

# Beyond the Walls

## Case Statement

Through our almost 180-year rich history, Wake Forest Baptist Church has been about sharing the love of Christ in both word and deed. Pivotal junctures in our past have called us as a body of believers to go beyond the walls of our church and immediate surroundings to minister to the greater Wake Forest community and beyond.

While we have a steadfast commitment to helping minister around the world, we are blessed that our church is situated in the midst of a growing community that needs to know of the love of Jesus. We feel deeply our own sense of stewardship and call to reach those at our doorsteps and to invite them into our warm and caring fellowship. Many long for a sense of community; a place where they know they are among friends who share a desire to be faithful followers of Christ as together we strive to be faithful to our part of God's work on earth.

The Lord has blessed us in so many ways and we have responded to these blessings with gratitude and a renewed sense of call and purpose well beyond the walls of our church. One of the biggest blessings we have been given is to be able to look back and see how God has been at work among us, bringing us to this point in our history. We are blessed with strong leaders – laity and clergy – who have a heart for reaching the lost.

Our Stephenson campus has enabled us to open new doors of ministry in another part of our community. In 2008 we raised \$1.6 million that enabled us to provide the pavilion, ball fields and parking on the Stephenson campus as well as update our sanctuary and renovate our existing education building with \$500,000 in reserve.

Many in the Wake Forest community see our commitment when it comes to being about our Father's work. They want to be a part of our vibrant fellowship; to join us as we remain steadfast to our call as a community of believers. One result is that our church is growing. In some areas we are literally bursting at the seams. You may be part of a community within our church that is meeting in spaces never intended to be used for learning and fellowship. We must provide additional space for our growing numbers and effective space for the ministries of Christian nurture and education.

Our youth are highly valued by all the adults in our congregation. And we have an excellent youth ministry with one glaring exception; there is no purpose built space for the youth ministry. And it has been that way for many years. Our

youth also need a place to call their own, a place where they are proud to invite their friends and their friends feel at home when they arrive. It is time to invest in those we love and in their friends with space for education, worship, fellowship and service.

At a time when we are running out of space and we had no good options to handle our growth, a miracle occurred. When we needed a way forward, the Spirit moved us and the leaders of Southeastern Seminary beyond the walls of fear and distrust that resulted in the dramatic gift of 1.8 acres of land to be purchased for one dollar. We could not have foreseen this or planned for this. It is entirely a blessed gift from God.

With great blessings come great responsibilities. As a body of Christ, we have decided to undertake a bold campaign entitled “Beyond the Walls” to increase our capacity for fellowship, spiritual growth, ministry outreach and to become an even stronger presence for Christ in our community. The Beyond the Walls campaign will seek to raise \$2.5 million. With current funds and a four-acre parcel of land we intend to sell, \$2.5 million in additional funds will allow us to construct a new educational building with 14 classrooms and a new fellowship hall on the recently secured 1.8 acres of land. We will also renovate our current fellowship hall into a state-of-the-art youth center. Although our project will result in new walls, these walls will provide a platform from which we can reach beyond the walls to expand our witness and ministry in the local community and around the world.

Beyond the Walls will do so much more than simply pay for much needed space. It will deepen our faith as we respond to the leading of the Holy Spirit. Indeed, through our financial commitments, Beyond the Walls will enable us to honor all of the many gifts from God that we are currently experiencing in the life of our congregation. This campaign will secure our place in Wake Forest as a leading congregation with an almost 180-year noble heritage of authentic and innovative ministry. We are richly blessed that the Lord is working among us in such wondrous ways. This is an invitation to do your part in sacrificial giving to ensure that Wake Forest Baptist Church remains a dynamic ministering community well beyond the walls for years to come.