



**BEYOND**

# LETTER FROM PASTOR DAVID

Friends,

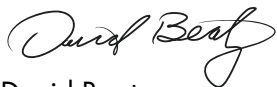
One of the greatest honors that God bestows on us as followers of Jesus is to be called “God’s fellow workers” (1 Corinthians 3:9). Having first saved us and adopted us into His eternal family, the Lord then gives us significant roles in the family business of disciple-making. As we yield our time, talents, and treasure to His purposes, He takes our temporal resources and uses them to achieve something of eternal significance and value. On top of that, He promises to reward us forever for our small part in His work!

The leaders of River Oaks believe our church’s greatest contribution to God’s kingdom work in the next seven years is reflected in our Vision 2025. As we embrace our mission of “building followers of Jesus who are sent to reach others,” we will see remarkable things happen when spiritual growth results in more outreach-focused lives. Our *Beyond* initiative will launch our investment in this discipleship-driven, outreach-focused vision.

Our elders have spent a great deal of time in prayer and discussion about the role that our property and building will play in the fulfillment of our Vision 2025. We have not taken lightly the responsibility of launching our *Beyond* initiative, and we believe the steps reflected in this brochure will enable us to make great strides toward fulfilling a vision that will impact our community and world.

As I think about the occasions in Scripture when God gave His people a vision for work to do, it seems that every call to further God’s work required sacrifice by God’s people. From Noah’s building of the ark to King David’s building of the temple, from Nehemiah’s rebuilding of the Jerusalem wall to the apostle Paul’s call to reach the Gentiles, each vision required sacrifice. The same is true for followers of Jesus today. Faithfulness to His great commission will require sacrifices of our time, talents, and treasure. I hope you will join Beth and me in praying about what your investment will be in reaching our *Beyond* goals. As you read this brochure and consider the steps we are taking, please ask the Lord to show you what your sacrificial step of faith will be. Together we can be “God’s fellow workers” as we support a discipleship-driven, outreach-focused vision that will bear fruit for years to come.

It is a joy to serve with you.



David Beaty  
Pastor, River Oaks Community Church



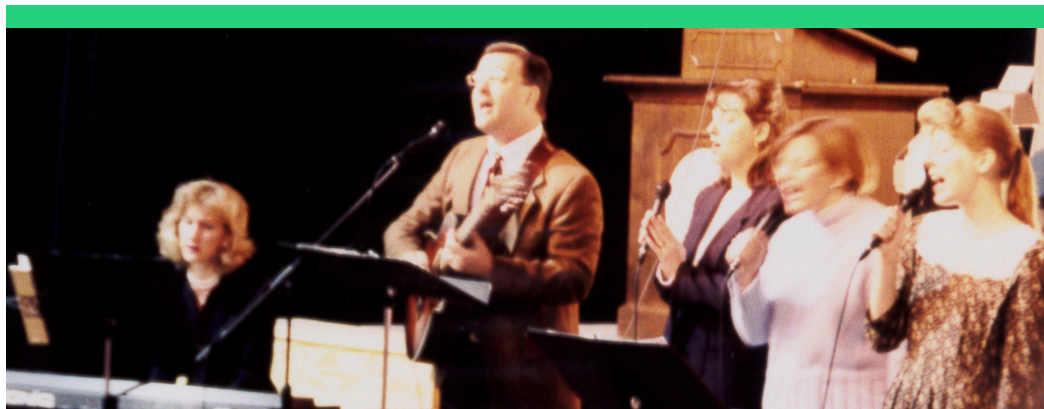
NOW TO HIM WHO IS ABLE TO DO FAR MORE  
ABUNDANTLY **BEYOND** ALL THAT WE ASK OR THINK,  
ACCORDING TO THE POWER THAT WORKS WITHIN US, TO  
HIM BE THE GLORY IN THE CHURCH AND IN CHRIST JESUS  
TO ALL GENERATIONS FOREVER AND EVER. AMEN.

■ **EPHESIANS 3:20-21**



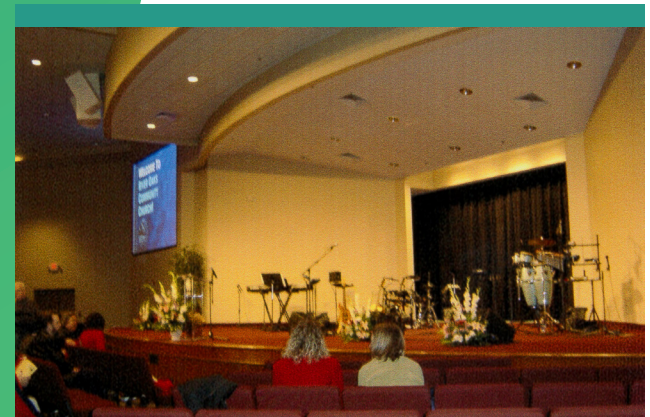
# OUR HISTORY

On March 21, 1999, River Oaks Community Church held its first worship service at Forsyth Country Day School. From the very beginning, we wanted to create a new kind of church—a church people of all ages would love to attend and a place where those with spiritual questions would feel welcome. Our worship team played contemporary music and we encouraged people to “come as you are.”





As the Lord blessed this endeavor, the church grew from thirty families to a vibrant congregation in need of a permanent home. Through events that can only be attributed to the Lord's provision, twenty-five acres of strategic real estate were purchased on Lewisville-Clemmons Road and, in 2004, 174 families pledged \$2.25 million dollars for the construction of our current facility.



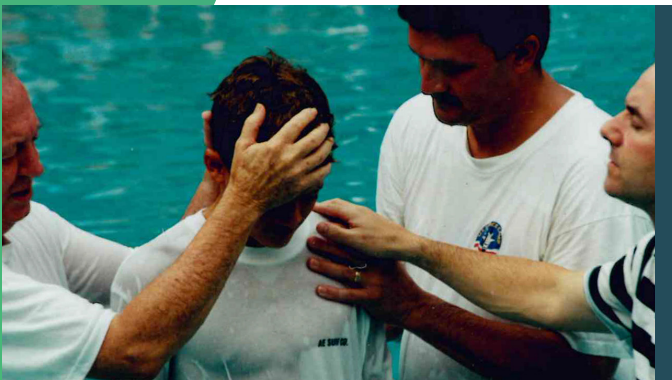
# GOD AT WORK

Reflecting on the past nineteen years, it is exciting to see how God has been at work in us and through us. As we have proclaimed the hope and life found in our Savior, Jesus Christ, we have seen God faithfully change lives. That life change has overflowed to changed families, a changing community, and a changing world. The numbers below give a glimpse of how God has been at work through the ministries of our church:

**509**  
**PEOPLE**  
**BAPTIZED**

**HUNDREDS**  
**OF DECISIONS**  
**FOR CHRIST**

**\$3.3M**  
**GIVEN TO**  
**MISSIONS**



1999



2018





Construction begins on a building for a church in an Unreached People Group in India.



A church in Malawi receives Bibles in their native language.



Local addiction recovery home for women, *Solus Christus*, receives the proceeds from our annual 5K race.



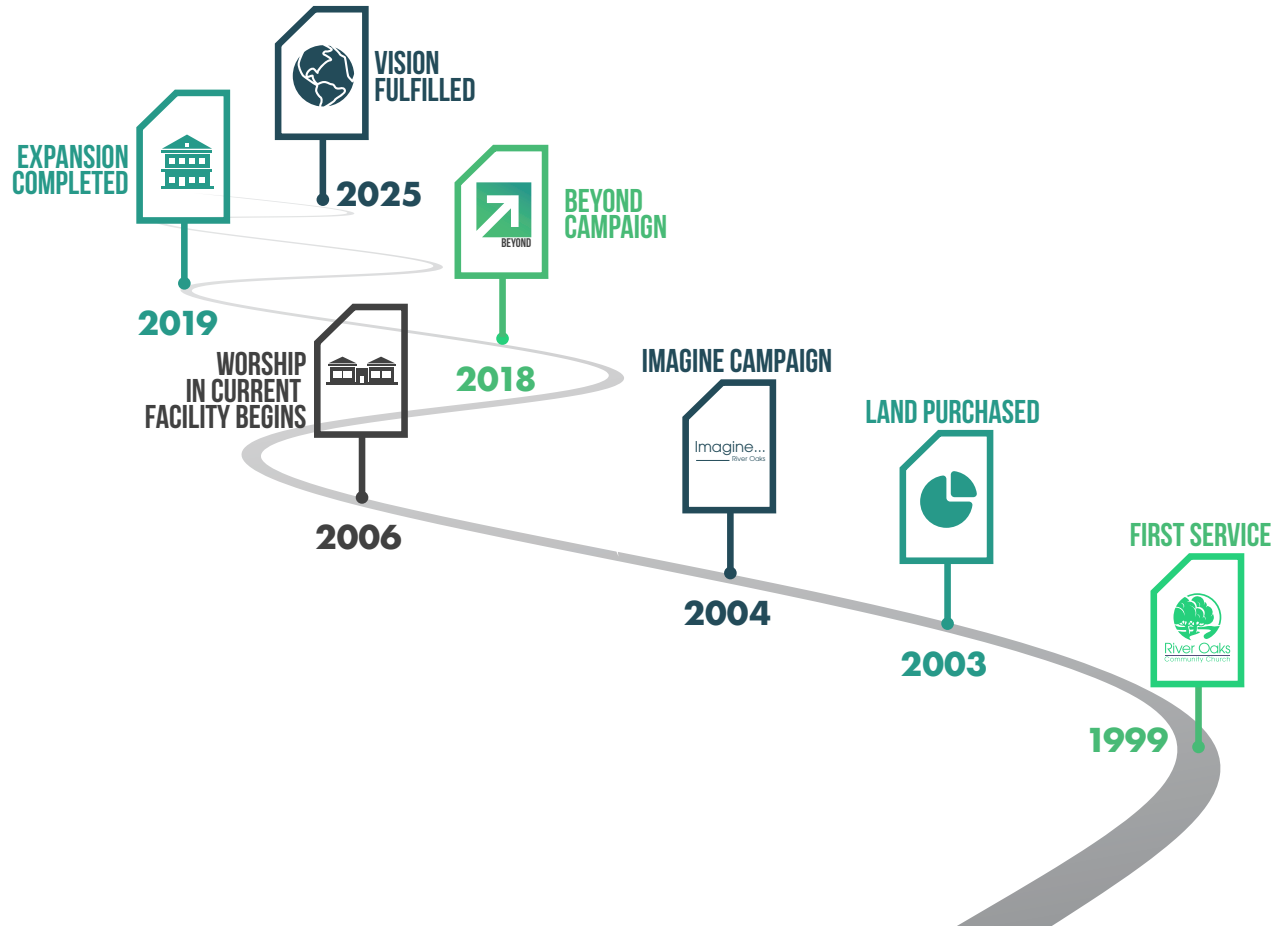
# GOD WHO DESIRES ALL PEOPLE TO BE SAVED AND TO COME TO THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE TRUTH. ■ 1 TIMOTHY 2:4 ISN'T FINISHED WITH US

As exciting as our past is, we don't want to live in it. Because we know God is looking to the future, we are as well. The whole arc of human history is bending towards Him, and He isn't finished with us.

As we pursue our mission of **BUILDING FOLLOWERS OF JESUS WHO ARE SENT TO REACH OTHERS** with faith, we can see what our church might look like seven years from now. The fulfillment of our **2025 Vision** will result in ever-increasing:

- Concern for the spiritual well-being of others
- Outreach-focused lives engaged in local and world missions
- Hospitality toward internationals
- Prayer throughout our church and community
- Diversity that represents our community and displays God's kingdom
- Christ-centered homes
- Investment in the spiritual growth of the next generation

# **BEYOND** IS ALL ABOUT EXPANDING OUR EFFECTIVENESS FOR THE PURPOSE OF FULFILLING **THIS VISION.**



# DISCIPLESHIP CENTER

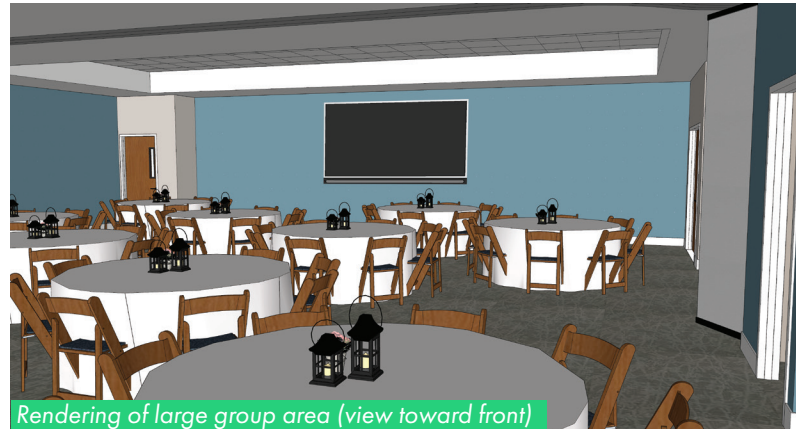


Some small groups currently meet in storage areas.

Our current infrastructure is inadequate to accommodate the number of groups that gather throughout the week to study God's Word. We are at maximum capacity, with groups meeting in storage areas, common areas, and preschool classrooms. The Discipleship Center will advance our mission by providing much-needed small group meeting space for adults and students, allowing twelve groups to meet simultaneously on the second floor. A large, open area on the first floor will provide a permanent meeting space for group meetings like MOMS, Run for God, leader training, equipping classes, dinners, community forums, and additional Sunday morning space for biblical equipping. This building would also provide additional office space and storage.



Additional small group meeting space would also benefit our youth ministry.



Rendering of large group area (view toward front)



# SANCTUARY EXPANSION

We always want to be prepared to welcome the next person God brings into His kingdom. Once the Discipleship Center is complete, the sanctuary will be expanded by removing the walls that separate it from our classrooms. Our staff has received feedback that it can be difficult to find a seat on Sunday mornings, especially for groups of three or more who enter while the congregation is standing in worship. The expansion will provide additional seating and improve accessibility to those seats, allowing us to say, "Come as you are; there is a place for you." The removal of the "white house" will also allow for additional paved parking on the north side of the church. The gravel lot in front of the Noah's Ark entrance will be converted to paved parking, improving accessibility for families with young children.



*Worshipping together is a priority at River Oaks.*



*Rendering of north exterior shows Discipleship Center and new parking*



*Rendering of sanctuary with back walls removed for additional seating*

# CHILDREN'S MINISTRY EXPANSION



We are Next-Gen focused.

Central to our 2025 Vision is our commitment to reaching the next generation. From day one, our ministry to children and students has been a priority, and this calling has only intensified. While nothing can replace the importance of friendly faces and warm hospitality, we know that spaces are important too. Those who enter through the Noah's Ark entrance walk across a gravel parking lot and enter into a relatively narrow space, with a traffic flow that discourages fellowship. We know from interviews that many families enter and exit through this entrance without ever visiting the Coffee Bar.

Enlarging this entrance will allow space for an indoor play structure while providing an area for parents to connect. A parent-functional, kid-friendly entrance to this important area of the church will significantly help younger families connect to the life of our congregation.



Rendering of indoor play structure



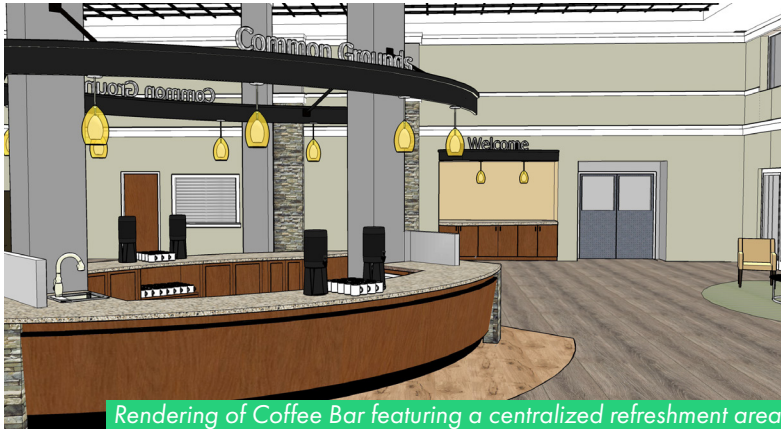
Rendering of new entry and paved parking

# COFFEE BAR REMODEL

The Coffee Bar area will be renovated to allow for more casual gatherings and informal meetings. Because of the high importance we place on being relationally connected, our spaces should be conducive to fellowship throughout the week. More seats will be added in order to allow people to simply “sit and talk.” We’re hopeful this area will also be utilized during the week by those who work from home and in the afternoon by students looking for a place to study.



We value environments that help us connect relationally.



Rendering of Coffee Bar featuring a centralized refreshment area



Rendering of Coffee Bar featuring additional spaces for conversation



# BEYOND OUR WALLS



Bridge construction in Malawi

Since our inception, our church has been mission minded. The very first check we wrote was to missions. We recognize the great need in many parts of the world, the tremendous ways in which we have been blessed with resources, and the opportunities we have been given to participate in building the kingdom of God locally and globally. A team is evaluating opportunities for how 10% of funds, as received, will be strategically invested “beyond our walls,” in keeping with our DNA. Thus, our financial goal factors in that 90% of pledges received will go toward construction and 10% toward these outreach projects.



Hurricane Matthew relief team



A new workshop at the Challenge Farm in Kenya

OUR GOAL IS THAT  
**EVERY PERSON**  
IN OUR CHURCH WILL  
**PRAYERFULLY**  
ASK GOD WHAT HE  
WANTS THEM TO  
GIVE TO THIS VISION

# FAQ

## **What is the purpose of *Beyond*?**

Beyond has a financial purpose and a spiritual purpose. Financially, we intend to raise the capital necessary to fuel the vision we feel the Lord has given us. Spiritually, we are embarking on a faith-building journey. The result of this journey cannot be measured in dollars, but in the hearts of people who are experiencing the joy of yielding more and more of their lives to the lordship of Jesus Christ.

## **Does the church have a target amount?**

Our target amount is \$4.25 million dollars. This amount is reflective of the initial estimates associated with pursuing our vision while allowing for 10% of pledges received to be invested in “beyond-our-walls” projects.

## **Is the target amount the same as the total project cost?**

We anticipate a small variance between our target amount and our total project cost. The reason is twofold. First, when the initial plans were shared with small group leaders and ministry team leaders this past spring, we received consistent feedback—one item was missing. That was a covered vehicle entrance that would benefit those requiring extra time or assistance during inclement weather. Second, since we received the initial estimates from our builder, building material increases and tariff negotiations have resulted in rising construction costs. As result, it is impossible to finalize costs at this stage. We predict actual costs will differ from our target amount by less than a half million dollars. While we would prefer not to take on new debt, we feel this amount is manageable if necessary.

## **Should I reduce my regular giving to give to this initiative?**

Please do not. As we go through this campaign and building cycle, our ministries will continue to operate and—likely—expand; we need your regular support to remain vibrant. Pray about making a sacrificial pledge above your regular giving over a three-year period.

## **What happens if we exceed or fall short of our financial goal?**

The elders will take time to pray and discern how to invest any surplus or adjust the scope or timing of the project for any shortfall.



**Why invest in bricks and mortar when the missions needs of the world are so great?**

We believe an investment in this building project is an investment in missions! In fact, we envision a multiplication of missions work both locally and internationally as a result of our strategic investment in discipleship and teaching environments. The heartbeat of our 2025 Vision expresses our desire to see dramatic growth in both missions funding and missions engagement by our members in the next few years. We see our expansion as a means to further the work of God's kingdom here and around the world.

**When would construction begin and how long will it take?**

Construction is targeted to begin in January 2019 and conclude in the fall of 2019.

**Will any other work be done outside the projects mentioned above?**

Yes. Our church has been disciplined in setting aside funds for future maintenance needs for many years. Because of the savings associated with performing these repairs or replacements concurrent with the major project, we will do so. As an example, our parking lot suffers from substantial cracking and is in need of resurfacing. Much of our carpet has also exceeded its lifespan. The costs associated with these maintenance-related repairs or replacements are not factored into the campaign project and will be funded from by our church's facility fund.

**What should I give?**

Good question! That's between you and God. The amount should represent something that is a heartfelt, spiritual decision—not simply an afterthought or an obligation. Scripture challenges us to give first to God's work, and to do so with passion and joy. In Luke 21, Christ commended a widow for her offering of only two copper coins. We will not give equally, but we can sacrifice equally. If we each pray about—and then give—an offering that represents true sacrifice, the cumulative effort will be amazing.

**What if I cannot give a sacrificial gift because of my current circumstances?**

Then give what you have: enthusiasm, influence, hope, prayer. Pray for your leaders, pastors, volunteers, members, and for this campaign. In short, do what you can with what you have. God knows our circumstances, so He knows what faithfulness looks like for each one of us.

**When do I need to make this commitment?**

Commitment Sunday will be November 4, 2018. Every household in the church will be given the opportunity to participate. The contribution time frame for the commitment is three years. You can fulfill your pledge all at once or pay it weekly, monthly, quarterly, or annually. Some will utilize the tax advantage of giving a gift this year (2018) and in 2019, 2020, and 2021, allowing the pledge to be spread over four tax years.

# OUR ASK

## 1 PRAY FOR THE FUTURE OF RIVER OAKS AS WE PURSUE THE VISION GOD HAS GIVEN US.

- **320 Prayer:** Pray Ephesians 3:20 for our church every day at 3:20pm. “God, we pray you would do far more abundantly beyond all that we ask or think—in our lives and in our church—and that you would receive the glory.”
- **Group Prayer:** During the forty days leading up to November 4, pick one hour, on one day, when you can join with others in the prayer room. More details to follow.
- **Personal Prayer:** Pray specifically about how God would want you to give to this vision.

## 2 LEARN MORE ABOUT THE BEYOND INITIATIVE.

Special events will be happening over the next six weeks—some in homes, some at the church—where you’ll have the opportunity to hear more details and receive answers to your questions. Visit [BeyondDinner.org](https://BeyondDinner.org) to register for an event.

## 3 INVEST IN THIS ENDEAVOR.

After you have prayerfully considered what God wants you to give, complete the *Beyond* commitment card, outlining your sacrificial pledge over the next 36 months.

Today, River Oaks is a vibrant, **CHRIST-CENTERED** church because of the sacrifices others have made in years past. Now it's our turn to look **BEYOND** our time and **BEYOND** ourselves to build upon the ways God is already at work for the purpose of **IMPACTING GENERATIONS** to come. If we lock arms together, we'll be amazed by what **GOD IS ABLE** to do in us and through us.





BEYOND