launching a membership expansion campaign with the goal of adding 500 new members over the next two years. This enlargement of membership will expand our reach and resource base as we seek to increase the programmatic impact of our ministry.

“We are going forward by faith trusting in the Lord. He’s never failed us yet!” ■

– The Editors