

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ at Edgewood,

Thank you to all who participated in our church survey. One of the main topics you said we need to address is to communicate more often and in more detail what we are doing. This is the start of that communication effort. We have put together a committee to do just that each step of the way. I am excited about their plans.

We received input from 30% of the congregation. That is about average for a congregation of our size. Of that 30%, the split was 33 individual and family interviews and 77 mailed in responses for a total of 110 families responding.

The encouraging news is that we received broad support for an expansion program. There are some concerns, but not show-stoppers and we are taking steps to address the feedback you have provided.

Based on the congregation's input, we will split our project into two phases. Phase One pays off our existing debt and updates the sanctuary. God willing, Phase One will be completed in time to celebrate our 50th anniversary in 2010. In addition, we hope to be well on our way to raising enough funds to start the permitting process for Phase Two which expands the classroom areas on the main floor of the church. With God's blessing and your support we will complete Phase Two by 2012, four years from now.

In the Fall we plan to schedule a series of small group meetings where we will provide details of the expansion plan. Each of you will be invited to one of these meetings and have the opportunity to ask questions and provide input. We will ask for your support through a congregation vote to start the building fund in our October business meeting scheduled for October 19. We will then have a full kick off of the building program in a special meeting in February 2009. There is not enough time to complete all of the preparation work to do that during the October meeting. We will be working with the Goehner Group in our fund raising activities. Many of you met Ed McDowell during the survey process, he will be back.

Edgewood's mission is to "Gather to worship and be equipped for work and service in the world". We know that God is leading us to provide a facility for this mission. Our expansion plan is not about the facility but what it enables us to do in our ministry.

What can you do in the meantime? **Pray!** Pray that we will be attentive to God's leading in this plan. Pray for us individually and as a group. Pray that the right people will agree to serve on the task force. Pray that we, as a church, will be effective in serving God here in this community and throughout the world. Pray that we will remain bold in following God and not shrink from the task.

Thank you in advance for your support.

The Expansion Task Force

