

Intentional

Transforming

Impacting

Stepping Stones

Capital Stewardship Program

"And God is able to make all grace abound toward you, that you, always having all sufficiency in all things, may have an abundance for every good work" - 2 Corinthians 9:8.

Case for Support

What gets you excited? Maybe it's the opportunity to spend time with loved ones, or to share in a great worship service; it could be the thought of being able to see a long-held dream come true or the chance to purchase something that you had saved for, for a long time. We all have things that perk us up and make our heart beat a little faster.

When I think of Sarasota Christian Church, I feel excited. When our church began in 1973, it was with a vision...a vision that imagined a church that would minister to people of all ages, while specifically focusing on children, youth and missions. When that group of "pioneers" began to meet, it was in a restaurant, followed by a youth center, and then at our current location. This bold bunch had a dream and they partnered with God and each other to realize the fulfillment of that dream.

Through the years, we have been a congregation that has experienced God's blessings in a number of ways, with scores of people won to Christ, active and thriving youth and children's ministries, adult life groups and great enthusiasm for reaching our community. In 1999, we launched into a campaign that enabled us to build our current worship facility which has greatly enhanced our ability to reach more people and to worship in a beautiful facility. Our dedicated members prayed fervently, worked diligently and gave generously to see that project become a reality...a dream come true!

When we built our worship facility, the cost was \$1.625 million. With your help we have already paid off over \$750,000. We currently still owe \$874,215 with monthly payments of \$7,609. Happily, our building is being used every day of the week for a variety of ministries! Can you imagine the number of opportunities for ministry that we will be able to pursue when we pay off our debt? This will allow over \$90,000 a year to be used directly for ministry, missions and other outreach programs.

A short time ago, I presented a vision to our congregation. The vision included doubling our current ministries in the next 3-5 years, which means that we plan to be reaching the 800 mark in attendance, expanding our life groups, adding staff and new facilities for children, youth and fellowship.

To be able to see those exciting goals become a reality, I'm excited to tell you that a team of people from Sarasota Christian Church will be leading us in a campaign named "**STEPPING STONES.**" **STEPPING STONES** signifies the steps that we are taking together, with the Lord, to introduce new and extended ministry opportunities that will impact people for generations to come.

"Stepping Stones I" is designed to apply significant funds to our current worship facility, to free up future dollars for expanded ministry. It also will enable us to construct a new building on campus that will house valuable church equipment; a gathering place for fellowship and to make much needed renovations to our current facilities.

We will be partnering over the next several months with RSI, a leading church stewardship firm with years of experience in helping churches like ours reach their goals and fulfill their vision.

These initial steps to fulfilling that vision will enable us to continue our mission of "*helping people to Intentionally pursue a life Transforming relationship with Jesus Christ, while Impacting our community.*"

To be able to reach these goals we need to pray together, dream together, plan together, work together and sacrificially give together. The SCC "pioneers" of 1973 took steps in faith and we are a part of the fulfillment of their godly dream. Let's take the steps together in our "Stepping Stones" campaign that will lead to the fulfillment of the dream God has given us as well...It makes me excited to think about it!

WHY ARE WE HAVING A CAMPAIGN?

It would take the majority of the church's budget to pay for property and maintenance issues. **We are not about buildings, we are about PEOPLE.** We are having this campaign so costs may be covered by the campaign (*outside our budget*) and free us to use our budget to minister to people and add additional space for more people. We are embarking on this campaign now because we exist to

lead **PEOPLE** to become fully devoted followers of Christ. As each of us reach for **STEPPING STONES** during this time; as we pray together, dream together, plan together, work together and sacrificially give together, we will be able to achieve that purpose and make a lasting impact.

A capital campaign is not only about money, it's ultimately about people's hearts. Jesus said, "*For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.*" A capital campaign is about helping people to understand a Kingdom need exists, God's perfect plan of provision to meet that need through the stewardship of His people, and the prayerful consideration by each person of how God would have them respond to that need. If our campaign produces *spiritual* fruit, the money will take care of itself!

Your Brother in Jesus,
Lee Robison, Senior Pastor
Stepping Stones Prayer Team Leader

We are not
about buildings,
we are about
PEOPLE

What is a Capital Campaign?

A capital campaign is a spiritually enriching work. A campaign is about understanding there is a Kingdom need and a Kingdom provision to meet that need. It's about developing an understanding of God's perfect plan of provision to meet the need through the proper stewardship of His people.

A capital campaign is:

- A program wherein God's people come together in equal sacrifice to provide funds for building.
- A time of spiritual growth and faith building that stirs the heart and spirit.
- A Biblical process that results in a 3-year giving commitment.

SCC's **STEPPING STONES** Campaign will officially kick-off October 3rd with an All-Church Celebration and Auction! We will start a church-wide Bible study on October 24th, a time of learning, spiritual growth and prayerful consideration of how God would have each one respond to the need. Our "All-Church Commitment Day" is February 27th, the beginning of a three-week period of campaign commitments and faith pledges. March 13th is our "First Fruits Offering", the beginning of the three year collection period.

THE PLAN

We believe God will bless us greatly if we are faithful and **STEP UP** during this campaign. In order to have a successful campaign, we are excited to be partnering with Resource Services Inc. (RSI) for our upcoming **STEPPING STONES** Capital Stewardship Campaign. RSI has assisted 9,000 Churches across America for the last 40 years helping them raise almost 10 billion dollars. They bring a unique spiritual perspective and approach that we believe will be Bible centered and prayerful here at SCC. We are also excited that our Consultant was raised in the Christian Church. His name is Mark Blackmore and he will be leading us through our campaign and assisting us over the next three years. Mark graduated from the Cincinnati Christian University in Cincinnati Ohio. Mark and his wife Marianne live in Wilmington, NC. Mark has led over 145 campaign/journeys with various churches and helped those churches raise almost a half a billion dollars in commitments. He has represented RSI in partnering with some of the largest Christian Churches such as Traders Point Christian Church in Indianapolis, Central Christian Church of the East Valley in Mesa, AZ, Connection Pointe Christian Church in Brownsburg, IN as well as a number of church campaigns in the state of Florida. We are happy to have him on board. Mark's main role will be mostly behind the scenes working with our Leadership Team, Church Staff and providing experienced counsel throughout our campaign. As you get involved on one of our teams functioning in the campaign no doubt you will have an opportunity to meet Mark. SCC's Next Level team demonstrated their faith by pooling 30% of the consulting fee between them!

Putting our trust in the Lord, we have set the following short-term and long-term goals:

KEY DATES ON SCC'S CAPITAL CAMPAIGN CALENDAR

June 27- 29th

Leadership Team Training

July 5th

Team begin their task of involvement and preparing their plans

October 3 @ 5 pm

Official **STEPPING STONES** Kick-Off

Informational meeting for anyone who wants to attend. Case Support to explain "the what" and "the why" for the effort. A time of prayer, Q/A. Consultant from RSI, Mark Blackmore will be there

October 3

All-Church Celebration and "IGNITE" Live & Silent Auction

October 20

An important "frequently asked question brochure" will be mailed to every household

October 24

Church-wide "Revealed" 5-week Bible Study begins on "Time, Talent & Treasure"

January 16 – 23, 2011

We will be passing out some very important information at the close of the worship services. Each family will want to receive their special packet on these days.

January 30, February 6, 13, 20 & 27

Marks the preaching stewardship series here at SCC

GOAL/PHASE 1

Building improvements, storage building, an area for coffee/fellowship/greeting between the main building and the Fellowship Hall. Phase 1 to also include other items like paving and additional parking in back and paying down the current debt. Removal of garage and old parsonage to make room for Phase 2.

TIMELINE: Three years from campaign kickoff on October 3, 2010.

Please keep in mind that current vision for Phase 2 and 3 are subject to change based on growth, changes in need and God's direction for SCC. Prior to embarking on Phase 2 and 3, the property and plan will be reevaluated to determine if future needs will be met.

GOAL/PHASE 2

The primary vision of Phase 2 is the construction of an Administration/Children's Ministry building and paying off the current debt. The proposed building would house all Children's related activities including KDO and VPK. The building would also include all staff offices and meeting rooms, an office area for Ministry leaders as well as housing office equipment and computers needed for ministry. The current vision provides for a two-story building located behind the main building with a connecting covered/enclosed walkway. Phase 2 also includes a new playground and additional parking. Upon completion of Phase 2, the portables could be removed unless needed for something else.

This building will allow the current kids class rooms to be used for either adult or youth class rooms on Wednesday and Sunday, keep the staff close together instead of spread throughout the building, and allow the kids to have rooms that don't have to be shared with other groups (current fellowship hall as an example).

TIMELINE: Second three-year campaign to be prayerfully kicked off in October, 2013.

GOAL/PHASE 3

The primary vision for phase 3 is the construction of a Family Life Center/Youth Building, similar to a large gym with one side separated for the youth to use. It would likely have a kitchen and would be used for fellowship meals/events and possible community sporting events (i.e. youth and adult basketball and volleyball leagues, etc.).

The location of the building is still being discussed, but proposed behind the Phase 2 building is most likely. Upon completion, the current Quest Building and possibly the current Fellowship Hall may be removed, replaced by parking providing spaces closer to the Main Building and Phase 2 building. **TIMELINE:** Third three-year campaign to be prayerfully kicked off in October, 2016.

HOW DO WE START?

Accomplishing these goals will be a major "stepping stone" that will define our church for years to come. It might be said that the goal of the campaign is to develop wisdom in the body. The scriptures say we are to pursue knowledge, understanding and wisdom. Wisdom is the proper application of Biblical understanding. Through teaching and preaching, knowledge and understanding are gained, and through prayer is gained the wisdom to know how God would have us apply this knowledge and understanding.

Ultimately, giving that is both spiritually rewarding to the giver as well as financially rewarding to the church requires faith; and "faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God." (Romans 10:17).

Submitted by:

Michael Cordonnier, Elder

Stepping Stones Administrative Team Leader

KEY DATES CONTINUED

February 7 & 8

The leaders of SCC will gather to be challenged to assist in leading the way with their advance commitments

February 27

All Church Commitment Day
We will be asking every family to turn in a financial commitment to the STEPPING STONES project. Each commitment is for three years

March 13

First Fruits Offering!
We announce the total commitments by our church family and begin our giving

What are We Calling This?

Many of us have joined together to study The Truth Project. In Lesson 6, "History: Whose Story?" there is a quote from the leader of the pilgrims as they settled near Plymouth Rock. "They cherished a great hope and inward zeal of laying good foundations...even though they should be but **STEPPING STONES** to others in the performance of so great a work." So we too desire to be **STEPPING STONES** to those who follow us in this series of capital campaigns over the next nine years.

STEPPING STONES says we are going to step up and commit our whole lives to God's purposes in this world; it says we're not afraid to take a faith risk; it says we will **STEP UP** to our Membership in the Kingdom of God, and it also says we need to do this so others can **STEP UP** and discover what God can do in their lives.

WHY NOW?

We live in a time of rapid change...we have recently observed that our nation's health care is facing a major overhaul by the

government; we have seen internet businesses flourish, and then fail; we have experienced terrorism on our shores and have gone to war to combat it overseas; we have ridden the economic roller coaster together as our economy has been impacted by housing mark-ups and mark-downs; we have watched some banks merge, and others stop operating, and all this while we have environmental concerns that challenge scientists and ordinary citizens alike...The point is, we are always going to be facing some sort of new

Challenge, but we cannot let outside factors determine the direction of our church; Jesus Christ leads our church and He has commissioned us with the responsibility of being His partners in growing the church.

SCC's leadership has prayerfully determined that we need to **STEP UP** in faith to make our vision a reality. If they decided not to move forward because of the current economy or because of the challenge that change involves, the leaders felt like it would be saying, "God, we know what you want us to do...but we are going to wait to see the impact of the next congressional vote, or to see what the mood of world leaders is, before we act." God's hands aren't tied by men, nor is His Kingdom held captive to world events!"

Is asking someone to make a sacrifice, easy? The answer is "NO." But to sacrifice for the right reason; for something that is vital and noble and valuable, ties the sacrifice to a worthy goal that can supersede less than ideal circumstances! Church leaders shouldn't call for the church to sacrifice for something that is not vital, noble, and valuable or...urgent! In the Bible, did God ever ask people to do something sacrificial or extraordinary in less than ideal circumstances? **Absolutely!** SCC's leaders are praying that what will motivate a person to sacrifice for our campaign is the value and vital urgency of the project. The urgency of what God is doing is based upon His timetable in human history, not necessarily our economic one.

WHY GIVE TO "STEPPING STONES?"

Donors who have the means to leave a generational gift have always been selective. They frequently get letters from worthy organizations like Campus Crusade For Christ, World Vision, Samaritan's Purse, Precept Ministries, their university, the local hospital, the United Way, their employees are asking for more money, and so is their family and their church, just to name a few. They are always being asked for money. The issue has never been for them 'Should I give?' The issue has always been 'Why should I give to you (and not these other worthy causes)?' God has led SCC's Leadership to where we are now. The campaign is both vital and urgent to accommodate our current congregation and future growth. We feel our vision is compelling and promises significant life change and so we ask you to prayerfully consider sacrificially giving.

One question frequently asked about a capital campaign is "can you handle the debt?" A better question would be, "what would you do with the freed up resources?" Ask yourself this, if our debt payment is around \$8,000 a month for example, what could we do for ministry and life change if you had an extra \$8,000 per month? We could hire a couple of new staff people. What would be their impact? We could serve more of the poor and under-resourced in our community. What is our church restricted from doing right now, because we've got a \$8,000 a month indebtedness? What ministries are we not able to fund which would help us help more and more people enter into a life-changing relationship with Jesus Christ, and helping to position our congregation for greater spiritual depth, life training and service. Our leadership has wrestled with those kinds of questions and they are convinced that as our congregation participates in our **STEPPING STONES** campaign, we will see God opening up new opportunities that He has prepared for us to engage in.

YOUR SPIRITUAL JOURNEY

Sarasota Christian Church feels the success of **STEPPING STONES** will be that all people will go through a spiritual process of prayer and partnering with God that ultimately ends with each one being on their knees in prayer asking "Lord, as it relates to what you are doing at Sarasota Christian Church, what role would you have me play in terms of my sacrificing time, talent, and treasure?" The key is behavior. Are you the "widow's mite?" Ask "Lord, if I give up Starbucks every day and put that money on the capital campaign, are You pleased with that?" Are you prepared to behave as God has equipped you to behave?

A second key is calling; helping the bride of Christ is a calling. We face a real enemy everyday because Satan doesn't want vision to be funded and people learning the joy of a sacrificial lifestyle. Therefore, there are aspects to this role in the Kingdom that are difficult. But our calling to see people and resources raised up resulting in The Kingdom of Heaven being expanded drives us to **STEP UP** and serve our church.

Sarasota Christian is determined to be led through the process of looking beyond our individual circumstances to a broader scope of how God is at work, to be rewarded with a tremendous number of blessings in the midst of a difficult circumstance; to see a common thread, spirit, mental approach, and unity of spirit.

We should expect to experience the following benefits from **STEPPING STONES**:

- A greater understanding of God's perfect plan of provision and stewardship.

*IGNITE
LIVE & SILENT AUCTION
OCTOBER 3RD*

- Spiritual growth and an increased faith in God and His Word.
- Personal ownership of the vision resulting in a greater sense of unity and purpose in the congregation.

As stewards of God’s provision, He calls us to give sacrificially to accomplish His will and has promised abundance from which to do so. God’s way of getting things done is through His people. God meets our needs and gives us abundance for every good work. He pours into our lives so that we can pour into others—showing His grace to a lost world through our abundant giving.

God is at work here, let us join Him!
 Wally Parsley, Chairman of the Board
 Stepping Stones Program Leader

The “Stepping Stones” Leadership Team

TEAM	TEAM LEADERS
Administrative Leaders	Mike Cordonnier & Mary Pierson
Advance Commitment Leader	Brian Hartsell
All Church Event Leader	Dennis Hammontree
Bridge Leaders	Jessica Cordonnier, Sheri Deer & John Truscelli
Call Leader	Laura Gaines
Children’s Leader	Jody Jester
Information Distribution Leaders	Richard & Dolores Stayton
Information Meeting Leader	Patti Rhodes
Involvement Leader	Diane Copeland
Major Gift Leaders	Kris Flammang, Mike Davis
Prayer Leaders	Lee Robison & Ray Jester
Print Leader	Faith Keller
Program Leaders	Wally Parsley & Steve Honhart
Small Group Leaders	Meg Flammang & LeeAnn Patterson
Student Leader	Jonathan Kliewer
Student Representatives	April Cordonnier, Hayley Hillenbrand, John Neighbarger and Megan Rodriguez
Visual Leader	Ray Jester
Web Leaders	Lori Brown & Patti Hartsell
“IGNITE” Live & Silent Auction Chair	Sheri Deer

Your chance to be a part of **STEPPING STONES** is here! If we all accept a *small* piece of this project, we can get this *big* job done!

We want you to know that we are committed to this campaign/journey being a prayerful effort. Our campaign/journey will involve a lot of people on a variety of teams to fulfill a small task which will provide the ownership for the campaign and not wear anyone out in the process. This is not a campaign of only a few doing most of the work. Our campaign/journey will give us an opportunity to grow in our Christian Faith as we have Bible Studies in a variety of settings to learn more about Stewardship. Our campaign/journey will be one that will ask everyone to make a three year financial commitment over and above their regular giving to the **STEPPING STONES** project as we extend the giving challenge.

Will you prayerfully consider how critical this project will be for our

future as a church? If you would like to **STEP UP** and get involved, please don’t hesitate! If you would like to join one of the teams mentioned above, please contact Mary Pierson at 374-1195 or marypierson@aol.com, or contact the Team Leader directly. Team meetings will begin in early July. Be one of those people who help *make* things happen instead of *wonder* what happened!

Submitted by:
 Mary Pierson
 Stepping Stones Administrative Team Leader

Our Mission
 Helping people to **INTENTIONALLY** pursue
 a life **TRANSFORMING** relationship with Jesus Christ
 while **IMPACTING** our community

Official “Stepping Stones” Kick-Off Date- October 3rd

The “**IGNITE Live and Silent Auction**” is scheduled to coincide with our **STEPPING STONES** kick-off party on October 3rd! John Greene will be our “Live Auctioneer!”

All proceeds of the auction will be SCC’s initial contribution to our campaign. If you have a service or item to donate or would like to serve on the Auction Team, please contact me at 587-6458 or sdeer@deerenterprises.com. Below is a sampling of items already donated:

ITEM OR SERVICE:	DONATED BY:
Three (3) \$20 Gift Certificates	NightLife Center
Six (6) \$25 Gift Certificates	Sarasota Ale House
Sightseeing Flight/Plane Ride	Ray Deer
One Week at a Cabin in Cashiers, NC	Mark & Lynn Evensen
One Children’s Editorial Portrait Session	Erin Lance Photography
Original Artwork	Faith Keller
\$300 off full house paint, interior, exterior paint job	Jeff Ackerman, Paramount Painting
\$80 Nuovo Gift Certificate	Sheri Deer
Two (2) Initial Pest Control Service	Tim Flow
Personal Chef cooks in your home for up to 8 people	Todd Pierson
Land of 1000 Hills Coffee Basket	Jody Jester
Eight ½ hour Private Guitar Lessons	Ray Jester
Original Haitian Artwork and Handcarved Crucifix	Adult Mission Team
Book of Hand-Penned Poetry and Crown of Thorns	Dennis Hammontree
Precious Moment Figurines	Toni Fritsch
Basket of Handmade Soap	Joyce Wright
Pandora Bracelet and Bible Charm	Shepherd Jewelry
Three Mornings of KDO from 8:30 to Noon	Casey Hill
Three “Parent Date Nights” Babysitting Service	Quest Youth Ministry
“Pray Everyday” T-Shirt	Sandy Norton, Sunshine Everyday
Basket of Scrapbooking Supplies	Jessica Cordonnier
4 rounds Putt-Putt Golf & 4 slices of Pizza from Evie’s	Patti Hartsell

Please join us for this exciting opportunity to STEP UP and serve to kick off our campaign!

Submitted by:

Sheri Deer

Stepping Stones Bridge Leader and Live Auction Chair

***Be watching for more information as it unfolds about
STEPPING STONES!***