2027 CMC STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN

MAKE ROOM

A LIFE OVERFLOWING

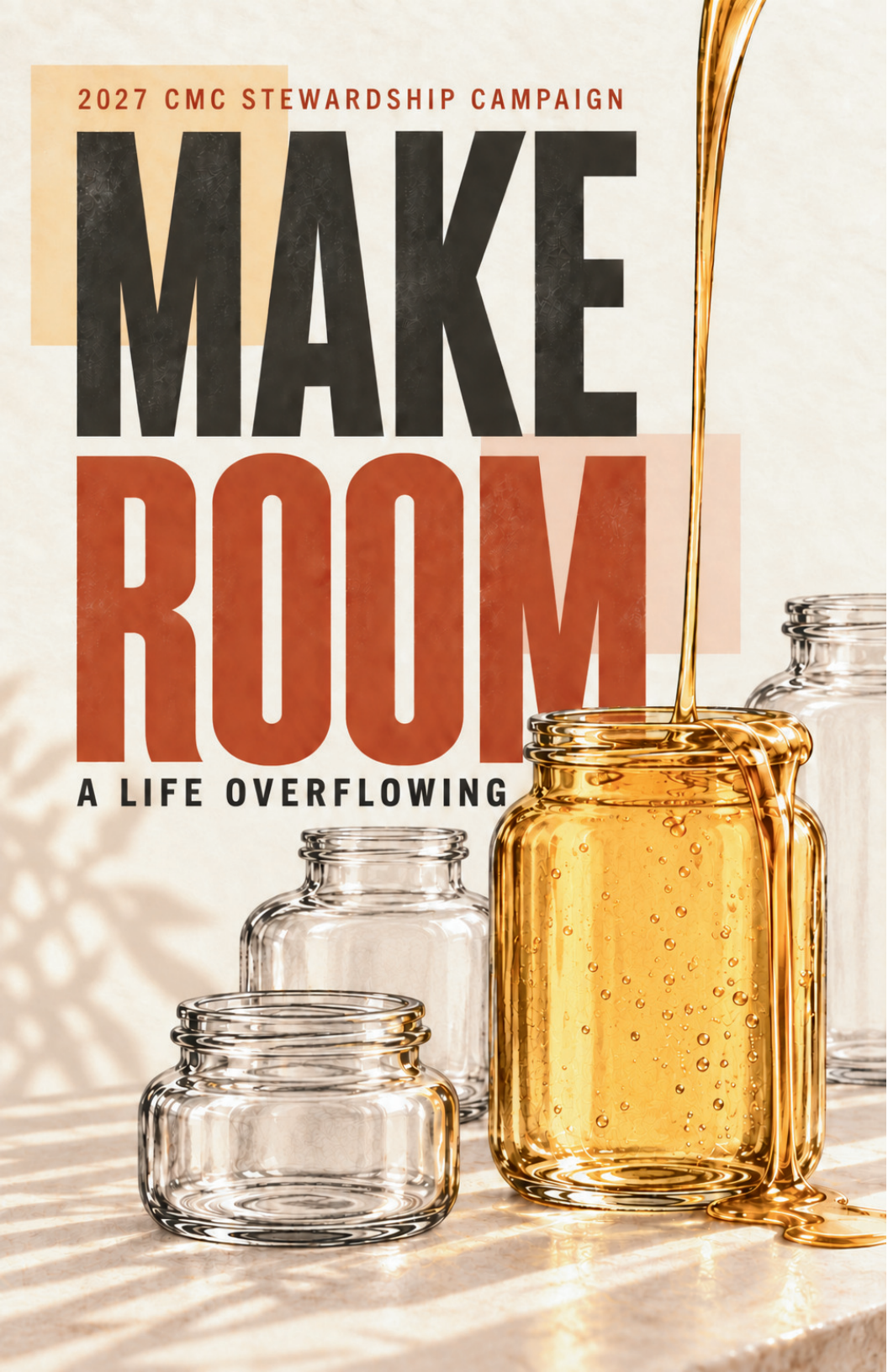


TABLE OF CONTENTS

God Is Making Room Among Us 3
Lynda Buck

There Was a Place for Us 7
Cassidy Campbell

The Shepherd Still Makes Room 11
Ann Chapman

Giving Trends 13

Make Room for What God Will Do 15
Rev. Dr. Brenda Martin

Commitment and Response 18



GOD IS MAKING ROOM AMONG US

by Lynda Buck

Has God been making room in our church this past year? When I hear the phrase, **"making room"**, I immediately think about when I moved into my little house in Caldwell. There was a lot of excitement about paint and flooring and fixing this and changing that. And then all of my stuff showed up! I quite literally didn't have enough room for everything. At first I put a lot of things in storage, but eventually I needed to clean out the unit and downsize. I cleaned the house and the storage unit, but I still did not have enough room in my house for everything. So then I had a friend store my extra stuff in her workshop. Eventually I got rid of more junk and furniture so I could welcome all of my things home. Finally, all of the stored items made their way into the house.

Sounds great, does it not?



Well, I have two beautiful antique curio cabinets now residing in my living room. Empty. Why are they empty? Is it because I do not have beautiful things to go inside? No. Is it because I'm too lazy to unpack those pretties and put them away? It's because I cannot find the keys that unlock their precious glass doors. In fact, I opened the last dish barrel recently and checked every wrapped item in the box determined to find those keys. I was sure the keys would be at the bottom of the box among the heavy wrapping paper and Styrofoam peanuts. But to my shock and bewilderment, there were no keys.

How does this story relate to Caldwell Methodist Church? We have not actually moved into a new "house", but our "house" has been moved around internally and externally. We have had five pastors in five years' time. When a new person, new baby, new pet or new leadership comes along, there are always questions and doubts and even fear of what might happen. How will this change my daily routine, my relationship with others, my level of responsibility? Will there be positive outcomes or negative? What if...? What if...? We have gone through that five times now!

For me, this past year has been a year of observation and prayerful consideration. I usually want to jump into everything because I just want to be a part of everything. I cannot say that I've been happy with every single change because I have not. But we cannot expect to like everything that comes down the pike, like spinach or lima beans or chicken "gizzards", yuk! We, as the Body of Christ, each have a special role to play within and throughout the church and our community.

Making room for God means we each need to look at our individual lives, lifestyles, and means of worship. Are we like my two beautiful curios? Beautiful on the outside but empty on the inside. I'm familiar with the beautiful and precious things that can fill them up, but I do not have the keys to unlock the doors.

Are we sometimes like that with change? We are familiar with what we think we should do or say or be, but somehow we lock ourselves up and throw away the key; because somewhere in the past there was a painful situation, like a new pastor, or new choir director, or new church secretary, or new music or service format we did not particularly care for? Seriously, life is full of change, there is no avoiding it! Yes, some changes are painful. Yet, some changes are wonderful! What do we do with the changes?

The difference between the curio cabinets and us, is that God has the key to our locked cabinets. He not only has it, but He has it with Him every second of every day and He will never lose it! When we ask for something from God, He does not rush around heaven asking Himself, "Now where did I put the key to Lynda's heart? Oh how beautiful her heart would be if I only had her key to unlock that special area to fill it up with more!" His key is sitting on the throne just to His right and He holds the keys to EVERYTHING! Yep, Jesus is the key!

We can make room by dusting off our familiar habits, looking at them closely and asking ourselves, "How can God expand what I am already doing? Or, prayerfully asking God to reveal to us what He has prepared for us to do. Yes, I said prepared. God not only knit us together in the womb, but he also mapped out a plan for our lives, a chiseled out path for us to walk. But I digress...

This past year has seen its triumphs and its hardships. Yet, we are still here and God is still working through us and among us. I pray that we are filled with a renewed spirit.





MAKE ROOM MOMENT

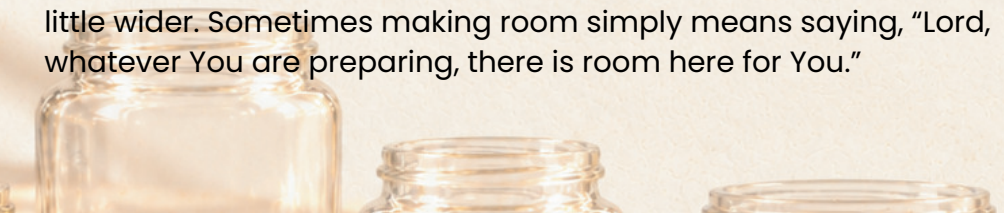
A grieving family found a place. They don't have to walk alone

This year, CMC purchased the house at 303 West Fawn; the little gray house adjacent to our parking lot. It was a change; some liked the idea and others didn't. The sale went through and we now have an opportunity to rent the house and who knows what opportunities will come from it in the future.

We have a bundle of new staff members. Some were just supposed to be here for the summer, but God had a different plan in mind. We have lost staff members who we miss dearly. But God has something else prepared for them to enhance His kingdom placing them where they have different opportunities to "Be the Church." But we also have new staff members who bring a new wealth of knowledge and faith and ideas and we are patient as their brilliance unfolds to bring us closer to our creator.

With new people, we harvest new ideas and refresh old ones. We have new classes to help in various areas like: Grief Share, Children's Church, Pathways classes, Alpha, etc. We have ways of renewing our minds through study groups, new choir opportunities, and more music through the Praise Team, and Hand-bell Choir, (the CMC Ringers). And the Kolache Festival brings another level of opportunity to reach out and show the community that God's love is real through the Kingdom Kids sand art, the prayer tent, the music and refreshing station, and hosting the Kolache bake contest.

Maybe making room is not really about finding space for something new. Maybe it is about trusting God enough to unlock the doors of our hearts and let Him fill the places we have kept closed. This year has brought change, new faces, new opportunities, and even some letting go. We may not always understand what God is doing while He is doing it, but we can trust the One who holds the key. He is still working among us, still preparing what is ahead, and still inviting us to open our hearts a little wider. Sometimes making room simply means saying, "Lord, whatever You are preparing, there is room here for You."



There was A PLACE FOR US.

by Cassidy Campbell

"Consequently, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but you are fellow citizens with God's people and members of God's household..." Ephesians 2:19

I remember when we became members at CMC and how deeply Shawna, my wife, was moved by the vows we made to CMC and the vows CMC made to us. I can still vividly see her beautiful heart pouring out through every word as she recited them, not simply as words in a ceremony, but as true promises of covenant with our new family.

This season in Caldwell represents so many different things in my journey with the Lord. In many ways, it has been the slow closing of a season of grief, the deaths of my parents in 2021, the distance from our older children and grandchildren, and the many transitions our family has walked through. CMC's invitation to Shawna and I was also God's answer to a prayer we had prayed only months before.

I knew the Lord was stirring something in my heart. I could sense that a shift was coming. The funny thing about my relationship with the Lord is that sometimes He begins by allowing a holy uneasiness to settle inside me. So my conversations with Him began to change. Instead of praying, "Lord, give me grace where I am," I began asking, "Lord, do You want me somewhere else? Is it time for me to leave vocational ministry and move into the marketplace?"

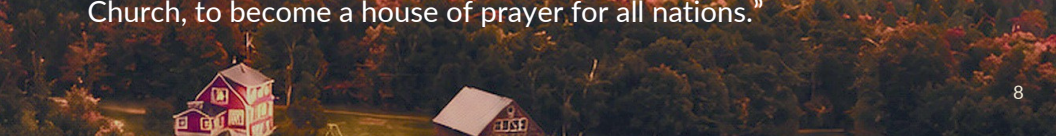
One night in August 2025, I was sitting on our back porch talking with the Lord. All of a sudden, something settled in my heart. There was a resolve. I felt released. A weight seemed to lift from me, and in an exhale of words to the Lord, I said, "Okay. Yes. Yes, I'll do it. I'll go into the marketplace, find a job, and leave vocational ministry."

And I felt such freedom. Vision rushed over me. I could see myself working, happy and fulfilled. I could imagine some of the financial and practical hardships we had faced through so many years of ministry and missionary life finally beginning to ease. I even thought about what it might feel like to simply go to church because I loved Jesus and His people, not because Sunday was a workday first. Oh, it was such a release.

For about ten minutes.

Then I began thinking about all the amazing people in the family of God we had spent so many years loving and serving. That sudden release became a wave of new thoughts, emotions, and questions. "Lord, what about Your Church? What about Your people? Lord, what about all the hurt, the mistrust, and even the abuse being caused by people within the Church? Do You really want me to walk away from this?"

I thought about how the Lord is bringing things into the light throughout His Church, purifying, healing, and cleansing His Bride. And as tears rolled down my cheeks and through my bright silver beard, I said, "Lord, I will walk away if that's what You want. But if it is Your will, send Shawna and I somewhere we can help build up Your Church, to become a house of prayer for all nations."



Within two days, Pastor Brenda called, and we had our first conversation about Caldwell, Texas. Well, I guess, as they say, the rest is history.

That is why, when we stood before this congregation and spoke our membership vows, those words meant something deeply personal to us. They meant there was a place for us.

There was a place for us here among the family of God. We had found new brothers and sisters to walk with, people to whom we could give ourselves, a community in which to raise our children, and a church family with whom we could join in reaching our community and the nations. What an honor it is to bear one another's burdens and, at the same time, share in the absolute joy of being the family of God.

September 22 marks one year since I began serving here, and I can truly say it has been an honor to serve the Lord at Caldwell Methodist Church. As we have heard your stories and come to know so many of you, I have been amazed by your resilience. God has given this church such a powerful story. You have overcome, walked through difficult seasons, persevered, and through it all, continued surrendering your hearts and lives to Jesus.

When I look back now, I realize that **Make Room** is not just something we are asking our church to do. It is what God has been doing in us all along. He made room in our grief for hope, in our uncertainty for trust, in our family for a new community, and in our hearts for a new chapter we could not yet see. Somehow, before we knew Caldwell, before we knew CMC, and before we knew any of your names, God was already preparing this place and preparing us for it. We thought we were coming here to help make room for others, but in His kindness, **God had already made a place for us before we ever arrived.**



MAKE ROOM MOMENT

Reaching our community with a smile and prayer under our Prayer Tent.


"Give, and it will be given
to you. A good measure,
pressed down, shaken
together and running over."
LUKE 6:38

THE SHEPHERD

STILL MAKES ROOM

by Ann Chapman

I've always been a seeker of God, but until my mid-thirties I had a difficult time hearing from Him. I suppose my reliance on myself was a large part of the problem, but He wasn't put off by that. When I needed Wisdom, He allowed me to wrestle with difficult situations until I sensed His way. He didn't expect perfection from me but gently moved me from one goal to another (with a time to rest in between).



When I felt all alone, He provided a protector for me. When I needed words, He provided them. When I failed, He invited me to get back up again. He accepted me in my sin from the beginning - both the sin I recognized and the sin I didn't know about - He inspired me to align more with Him.

When I wanted relationships to heal, He flipped my perspective and there was healing. When I came to the end of myself at work, He opened doors and provided new insights.

He continues to offer new ways to become more like Jesus, honestly, I'm currently being stretched in new ways that I have no experience with. He continues to invite me, and all of us, into a deeper more aligned relationship. He is my Source, our Source of all things good. This is why I do what I do with my time, my money, my heart, my home, my words, and work.

I've often told the story of a faith house and how we cross the threshold of believing to enter. As we move through life, we're invited to ask God to move with us from room to room as He helps us clean up whatever room we're in, until our house is spotless.

At first, we're content to have Jesus in the foyer. We welcome Him as Savior, grateful to be inside the house of faith. But, before long, He gently invites us deeper. He opens the door to the living room where our relationships reside. He visits the kitchen where we prepare and serve. He walks into the study where our thoughts, plans, and ambitions take shape. He enters the bedroom where our fears, struggles, and private selves are hidden away.

I'll continue to be a seeker. He continues to be present and willing to offer time to rest and time to clean. My heart and His home.



MAKE ROOM MOMENT

93 children registered for Kingdom Quest, with an average of 62 kids joining us each day and a high of 75 children on Wednesday! Over 40 volunteers

2023 - 2026

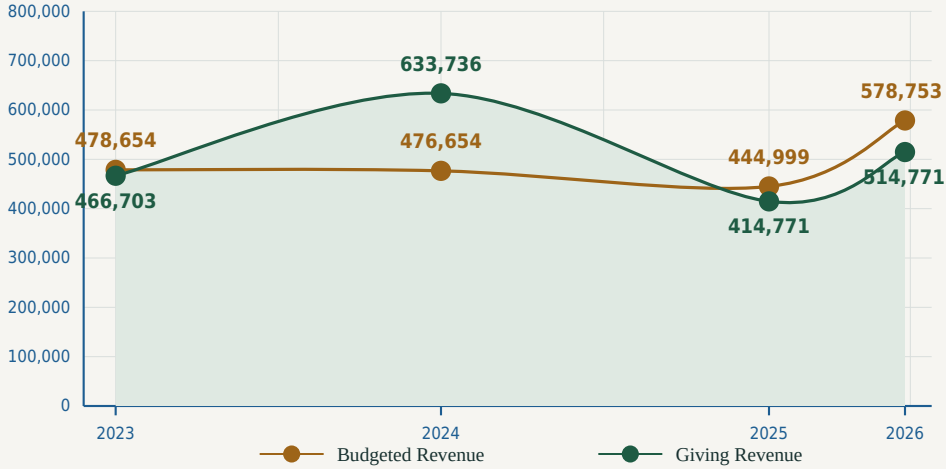
GIVING TRENDS

"Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."

2 CORINTHIANS 9:7

Budgeted Revenue vs. Giving Revenue

All amounts represent year to date through August.



2023

Budgeted Revenue	$478,654
Giving Revenue	$466,703

2024

Budgeted Revenue	$476,654
Giving Revenue	$633,736

2025

Budgeted Revenue	$444,999
Giving Revenue	$414,771

2026

through August

Budgeted Revenue	$578,753
Giving Revenue	$514,771

Generosity

For the generations to come.



CALDWELL METHODIST


WHEN WE
MAKE
ROOM.
God does more than
we can imagine.

MAKE ROOM For What GOD WILL DO

by Rev. Dr. Brenda Martin

Make Room for What God Will Do
Sometimes the greatest thing God wants to do in our lives begins with a simple invitation: Make room for Me. We often ask God to do something new—to bring healing, provide an opportunity, restore a relationship, grow our church, strengthen our families, or renew our faith. But sometimes we are asking God to fill a space that we have never truly made available to Him.

Making room means opening the doors to God without conditions. It means letting go of what is holding us back so that we can receive what God wants to give. It may mean releasing an old hurt; setting aside our own plans; offering to help; being



MAKE ROOM MOMENT

At Kolache Fest, we connected with 300+ people hosting the judges, sand art, cooling relief, and prayer.

available for prayer; opening our hearts to someone new; or simply becoming quiet enough to hear God's voice.

Jesus reminds us in Matthew 9:17 that new wine needs new wineskins. God is always capable of doing something new, but we must be willing to make room and accept "the new."

Make Room For The New

God says, "Behold, I am doing a new thing" (Isaiah 43:19). Making room does not mean pretending the past did not happen. It means refusing to let the past determine what God can do now or the future.

Today God is asking you to release something you have been carrying so that He can fill that space with His peace.

Make Room For New Relationships

Right here amongst us are people who need encouragement, friendship, grace, forgiveness, and someone willing to listen. Sometimes God's work in our lives comes through another person—and sometimes God wants to work through us in someone else's life.

Jesus made room for people others overlooked. He welcomed the outsider, listened to the hurting, touched the untouchable, and sat at tables where others would not sit.

What might happen if we made a little more room for one another?

- A simple conversation could become a connection.
- Then that connection could become a friendship.
- That relationship could become a place where Christ is experienced leaving both parties renewed.

Make Room Together

As a church, we must also ask ourselves: "God, what do you want us to make room for that You are longing to do?" Making room may mean trying something new. It may mean changing



a routine, opening a ministry to new people, creating space for younger generations, welcoming someone who does not look or think like us, or being willing to follow God's direction even when it stretches us.

The early church in Acts experienced this kind of movement of God. They prayed, trusted, welcomed people, shared life together, and followed the leading of the Holy Spirit. As they made room for God's work, "the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved" (Acts 2:47).

God has more people to reach than we have yet imagined.
God has new ministries we have not considered.
God has lives waiting to meet the hope of Jesus through us.
Let Caldwell Methodist make room for the Lord to add daily those that are being saved.

Make Room For Greater Faith
Making room means opening our hands, hearts, minds, talents, and time to live faithfully, trusting who God is.
Abraham had to make room for God's promise. Mary had to make room for God's calling. The disciples had to make room for a new understanding of what Jesus was doing.
And we are invited to do the same. Let our faith pray, "God, I do not know exactly what You are going to do, but I do not want my fear, my comfort, my tradition, my disappointment, or my busyness to get in the way. I surrender it to You. In Jesus name, Amen."

As we embark on this journey of Making Room For Overflow, let us not look at what only the eye can see, but what Our Great God can do. He is here.

Let us believe that for each step toward Him—He is running toward us—for the glory of Jesus!

Expectantly yours,
Rev. Dr. Brenda Martin

COMMITMENT AND RESPONSE

A generous tomorrow starts with the faithful today.

2 CORINTHIANS 9:7

"Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."



Pray and fill out the card in your envelope and put it in the offering on Commitment Sunday.

SCAN TO GIVE OR MAKE YOUR COMMITMENT TODAY.

BECOMING A HOUSE OF PRAYER
FOR ALL NATIONS.

VISIT US AT
www.caldwellmc.org

Explore our sermons, special events, and more as you discover how God is moving at Caldwell Methodist Church.



Walking Together.
Growing Closer to Jesus.
Stepping into a Vibrant Future.


Worship


Community



Connect



Sermon Series

Explore Online

CALDWELL METHODIST

CALDWELL
METHODIST

2027 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN