



Dear Friends of Rockyview:

September 2016

I'm writing to let you know that we have 'kicked off' a campaign called #WeAreRockyview. As you may know, over the past few years we have experienced many opportunities to reach out into our neighborhood to engage with some of the needs of New Canadians, families in our communities, and to partner with surrounding schools and community agencies. As a result, we have seen new faces at Rockyview grow in their faith commitments to Christ, we have celebrated numerous milestone moments in baptisms, and we have experienced times where the parking lot simply has not been sufficient to hold us.

In the summer of 2015, while we were moving into a ministry partnership with the New Canadian Friendship Centre, we experienced two things happen almost simultaneously. First, Rockyview's facility went from being used for ministry 3 days a week to 5-6 days a week with a significant number of new ministries that were reaching out beyond the church walls. Second, as you may know, serious overland flooding in July and August of 2015 destroyed our church basement – the former home of our Children's Ministry space. Since that time, we have seen mid-week ministry programs continue to grow, despite the 'space deficit' we have had to endure. To say that this has affected our capacity to operate at the level that we believe we need to is an understatement. Already growing or near capacity programs have had to adapt and make use of less than adequate ministry spaces. This needs a permanent solution!

Throughout this past year, our church leadership has fasted, prayed, and asked the Lord for clear direction regarding how to address the need for space for the many people that God brings through our doors each week, and how to ensure that Rockyview's facility is rebuilt in a way that safeguards the future of our ministries. We believe that God has led us to this point: we must conduct comprehensive repairs and improvements to our facility, and we must follow God as He shows us how to continually seek His Kingdom purposes through all the seasons of our church life.

This is why we have launched the “#wearerockyview: seeking God's Kingdom, building spaces, transforming lives” campaign. God has clearly spoken to us as a church leadership team reminding us to seek Him and His plans for the people who live within our reach as a church, to build and safeguard spaces where people of all ages can gather and discover life in Christ together, and to see Jesus literally transform our neighborhood, one person at a time. This is what lay at the heart of this campaign.

We're inviting you to join with us in saying #wearerockyview. We invite you to ask questions and pray and we're hoping that you'll think, along with us, that this is a great opportunity to further the work of Jesus in the Northeast of Calgary and beyond. We're inviting you to take part by serving and through giving financially. As the #wearerockyview plans unfold this fall, you'll receive a vision plan, you will be invited to join a small group informal information session, and in late November, families and individuals will be invited to make a commitment to the vision that God has laid on our heart as a church.

Some of you may be surprised to receive this letter. Maybe you haven't been with us for worship in some time. My intention in writing is simply to communicate with everyone so that we all understand where God has brought us to, and the process ahead this year for Rockyview. If you have questions or concerns, please feel free to contact us at the church at 403-280-2239.

Together in Christ, #wearerockyview! Pastor Shawn Vickar