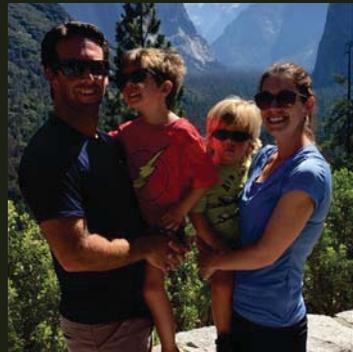




VOL. II

Here at Nova Community Church, we're all about community! Welcoming new friends, providing opportunities for involvement through Nova classes and small groups, and serving the community through several ministries within and outside of the church. In the coming months and years we hope to expand this outreach to the extended community...imagine what a beautiful campus and exciting new ideas will come from our renovation! **Dream with us!** Thank you for reading our second OPEN newsletter!

NOVA *Spotlight*



THE HELLINGA FAMILY

Tyler and Amy Hellinga began attending Nova two years ago with their sons, Taj, 4 and Kai, 2. Tyler shares his testimony about finding Nova and why they decided to stay.

"Before visiting Nova for the first time, Amy and I had discussed what we were looking for in a church. We wanted a place that felt family oriented and included all generations and walks of life...a place that wasn't trying to fit into any certain mold the world had created but rather just seeking after God's design for His Church. We knew several people who were attending Nova, friends from different stages of our lives, and so we thought we would check it out. The first Sunday we visited we felt so welcomed with several people introducing themselves and reaching out to get to know us, and catching up with old friends, we just knew we wanted to stick around! It has been two years since we started coming to Nova Community Church and we are so glad that God led us here. In today's world it is sometimes hard to connect with people that you feel are honest and real, but Nova is a place you can find that. The people and the relationships are authentic. Since being involved we have found a community that is engaging and reaching out to show God's love to His people in all aspects and phases of life. Nova is a community filled with God's compassion for people, and it shows in the desire to build each other up towards Christ.

After having been to several other churches we stayed at Nova because of this authenticity. It is a place you can be yourself and be accepted and loved, yet at the same time be encouraged and built up to be more like Christ. We see Nova as a church that God can use in powerful ways. We see it as a place that God is raising up to bring significant change in the community around us, to show them the grace and peace that comes through our hope in Jesus."

an INVITATION



AMY MARTIN

The Open campaign is about invitation.

It's an invitation to community. It's a chance for us all to say, 'We're doing something big, and we're doing it together!' Perhaps you have been a part of

Nova from the beginning and yet are still wondering where you fit in. The Open campaign provides a place for you to engage. Maybe you have recently started attending and are discerning if this is the place for you to put down your roots. This campaign season is the perfect time for you to make a decision to commit yourself to Nova's fellowship.

It's an invitation to dream. The primary vision set out by the church leadership is like the trunk of our stone pine--it provides a foundation and direction for growth. But what is a tree without branches? Any one of you could step out in faith and partnership with God to form a branch of ministry, inviting others to share in your unique vision. Start asking God for great ideas about how we can use our campus to reach our community and invite others in.

It's an invitation to prayer. This campaign is full of possibility. Let's keep our hearts open to listen to God as he gives each of us perspective and passion for praying about different aspects of His mission and vision for our church. Pray for each other. Pray with each other. Pray for those who will be welcomed to Nova. But also recognize that praying for the campaign is not primarily about bringing a list of requests before God. Rather, it's about opening up your heart to God and to the Nova family. It means agreeing together: 'No matter what circumstances arise in my own life--whether I'm busy or free, successful in life or failing, healthy or ill, spiritually strong or struggling--I am committed to staying present and engaged in the mission and life of this community.'

The Open campaign is an invitation to journey together toward a destination that will be formed by our collective partnership, purpose and prayer. I hope you will respond to the invitation!

a vision for NOVA



PASTOR DEAN MAYEDA

The Apostle John communicates a simple, yet powerful vision of good news in the well-known, often-quoted John 3:16. This one sentence scripture is the message of the Gospel.

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

John 3:16

This vision of the heart of God is the core of Nova Community Church's OPEN Campaign.

"For God..."

The OPEN Campaign is for God. It is to give all the fame, honor and credit to God. For God poured out His blessings and provided Nova with 3.5 acres of prime South Bay land. It is God who brought together a community of unselfish and generous people many years ago to sacrificially give so the church could develop the land as we see it today – all for the glory of God and to see people come to know Jesus as their Lord and Savior.

"...so loved the world..."

The OPEN Campaign is about the missional love that God has for lost people. Jesus gave us our mission when He said, "Go and make disciples of all nations." We get a glimpse of the emotion that Jesus has for the lost in Luke 15 when He tells three stories back-to-back-to-back about the lost coin, the lost sheep and the lost son. In these three stories the punch-line is the same: Lost people matter! Wherever I go in the South Bay community, as I meet unchurched people and hear their stories, they seem to all have one thing in common – they are busy, worn out and trying harder to achieve. Much like Jesus' compassionate observation of the crowds in Matthew 9:37-38, "He had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, 'The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. 38 (Pray and) ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.'"

"...that He gave..."

The OPEN Campaign is Nova's opportunity to give praise to God with our lives. In Romans 12:1, the Apostle Paul gives us

an impassioned plea, "Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship." As we use the OPEN Campaign's daily devotional to read the scriptures and pray, God is transforming, aligning and unifying the hearts of Nova people. As you pray, I encourage you to ask God: "How do You want me to use my time to serve You?" "How do You want me to use my talents and gifts for Your glory?" "How do You want to use my treasure and resources to grow Your kingdom?"

As I envision the future of Nova Community Church, I see a campus where...

...there is an openness that welcomes diverse South Bay people.
...friends, old and new, gather to enjoy the beautiful South Bay weather.

"God, by His Spirit, is transforming us. God is calling Nova Community Church to be open."

...conversations in different languages are spoken as neighbors walk their dogs.
...people of different cultures from the neighborhood are smiling, laughing, talking, listening, sharing common experiences and finding common ground.
...Nova people find easy and natural opportunities to talk about how a relationship with Jesus has transformed their lives.
...millennials and people from the greatest generation are sitting on Nova's front porch together under colorful umbrellas or warming themselves by a natural gas fire pit

– sharing a rich cup of coffee from the Nova Café.
...the shrill sound of a youth football coach's whistle calls the team to huddle up.
...squeals and screams of children laughing can be heard while Dads, Moms and Grandparents chat on park benches about their kids and grandchildren who are energetically enjoying a playground that is none like any other in the area.
...teenagers hang out on a grassy knoll and gather under the beauty and shade of the generations-old Stone Pine studying the Bible.
...people find a quiet place as they stroll in the Nova prayer garden searching for God's strength while reflecting on a challenging issue in their life.

This vision is coming into being. God, by His Spirit, is transforming us. God is calling Nova Community Church to be OPEN.

"For God so loved the world that He gave..."

PLEASE pray for...

Us to seek God first in all that we do as he reveals his will to each of us.

Understanding of God's vision and intent for the project.

God to bring us into unity with each other as we come into agreement with His vision and heart for our church.

God's presence to envelop the entire campus and Nova would be a place of prayer.

DAILY devotionals



The Prayer Team has created a Prayer & Devotional booklet to help guide us in prayer and devotion each day as a congregation. Please see the OPEN table to pick up your copy and join us in daily reflection and openness to God's plan. To request daily devotions sent to your Inbox, please email open@novachurch.org.

LOOKING ahead

Here's what's happening in the next few months of the OPEN campaign!

august

Worship & Prayer Night: August 27
Open Campus Tuesdays: August 22 + 29

september

Classes on Stewardship
Home Visit Training
OPEN Sermon Series

october

OPEN Sermon Series
Home Visits

november

Commitment Sunday: November 5
Reveal Sunday: November 26