

## Property Matters

*“O Lord bring a movement of your gospel that will bring about personal conversions and renewal, community formation, and generous lives for humble cultural engagement, that people may come and do worship, life, and ministry together from this place.”*

We can give thanks, for our Lord has heard and answered our prayers for the sale of the Barnwell Street property. The congregation of Christ Covenant Church voted to accept the offer authorizing the Trustees of Christ Covenant to sign a contract with Heart Epoch Church. The contract has been signed and delivered, the earnest money has been received, and now we await the final closing on the property 120 days from June 17th. We give thanks to the Lord, our Shepherd, who meets all our needs.



Let us continue to trust him for the re-planting of Christ Covenant Church at 3100 Covenant Road. We want to live in and live out the gospel in our worship, life, and ministry together in the city from this location. We desire to replant in a newly renovated facility as we pursue this mission.

We can worship God anywhere, inside or outside of any kind of physical structure. Yet, we also believe that God gives us properties and buildings through which we can love him and our neighbors. Therefore, we believe one of the best ways to love and serve our neighbors is by being a physical neighbor to them. Physical church property in communities is an effective way to be good neighbors leading them to find their life in the Triune God and his church. We want to be woven into the fabric of the neighborhood where we re-plant the church. We want to share the space God provides to us as good stewards for the common good of others in the community. We envision a Columbia home for our congregation to worship together, have life together, mark milestones of weddings and funerals, and invite the peoples of all ages, races, and strata of the community to learn about Jesus. But just as importantly, we envision a place for the city—for serving the poor, for welcoming neighbors into events, hosting community events, being home to a school as long as they need a place, and more, so as to physically manifest what it looks like to be a “church not for ourselves.”

As God has made us rich in Christ Jesus, let us consider how his grace enables us to be generous so that we can participate in his re-planting effort at Covenant Road. Please share in this vision with us by giving generously to our building fund. Phase I of our renovations will enable us to revitalize our worship and gathering space, nursery area for young families, provide ample bathrooms, and renewed meeting space for staff and ministry teams. We desire to put a fresh revitalized face forward as we move toward our neighbors in love as worshipping community of the Triune God.

## Cultivation in the Culture

The Christian life of repentance and faith in Jesus is a cultivating work of grace humbly engaged in loving relationships with others. When God put his original image bearers in the garden of Eden they were to reflect his glory in the cultivation of the earth (Gen.2:15). They were to discover the truth about God and his creation and cultivate that truth expressed in love to others. But they sinned and were taken from that garden until God would make a way back into his presence in a garden-city (Rev.22). Jesus Christ, by his blood and righteousness, is the second Adam who is reconciling everything in the earth and the heavens to himself until his redeemed image bearers are restored to the garden - city of God (Col.1:20). Therefore, his reconciling work is the grace he gives for salvation in their lives, and the living out of this salvation by faith through grace for love. It is cultivating life. It is a life of taking the materials of this world in loving relationships with the peoples of this world, and using the gifts and talents God gives to be humbly engaged in culture for God’s glory. Our sin is what

destroys culture, but by his grace through repentance and faith, there can be a cultivation of culture that reflects his glory. But this cultivation of culture has always been for the good of others.

I have a bed of dirt, leaves, and other matter I constructed for planting tomatoes. It sat untilled and unplanted for a year. The ground grew weeds that I pulled while the leaf matter and other material decomposed. This spring I planted the box with tomato plants. I staked them up and kept them watered. I've kept the weeds pulled and watched as the plants have grown. I have tended the plants and cut off the parts that might affect fruitfulness. I watched them flower, and I have watched the flowers become fruit. The fruit began small and green but has grown into yellow and now red tomatoes that I have picked, shared, and enjoyed with others. Like my garden box of tomato plants, the Christian life is meant for the cultivation of culture through a humble engagement with it's resources for others good. Plan ways for cultivating in the culture for others good.



## Catalyst Planning

We are thankful to our Lord for all that he has done in his church. And we are thankful for the privilege of participating in worship, life, and ministry together in the days ahead of his church. We are in the midst of Catalyst 2019 as we trust him for what he will do in his church through the Vision and Mission he has set before us. We have preached, gathered for conversations, and prayed through our Vision & Mission.

As we follow our timeline for 2019 we are preparing to engage in Catalyst Planning. We will begin in July as we spend 3 Wednesday evenings brainstorming goals, refining goals, and prioritizing goals that will enable us to develop a plan for fulfilling our Mission and Vision.

- ❖ Brainstorming Our Goals - Wednesday July 10th 5:00 - 7:00 PM
- ❖ Refining Our Goals - Wednesday July 17th 5:00 - 7:00 PM
- ❖ Prioritizing Our Goals - Wednesday July 24th 5:00 - 7:00 PM

The gatherings will begin at 5:00 PM with dinner provided. At 5:45 we will provide a nursery for children 0-4 and a children's program for boys and girls ages 5 - 11. Students 12 and up are encouraged to participate in the Catalyst Planning sessions with adults.

We will begin with a brief large group orientation at 5:50. At 6:00 pm we will divide into smaller groups led by facilitators. The facilitators will lead the small groups to accomplish the groups purpose for each night. The small groups will re-gather together in a large group to share what they have accomplished. Each week during July the information that the groups share will be provided to the congregation so that we can share together in the Catalyst Planning process.

We are encouraging all Christ Covenant Church members and regular attenders to participate in this process. Please make plans to participate by signing up for our gatherings in July. You can sign up on the sign up sheets in the Narthex at Barnwell Street or in the back of the Sanctuary at Covenant Road. Or, you can sign up online by **following this link** or by going to the church website and clicking the banner ([ccotc.org](http://ccotc.org)).