

INVESTING IN

ST *the* RY

heights
COMMUNITY

What is *the* STORY?



PASTORS: DAVID SEATON, COREY JOHNSTON, AND JEFF NAIL

“42 They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. 43 Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. 44 All the believers were together and had everything in common. 45 They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. 46 Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, 47 praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved. **ACTS 2:42-47**”

God began doing incredible work in 2014 when He sought to launch Heights Church in the St. Louis, Metro East. Pastor Corey Johnston and Pastor Jeff Nail began forming a launch team that would one day multiply into many Missional Communities throughout the region. Just two years later, in 2016, God would continue propelling His mission by using Pastor David Seaton to launch another church planting initiative, Collinsville Community Church. These pastors would eventually cross paths, but they didn’t expect to become close-knit brothers. Insert a global pandemic and another wild idea from God, in March of 2020, Heights Church and Collinsville Community Church merged into one to continue the advancement of God’s mission across the Metro East. The two churches perfectly complimented one another’s strengths and weaknesses. While Heights Church had established rhythms and systems with a clear focus on local mission, Collinsville Community Church had a young church with a clear focus on evangelism and global mission. With a firm and clear vision, God blessed the joining of two families. Over the last two years, Heights Community has worked to further establish herself as a church focused on three things: **GOSPEL, COMMUNITY, and MISSION.**

**GOSPEL
COMMUNITY
MISSION**

*A Family of Story-formed,
Hospitable Missional Strategists*



What is *OUR* STORY?

On faith alone, Heights Church began raising funds that would one day aid in the acquisition of a building. In 2017, they launched their first capital campaign and began the process of raising funds for a building that God had yet to reveal. We have stayed the course and stuck to the Gospel and Vision that God has given us. Because of God’s grace, Heights Community has more than doubled in size in the midst of the Global Pandemic, and the church has outgrown our current building. Amidst incredible growth, God has given us the opportunity to the purchase the former Knights of Columbus! Many changes must be made to the building to ensure it is suitable for God’s people to advance His mission. It is our hopeful expectation that we may continue following God’s will and raise the necessary funds to pay for the new building and subsequent cost of construction.

What is *MY* STORY?

As a church family, it is our responsibility to treat the greater finances and resources of the church as we would our own. Our young family is growing, and we are currently out of “bedrooms” for all of our kids. Like any family, we want to be financially responsible and aware of our needs before they come. This is why we started the first phase of the capital campaign three years ago - we have been preparing for this moment in history. When looking at Heights Kids alone, from infant to 5th grade, we have over 130 kids that call Heights Community home. We have knocked down every wall and taken out every office to provide space for Heights Kids. While our efforts were necessary, they have not created enough space to house all of the kids that are regularly involved in our church. In the last two years, our junior high and high school students have begun meeting in another Missional Community, Heights Students. Currently, our students meet at the main building on Sunday evenings while the leadership team meets across town in the Heights Office building on Main Street. There is simply not enough room to house the discipleship opportunities that are taking place within Heights Community. As a family, the need for a bigger house is more evident than ever. Not only do we need more space for our kids and students, but we also need to provide a space for current and future staff throughout the week. We are confident that the new church building will be able to meet our needs now as well as our needs in the future.

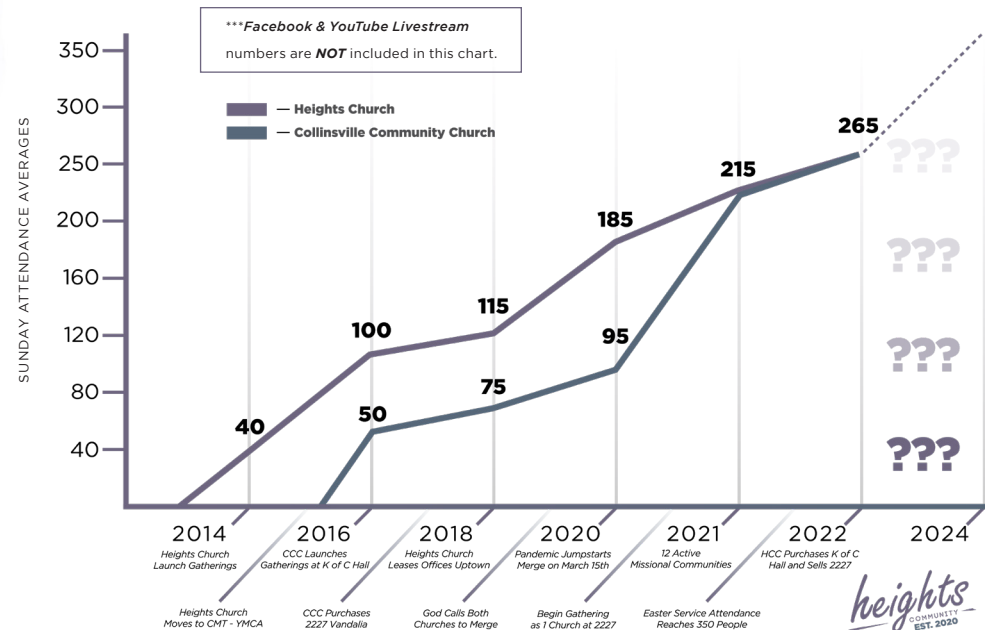
“For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by his poverty might become rich.”

2 CORINTHIANS 8:13-15

“Connecting People to the **FAMILY** of God”

We are **FAMILY**

We are **HOSPITABLE**



What is *THEIR* STORY?

It is impossible to not be amazed by all that God has done over the last two years. By God’s grace, Heights Community has been allowed to break every single statistical norm. If you do a quick search, you can find all the statistics that tell you how to grow a ministry. There are a specific number of parking spots, sanctuary seats, and square footage that can be calculated and used to project church growth. God, by His mercy alone, has blown every statistic out of the water for us as a church family. We do not have enough parking spots for our church family as we are regularly over 80% capacity in the current space, and the square footage of our building is exponentially less than statistically required! Needless to say, statisticians would not agree with our current space, and yet God has proven that He is sovereign over His bride. The Lord alone will build His house. God has graciously allowed us to grow, and we believe that we are being drawn to a more hospitable space. At this time, we would not be able to host all forms of hospitality: funerals, weddings, conferences, multiple discipleship classes, etc. cannot be held in our current space. This is an incredible problem to navigate, but God has given us a new building that will allow us to model good, gospel-centered hospitality. You may ask, “Are we expecting guests?” God has revealed a miracle through our church growth, and we need to make sure that we are expecting guests in the Father’s house.

What is *OUR* STORY?

As a church, our aim is to cling tighter to the gospel than to anything else. Whether you came through Missional Communities, the merge, or another church, you know good and well that the gospel is the main driving force of Heights Community. From creation to new creation, the gospel is the story of God and, in concert with the Holy Spirit, the primary way that people come to faith and grow in their understanding of who Jesus is and what He is doing. If you have been around Heights Community in the last two years, you are aware of our emphasis on gospel fluency. The gospel alone has led you to dive deeper into the body of the church. Our strategy has always been to remain faithful to the gospel and exercise what it looks like to walk out this gospel throughout the week. Within the community of Heights, you have found your story being picked apart, dove into, redeemed, and

redefined. You have found yourself learning how to see your story through the gospel story and how the gospel has brought you hope and satisfaction. If you have found yourself learning and growing, it is not because of our building or our expansive programs. We simply do not have either. All we have and all we submit to is the story of Jesus Christ, the gospel. Jesus is enough. The gospel, more specifically the story of God, is what has brought growth in our church body. Acquiring a new building allows us to create even more opportunities for people to find themselves within the gospel story. We did not buy a building hoping we would grow into it; we bought a building so that we might see more and more people find themselves in the story of God and grow in being Story-Formed.

We are
STORY-FORMED



THE WHITTENS A STORY FORMED:

Our family has been a part of Heights since the beginning; Matt was a part of the original seven that started Heights, and Kelly joined Heights as part of the launch team. We both came to Heights as single people. We have dated, gotten engaged, married, had a daughter, and become foster parents alongside our Heights family. We have seen our story grow and change just as He has changed and grown Heights.

Over the last few years, God put it on our hearts to become better stewards of our money and resources. We were spending money on things we did not need, but God helped us to become better stewards of our money focus on paying off our debts. We had garage sales, sold items online, took side jobs, stuck to a budget, and focused on buying only what we needed and, more importantly, could afford. Getting out of debt has freed us to give freely and generously. Giving is the first category we budget for every month. This rhythm is an act of worship that reminds us that it is God's money that we are managing. Therefore, we give first. The act of giving reminds us that everything comes from here.

As we prayed about paying off our debt and asking God where to give, we also knew that Heights was outgrowing its space.

We knew we wanted to give but did not know how it would fit in our current budget. We began praying and inviting our kids into the conversation as well. This is our church and part of our story, so it was important that we included her in this family conversation.

For us, giving to the capital campaign has been a great way to join in the Heights story for this next season. As God continues to grow our church, we get to be part of something bigger. As we take on Heights' debt as our own this means sacrificing other things. It means adjusting our budget for Christmas and birthdays and not buying all new things but using hand me downs or borrowing things. It means that we no longer have Netflix, Amazon, and Hulu and we no longer spend over \$100 every time we go to Target. We want our family to remember getting to be a part of something bigger. They will forget about another new toy or getting to eat fast food. They will not forget what it feels like to have a new kids' classroom or play outside of the new church and that they were part of that. We are excited to join our Heights family in this next season of sacrifice and giving. We cannot wait to see what God has for all of us.



What is *GOD'S* STORY?

As we take a look at our measures as a church, or what we hope regular attenders will look like within six months to a year, it is clear that God is at work in our church. Over the last two years, we have seen numerous people grow in their understanding for what it means to be Story-Formed, Hospitable, and Family. We believe that God has allowed us the opportunity to move into a new building to continue advancing the mission of Heights Community. This new building will not be the primary means by which we get to advance the mission, but the building will serve as a resource by which the mission advances. We are confident that this new building will help us increase space for our family, provide better hospitality for our guests, and allow for a whole host of individuals to find themselves within the Story of God. Our understanding of the church has not shifted, but the resources that God has allowed us to acquire most certainly have. God is allowing us to continue advancing the kingdom, and we are confident that this new church building is God's way of facilitating our move forward as Missional Strategists.



We are *heights* **MISSIONALLY-STRATEGIC**



“**EQUAL SACRIFICE, NOT EQUAL GIVING**”

How do we respond? Will you continue this missionary journey with us? Will you prayerfully consider walking through the next chapter of your story? Will you allow God to continue to form and reform your story through sacrificial giving of your finances, prayer, and time?

Look through the Giving Chart as you prayerfully consider how God might be preparing you to respond in sacrificial giving.

FAMILIES	3 YEAR PLEDGE	ANNUAL	MONTHLY	3 YEAR TOTAL
1	55,000	18,333	1,528	55,000
2	30,000	10,000	833	60,000
4	20,000	6,667	556	80,000
6	15,000	5,000	417	90,000
11	10,000	3,333	278	110,000
15	7,500	2,500	208	112,500
20	3,600	1,200	100	72,000
40	2,400	800	67	96,000
99				

675,000
GIVING TOTAL

OH TO GO TO
GIVE ALL I HAVE JUST TO KNOW YOU

FAQ'S

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

WHY ARE WE DOING A CAPITAL CAMPAIGN?

Four years ago, Heights Church launched the first capital campaign to raise funds for a down payment to purchase a building that fit the needs of the church. While that campaign was a success in achieving the goal to allow us to purchase the former K of C hall. This second capital campaign is a continuation of the first to allow us to pay down the debt of the building.

DOES GIVING TO THE CAPITAL CAMPAIGN REPLACE MY REGULAR GIVING?

No. Your giving commitment to the capital campaign is above and beyond your regular tithe. If people stop giving their regular tithes, Heights Community will be unable to meet our month-to-month expenses of salaries, operating costs, supplies, etc.

WHY DON'T WE JUST ADD THE MORTGAGE TO OUR CURRENT YEARLY BUDGET?

In an effort to be financially responsible, we do not believe it is wise to use our regular budget to pay down mortgage at this time. This giving initiative is meant to bring us together on our common goal to pay down the debt. We want to be aggressive in paying down the debt so that we can continue our mission of "connecting people to the family of God".

AFTER I DECIDE TO GIVE TO THE CAPITAL CAMPAIGN, WHAT ARE MY FIRST STEPS?

The first step is to fill out a commitment card and turn it in to a member of the Leadership Team. This will help Heights Community stay informed of our progress toward our capital campaign giving goal.

WHEN DOES THE CAPITAL CAMPAIGN BEGIN?

The campaign has been in full effect since the beginning of the year with the formation of the Leadership Team. The team has already worked to meet with all MCs to gauge feedback and have been working to communicate accurately with the entire congregation. The official start of the capital campaign will be Sunday, May 22nd with the goal of congregation bringing a "First Fruits" offering of 10% of pledge to jumpstart the campaign.

HOW DO I GIVE TO THE CAPITAL CAMPAIGN?

There are multiple ways to give towards the capital campaign. Giving by check or by connecting bank account (ACH) to our online Capital Campaign Giving Fund is the most productive way of giving - this can be found through the Giving Tab on our website or through the Church Center App with a drop down that says, "Capital Campaign". For those interested in other giving options - stocks, property, or other items of value - please reach out to a member of the Leadership Team for specific details.

WHY MAKE A PLEDGE? CAN'T I JUST GIVE WHENEVER?

We are asking everyone to prayerfully consider what dollar figure God is calling you to sacrifice during this season. A pledge allows our finance team to manage expenses with a goal and deadlines in mind.

IS THIS OUR LAST CAPITAL CAMPAIGN?

No. This capital campaign will not cover the total cost of the building and the construction costs. Similar to our first capital campaign, the purpose of this campaign is to make sure we are financially responsible while maintaining the vision, mission, and values of the church. A building should never distract from the mission, but rather, aid in the overall mission of God.

HOW DOES A CAPITAL CAMPAIGN AID IN MY PERSONAL DISCIPLESHIP?

Materialism is our culture's number one idol. Giving to a capital campaign allows you to confront idolatry in your life, and even in the lives of those around you. As you say "No" to a materialistic idol you are saying "Yes" to sacrificial giving. You get to give in a way that helps you further relate to Jesus Christ and all that he gave for you.

An aerial photograph of a residential development, showing a large parking lot with many spaces, some buildings, and greenery. The image is faded and serves as a background for the text.

We are
heights
COMMUNITY