

Dear Church Family,

I have been so blessed to serve as your pastor over the past few years at Christ Community Church. God has truly blessed our ministry here in Gainesville, and I have seen how wonderful it is to be among a community of believers committed to serving God and making Him known in their daily lives. Our congregation is a relatively young one, and as such we have been much like the Israelites of old, worshiping God in a temporary structure. Oak Hall School, our latest home, has allowed us to expand our ministries. This summer Christ Community ran its very first Vacation Bible School with great success. Even still, without a permanent building it will become increasingly difficult to continue our current level of growth and ministry. The time has come for us to begin moving towards this goal in earnest, while seeking God's guidance through faith and prayer.

In 2005 we were blessed to acquire land on Parker Road west of Gainesville. These 9 acres were and are an ideal location for our church to build its future. Many of you attended our recent sign-raising at this location, when we affirmed our conviction that this is where the Lord is leading us. Already, the church offices have moved to Parker Road, in the house that currently stands on that location. In the last few months the county preliminarily approved our plans for construction at this site. We have constantly sought God's will and believe that He has given us a new opportunity and challenge here.

What do these plans represent? This project is not simply about constructing a new building. A permanent facility will be a helpful tool, but it is not the focus of our efforts. What is most important are the lives that will be impacted and what will happen in this new space. All members of our community, from infants to seniors, will find a welcoming place to learn, to grow, and to share their faith. This plan represents an important step in our goal to see Gainesville become more and more a place where Jesus Christ is known, cherished, and served.

So we have set out on this *Journey of Faith*; it will be a journey involving prayer, study, decisions, and commitment. Where this journey ends will depend on each one of you. I hope and pray that we will see new doors open for ministry. Lives will be changed and molded in Christ. Let us seek to experience God's grace and extend that grace to others.

Your Pastor,

Rob Pendley