



It Starts With a Dream...

Ours is a church of dreams come true. Consider a few which have come true in just the last 10 years:

- A beautiful outdoor sign seen by thousands of viewers each day;
- A new Sunday School wing, rest rooms, and offices;
- Air conditioning throughout the church;
- Comfortable new chairs in our Sanctuary:
- A new, world-class pipe organ helps us sing glorious praise to the Lord;
- Thousands of dollars have been contributed to local and foreign mission and humanitarian efforts.
- Help for the women of the Crawford House, a training center for women in recovery, has become a mission of our church.

What dreams have come true for this church of the Lord!

Together, we can do it again.

It is time to do it again.



1. What is "Operation Open Door"?

Operation Open Door is a bold new project designed to:

- keep our church fiscally responsible;
- help our church become more inviting, welcoming, and useful.
- help our local mission effort, the residents of the Crawford House.

2. How did "Operation Open Door" come to be?

"Operation Open Door" was born out of a challenge: the closing of a budgetary gap for fiscal 2009.

After several years of stable, balanced and even abundant budgets, the economic crisis that has touched the world has touched our church as well.

As we sought to address this challenge, we were encouraged to broaden our vision and ask: *How can we dramatically enhance our church's facility and program, and expand the outreach of our church and the service it provides?*

Our members shared their dreams, visions, and hopes for our church. Several common themes emerged, and "Operation Open Door" was born.

3. How is "Operation Open Door" organized?

"Operation Open Door" is organized around four goals, or "Pillars."



Pillar One:

Close the Gap - \$70,000.

This amount is needed to "close the gap" between our church's anticipated income and anticipated expenses for the current year. This represents a real and immediate need. Included in our budget is a substantial amount that directly supports our commitment to the mission efforts of the larger United Methodist Church.



Pillar Two:

Friendship Hall - \$55,000.

Our congregation has a growing need for a fellowship, banquet, and activity room where we can gather for dinners, breakfasts, family nights, and many other activities.

Before the Sunday School wing was built, it was necessary to divide the "Old Sanctuary" into separate rooms. Now that our new Sunday School wing handsomely meets the need for classroom space, we dream of the possibility of restoring the "Old Sanctuary" to a larger gathering space called, "Friendship Hall". This can be accomplished at a fraction of the cost of constructing a new building.

We believe that "Friendship Hall" will become one of the favorite and most frequently used areas of our church. Dinners, celebrations, children's activities, receptions, and usage by community groups, will be held here.

The Sunday School will also have creative new uses for this larger space.



Pillar Three:

Building Beautification: \$20,000.

The exterior of our church is in need of painting. In addition, many members of our church recognize the importance of "curb appeal" in attracting people to our doors. Treating the exterior of our building will take care of an important maintenance need, and at the same time will increase the attractiveness of our church.



Pillar Four:

The Abundant Life Fund: \$5,000.

The Crawford House is a home and training ground for women recovering from addictions. It houses our neighbors, literally, as it is located just a short distance from our church. Thanks to the efforts of our church members, the women of Crawford House attend services here each Sunday, attend our fellowship events, and help with church projects. They have enriched the life of our church with their presence and enthusiasm. Helping them has become an important mission activity of our church. Although Crawford House receives funding from the state as well as private grants, some important needs still go unmet. The Abundant Life Fund will help the women of the Crawford House with items currently unavailable to them.

4. How can I support "Operation Open Door" ?

On Miracle Sunday, June 14, 2009, our congregation will be asked to contribute generously to Operation Open Door.

A "General Gift" will be distributed proportionately to each of the funds - each of the pillars will benefit from your gift.

However, some donors may wish to give a "Designated Gift" specifically to one or more of the pillar funds. Either choice is gratefully appreciated. Please consider a generous gift to "Operation Open Door" on Miracle Sunday.

5. When is my gift needed?

It is our goal that all our gifts will be contributed on one day - **Miracle Sunday, June 14th, 2009**. Why is this date important?

- First, the projected budget gap will have a direct impact on our day to day church life if not addressed soon.
- Second, the momentum and needs expressed here will be best served if addressed in a timely way.
- Third, our neighbors and community are in need of our assistance and we are called to reach out to them, even now, and especially now.

6. What about our church's operating fund for 2010?

Miracle Sunday addresses only the needs outlined above. We will have our traditional yearly campaign in the fall.

"Miracle Sunday" and "Operation Open Door" are special efforts that can only happen once in a long while.

This is the right time. We invite you to join us in acting boldly and generously to help our church move forward with the work of our Lord.

Thank you so much for your prayers and thoughtful consideration.

May God bless you.

Your Miracle Sunday Team
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We invite you to visit our website:
<www.MontgomeryUMC.org>



**The Open Door Campaign
Miracle Sunday**

June 14, 2009



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