

Orchard Christian Fellowship
Building Tomorrow Together!
Spring 2025

Orchard Christian Fellowship, following the leadership of Jesus, has a mission! Our mission is to Love God, Love People and Live God's Message. The mission was tangibly evidenced by the recent construction of our North Wing. Although this effort (Building on His Mission capital campaign) had its roots in 2018 and emerged through the challenges of COVID, Building on His Mission was never about "bricks and sticks", a building. Rather, Building on His Mission recognized our call as a faith community to serve, to connect and point others to Jesus. Given the challenges, the word "miraculous" is a fair adjective of this project. Again, while a building was built, the mission was about Loving God, Loving People and Living God's Message.

Fast forward to 2025, more families than ever are now being served by and connected to the Orchard. With a focus on "mission", there is a practical realization that all missions and ministries must be funded - heat and light bills paid, staffing engaged to maximize ministry impact with pastors, staff and volunteers. Each aspect of the mission is oriented toward multiplying the ministry impact that each of us, as people of faith, reflect in our daily worlds.

Although "The Mission" is unchanged, connecting and pointing others to Jesus, the means of continuing the mission is now looking at significant transitions in our pastoral staff. Pastor Ken has been the Orchard's Lead Pastor for 16 years and he hopes to be a part of our pastoral staff for another 4-5 years. In recent years, Pastor Ken has been working with the Elders of The Orchard on planned pastoral transition process for our next Lead Pastor. By God's grace, Kevin Kyle has been identified as this person to be added to our Pastoral Staff. Kevin interned at the Orchard from 2021-2022 as he was preparing to serve as a Chaplain in the United State Navy. Kevin, Megan and Carolyn are currently living in Spain. The Kyles are expecting a baby boy to be born in May! The Kyles are making plans to be with us in 2025, hopefully by September.

Kevin has been called by the Elders to serve as an Assistant Pastor. Working with and learning from Pastors Ken and Ryan, the transition to an Associate Pastor and eventually, Lead Pastor, will eventually be offered and approved as a call from the congregation of The Orchard. While this succession plan has been anticipated and approved by Orchard's Board of Elders, funding the transition will be an important tool in continuing our Mission.

For those that were with the Orchard during the North Wing construction, you may recall that COVID driven costs ratcheted the final price

of the building by about 30%. While the Orchard faith community exceeded all initial commitments during the three-year fund-raising period, additional costs well beyond initial estimates were funded by refinancing our existing mortgage note. Thankfully, the refinance was made with an attractive rate (4.99%) and terms such that our mortgage payments are now \$5361.00/month. However, the interest rate will increase to 2.5% above Prime in 2032. This will increase our payment to \$10,000+ per month. This will also result in The Orchard paying over \$700,000 in interest over the life of the loan (2048). These are funds committed to debt and cannot be redirected to ministry operations until paid off.

Recognizing that the Orchard's Mission is unchanged, and a healthy pastoral transition plan is in place, a new funding effort to clear all building debt has begun! Again, just as Building on His Mission enabled us to expand our ministry, Building Tomorrow Together will extend the Orchard's ministry reach, increasing our stewardship health by eliminating our current debt payment and redirecting funds to direct ministry personnel, for now and for the future.

Our Challenge: How can you respond? You are being invited to join with all the people of The Orchard by participating in Building Tomorrow Together. This debt elimination keeps The Orchard moving forward in our vision that every person within our community will have the opportunity to Love God, Love People and Live God's Message. ***Every family, every person who is part of The Orchard is being asked to pray this prayer, "Jesus, what would You do through me to accomplish Your mission through The Orchard. Help me to discern a sacrificial gift that will be meaningful to me and will bring joy to Your heart and mine."***