

# [ THEN GOD ]

## WE ALL EXPERIENCE ONE...

A circumstance or a place in our story when things unexpectedly change for good. We hear about these defining moments in our friends' lives and see it in our communities, too. A situation seems desperate. Then God restores hope. Families appear fractured beyond repair. Then God mends hearts and provides a new beginning. And there's another turning point happening now.

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**A NEW "THEN GOD" STORY IS UNFOLDING  
AT MOUNTAIN LAKE CHURCH.**





# A NOTE FROM CHRIS

“ **HERE'S TO MORE LIFE CHANGE!** ”

**Thank you so much for being interested in our next Then God moment here at MLC.**

Our vision is to create a church where life change stories are written every week. We believe that these initiatives listed here are the next steps God is calling us to take in the MLC story:

- Our Forsyth campus needs updated, including improved environments for kids, students, and adults.
- Our Dawson campus finally has a new building that needs the Mountain Lake experience.
- Our debt needs to be reduced so we can have more financial capacity to care for people in our community.

God has done some incredible things over the past two years since I've been here, and I feel like the fun is just getting started. Here is what I ask: See the vision for our church. Let your heart get excited about the future life change stories. And simply ask God: "What's my financial part?"

***Here's to More Life Change!***  
***- Chris Emmitt, Lead Pastor***

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***BY INVESTING TOGETHER IN THESE DEFINED CONCRETE PROJECTS, WE CAN BE PREPARED TO SERVE THE NEEDS OF OUR GROWING COMMUNITY AND REACH MORE PEOPLE FOR JESUS.***

## PHASE 1

### **\$3 MILLION**

- Next Generation Space (Forsyth)
- Dawson Campus
- Debt Reduction

## PHASE 2

### **\$4 MILLION**

- All of the above plus
- Phase I Auditorium
- Lobby Renovation (Forsyth)

## PHASE 3

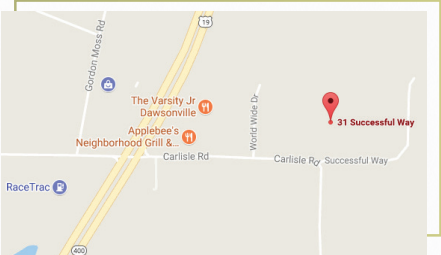
### **\$5 MILLION**

- All of the above plus
- Exterior of Forsyth Campus
- Phase II Auditorium (Forsyth)

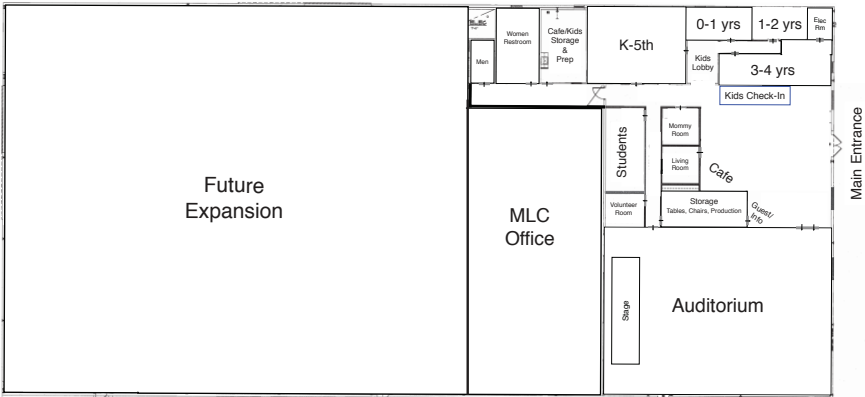
# NEW MLC DAWSON CHURCH BUILDING



Over the next 10 years, this building gives the Dawson campus the capacity to double in attendance and grow the students and kids ministries by offering more children's environments and a space for a future midweek experience for Students.



31 Successful Way, Dawsonville GA  
(Gotta love the address!)



MLC Adult Worship



Lobby



Front Entrance



# UPDATES & IMPROVEMENTS TO MLC FORSYTH

Over the next 20 years, Forsyth County is expected to grow more than any Atlanta-metro county, percentage-wise. God is bringing new families to our community and within our sphere of influence and He is calling us to our next phase of creating a church where life change stories are written. For many, the church building is the first place people feel a part of God's family. Thousands of people will find the peace of God here and our building should reflect that.



New Front Entrance



Courtyard with Entrance to Lobby  
and MLC Students



Forsyth Floorplan





MLC Students Worship Space



MLC Students Lobby



MLC Kids Elementary



MLC Kids Preschool



MLC Lobby



MLC Adult Worship



# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

## **1. Can we hold church-wide Serve Days and save money by doing the work ourselves?**

As a staff of weekend (and weeknight DIYers), we understand that many of us jump at the chance to run up to Home Depot or work with power tools. However, let's save the Home Depot trips for our home projects. This is a major commercial construction project and insurance and building codes require that licensed and insured professionals do the work. Don't put away your work gloves just yet though. We will look to volunteers for specific tasks, such as demo and clean up.

## **2. Dawson seems to be doing great in a theater, why do they need a building?**

While some people may look forward to the smell of popcorn every Sunday morning, most people are reluctant to attend a church without a permanent building. We've heard in increasing frequency: "Let us know when you have a building." Dawson County is growing and so is the Dawson campus. The building we have obtained with a lease-to-purchase option gives MLC Dawson the opportunity to continue to grow for the next 10-plus years and create a permanent space for kids, students, and adults to enjoy like we've come to count on at the Forsyth campus. In addition, a permanent location gives Dawson the opportunity to offer Easter and Christmas services, and other events like Newcomers Dinner, all in the same space.

## **3. Why not just put all the money toward our debt?**

Paying down our debt gives us more financial freedom to spend more ministry dollars on caring for more people in the future. However, we need to balance our debt reduction with creating a place and space for the new families moving into Forsyth and Dawson counties right now. Over the next 20 years, Forsyth County alone is expected to more than double in size. (Start praying now for increased

patience on 400!) God is bringing new families to our community and within our sphere of influence and He is calling us to our next phase of creating a church where life change stories are written. If we simply focused on paying down our debt, then our current facilities would not be ready or welcoming to the families, students, children, and individuals God is (and will be) sending to us. This plan allows us to responsibly and strategically pay down debt and accommodate new families at the same time for the greatest impact.

## **4. What happens if we don't raise it all?**

Bottom line: If we don't raise the funds, then we won't do the work. It's why we divided the needs into three phases listed by priority. When we raise enough money for each item identified in a phase, we will move forward with that item. To complete all three phases, it's a total of \$5 million.

## **5. Why is this the best use of our money?**

There are people all over this community with questions about life, love, relationships, purpose, and suffering. As a church family, we are committed to loving like Jesus did so we won't tire of creating safe places and relationships for those people to turn to for answers and support. It's easy to assume people know what we're about, but they don't. So we'll continually look for new ways to demonstrate how much we care and how much they are loved. This is one way to do that. By updating and improving the Forsyth campus, we increase our seating capacity in the adult auditorium to welcome nearly 800 new faces each Sunday and create environments specifically designed for how children and teenagers learn and make connections with each other and most importantly with Jesus. Most churches need to build major additions in order to reach 30 percent more people.

In addition, the Dawson building creates a space to welcome more than twice as

many people over the next 10 years. Plus, not only can we make additional children's environments, we can create a place for a future student mid-week gathering.

For every dollar we spend to reduce debt, we save nearly \$3 over the life of our building loan. Those dollars go directly towards caring for people and our community.

### **6. Why do we need to redo the entire kids area on the Forsyth campus?**

We want parents to know (and immediately recognize) that we love and care about their children. This is what Jesus models for us of putting children first. The space our children and students occupy on the Forsyth campus was designed with adults in mind. As our community grows, we can create a better children's environment specifically designed for each age group and for children with special needs. With a safe and secure entrance and exit, the classrooms and worship space would optimize learning in an age-appropriate, multi-sensory, and fun way and create a more welcoming setting for new families.

As children grow into Middle and High School, peer interaction becomes increasingly more important. The new Student space would create a better environment conducive to supporting community with a modernized student lobby and worship space created just for them, including an entrance to the courtyard.

### **7. I don't have kids. I don't go to Dawson. I don't get excited about debt. Why should I give?**

As a part of Mountain Lake Church, you know we treat everyone like family: whether a first-time guest or long-time member. And, just like any family, we take turns caring for each other's needs as they arise. It's fair to say that some seasons speak directly to our own needs

and sometimes the needs of others in our family or community. Naturally, some projects are easier to get excited about than others depending on our life stage. But, thankfully, God continues to write His story through us and He invites us to be a part of it (just like the people who invested in you before you were here).

### **8. What happens if we go through another recession during all of this?**

That's an easy one. We won't spend money we don't have. As part of the Capital Campaign, we promise to pay down debt... not increase it. If we don't collect the funds, then we won't spend the money. Capital Campaign funds will (and can) only be used for the stated purposes that we listed. If the economy slows and giving decreases, it will impact our operational budget. However, we budget and spend conservatively, including maintaining healthy reserves. You can view the MLC Ministry Budget Information on the website here: [mountainlake.church/give/](https://mountainlake.church/give/)

### **9. Since this is a three-year commitment, does that mean we won't start on any of the initiatives until three years from now?**

No. When we raise enough money for each item identified in a phase, we will move forward with that item.

### **10. How will we be updated on the progress?**

Throughout the three-year campaign, we will regularly update the MLC church family through various avenues, such as the website, social media, our e-newsletter, giving statements, and on Sunday mornings. We haven't completely ruled out using memes and morse code, either. Okay, we probably won't use morse code, but we will take every chance we can to update you on the progress. Plus, as we reach certain milestones, we will all begin to see tangible updates as we renovate the Forsyth and Dawson church buildings. That will be a reason to celebrate!

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## **DO YOU HAVE ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS?**

Please email Randy Ongie, Executive Pastor, at [randy@mountainlake.church](mailto:randy@mountainlake.church).



**AS A PART OF THE MLC FAMILY, WHAT'S YOUR ROLE?  
ALL WE ASK IS THAT YOU PRAY:**

**LORD, WHAT'S MY  
FINANCIAL PART?**

**THEN, FOLLOW WHERE GOD LEADS YOU.  
THAT'S IT.**



**MOUNTAIN  
LAKE CHURCH**

