

Forward in Faith

Building for Community

March 2008



THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE HOLY COMFORTER CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

Holy Comforter Episcopal Church, 2701 Park Road, Charlotte, NC 28209
holycomforter-clt.org 704.332.4171

Why a Capital Campaign?

What do you think of when you hear the word "church"? Do you think of architecture - steeples and pews, arches and stained glass windows? Do you think of people - parishioners, clergy and the many community members who rely upon their spiritual guidance, kindness and generosity? Do you think of hymns - soaring, swelling, uplifting, - so that even the most shy feel free to lend a voice? Do you think of our church home - right here at 2701 Park Road?

It is, after all, a home, a home with buildings and music and people. It's also a home in need of

repairs and improvements. Every home requires maintenance. And our church home, Holy Comforter, is in need. Some physical aspects are outdated and limiting. Our ability to serve the community (and thus, ourselves) is severely hampered. Even the church organ is failing.

The needs are clear. And like any homeowner, we need to tend to these needs. This isn't a simple matter of brick and mortar. It's a matter of fulfilling the mission of The Church of the Holy Comforter.

The Goal: \$3.2 Million

Much of the research and plan has already been accomplished. Our clergy, staff, vestry and you have helped us clearly identify the needs. We've hired experts to help determine whether it would be possible to meet these needs. We've worked with consultants to help conceive a vision and determine the feasibility of such a project. We've spoken to parishioners to determine potential levels of support.

Simply put, for Holy Comforter to attend to the many pressing needs of a century-old congregation, 50-year-old structure, and current day ministries, we'll need over \$3 million.

CAMPAIGN BUDGET (PROJECTED)

New Construction & Renovation	\$ 1, 783,000
Equipment & Furnishings	75,000
Site Preparation	405,000
Organ Repair	397,000
Architect, Campaign, Other Fees	440,000
Contingency	100,000
TOTAL PROJECTED COSTS	\$3,200,000

Holy Comforter Capital Campaign Prayer

God of abundance, we thank you for your faithful presence over the years in the life of this parish. Through your grace, we have been blessed by the work and contributions of previous generations; many ministries flourish here today because of their love and labor. Now, knowing that all that we have comes from you, guide us in the use of our gifts as we prayerfully consider this time in the life of Holy Comforter. Lead us in ways that will deepen the roots of ministry here for generations to come. Then by your Holy Spirit empower us to move forward in faith in this capital campaign. Give us generous hearts and a spirit of cooperation to transform our efforts into a holy work, a vision of hope, and a place of enduring hospitality. In the name of Christ we pray, Amen



Campaign Launch

After months of planning, analysis and sharing of plans with the congregation, the vestry approved moving forward with the capital campaign. Parishioners were selected to form a Campaign Cabinet, and on Sunday, March 10, they met at the home of Sarah Tobin to plan the next capital campaign steps for our parish.

State of Our Church Today

When Holy Comforter relocated to its present location in the 1950s, it was a suburban church. Original plans called for an education wing, which, due to financial restrictions, was never built. The feeling was that it would be constructed in the near future. Later, pressing needs resulted in the erection of the Education and Youth Activity Center – today known as the “YAC.” It was conceived as a short-term solution – a temporary building designed to last until the “real” structure could be built. About 40 years later, however, the YAC remains standing.

Despite its inevitable state of deterioration, the YAC must serve many uses throughout any given week. It has classrooms for Christian Education. It houses our Room In The Inn guests. It is home to Scouts and many Outreach programs, including English as a Second Language. Holy Comforter founded Loaves & Fishes here in Charlotte, but struggles to maintain our own Loaves and Fishes pantry in such a tight and outdated space.

As it stands, this structure simply cannot provide for these many needs. It cannot accommodate our own parishioners and parishioners’ children, much less those of the greater Holy Comforter community.

After 50 years, the Parish House is also showing its age. Not only is it home to more Sunday School classes, Henry Hall and offices, it is also the home of a thriving preschool. A quick visit to any of the restrooms proves the need for updating. Downstairs classrooms must also be updated.

Here’s something you may not know. The typical church organ, when well-maintained, is designed to last 20-30 years. Our current organ was built more than 35 years ago and has not been sufficiently maintained to cope with its age and the deterioration of its parts. Major repairs and enhancements are overdue.

Campaign Cabinet

Campaign Co-Chairs	Gail Fennimore Tom Fennimore
Campaign Treasurer	Pat Mynatt
Advanced Gifts	Jim Muse Sarah Tobin
Foundation Gifts	Kelly Clarkson
Parish Gifts	Mark Becker Tom Kearns
Special Events	Georganna Moore James Moore
Marketing/PR	Kirt Hibbitts
Cabinet-At-Large	Suzan Becker Gray Langley Edie Livingstone William Siler Edwin Thomas Jim Webb
Rector	The Rev. David Hodges
Associate Rector	The Rev. Sally Johnston
Senior Warden	Chris Ravenberg
Campaign Consultants	Mary Ellen Shuntich
Whitney Jones, Inc.	Whitney Jones

Planning

To identify and prioritize the space needs of Holy Comforter, the Planning Committee interviewed staff and groups who use the facilities for Christian Education, Scouting, Youth programs, Loaves & Fishes, Room in the Inn, other outreach work, offices and more. Based on the initial scope, the cost to address all needs identified approached \$5 million.

After a feasibility study, the Building Committee hired an architect to design a preliminary plan that would be within our cost range. The architect recommended several options, and we now have a plan costing an estimated \$3.2 million. Planning and Building Committee members reviewed the plan with the entire congregation last fall to gather input and determine support for going forward.

Three Areas of Need

Education, Outreach & Music



Building Plan Highlights

The most visible component of the plan is to tear down the YAC and replace it with a new 8,000 square foot building. This new building would cover the current driveway near the playground and is connected by a covered walkway into the side of the existing building. The driveway will come to the entrance of both buildings with a place for convenient drop-offs into each building. Architecturally, the façade of the new building will complement and preserve our beautiful campus.

While much of this new building will be for education and outreach, it will also house staff and clergy offices and much needed storage space.

EDUCATION

The architect's plan includes re-using space on the first floor of the Parish House for three catechesis classrooms that will become dedicated Atria for children's Christian Education. This will eliminate weekly setups and breakdowns in Weekday School classrooms. It also will provide space for 3-year-olds to participate in the Catechesis Christian Education curriculum instead of staying in the childcare nursery. Also, 4th and 5th graders will now be able to participate in Catechesis. A total of 145 children – all of them currently in our Parish -- can be a part of the Catechesis classes.

Inside the new building there will be seven classrooms of different sizes plus a large meeting room or multipurpose room. As a result, large classes may not need to meet in Henry Hall and breakfast will no longer interfere with the classes.

OUTREACH

Holy Comforter has always had a strong commitment to outreach, but our space for fulfilling this ministry has been limited. The new building will provide Loaves and Fishes and other food ministries with better facilities to store and package food, and provide direct access from the parking lot to drop off and distribute food. For our Room in the Inn ministry, we will have showers, a washer and dryer and larger rooms as well as appropriate storage for mattresses and blankets. We can also increase our English as a Second Language ministry. And, Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts will have more meeting and storage spaces.

**63% increase in classroom
and meeting spaces**

MUSIC

To improve worship at Holy Comforter, the most critical need we have is to repair and enhance the organ. There is considerable damage to the organ from wear and age. Most of this damage is hidden from our eyes but not always hidden from our ears. We are fortunate to have had excellent organists who could work around most of these difficulties and still give us fine music. An organ committee studied this over the past two years and worked with several organ and construction companies to get proposals and bids. In addition to repairs, the solution will include installing additional organ pipes and a movable console to improve sound and functionality.

PARISH HOUSE

Several renovations to the Parish House will also be made. Plans call for some needed improvements and additions to the restroom space on the first floor. The Rector's office will be returned to its original use as a Parlor that can be used by wedding brides and by grieving families, as well as a classroom or meeting room. The office in the Upper Room will be removed so that the space can be used as a meeting room and as a Youth Ministry classroom. Staff and clergy offices will be relocated to the new building.

In addition, covered access will be provided so that handicapped persons can avoid the steps in the corridor connecting the Church and Parish House. And this year the Sacristy restroom will also be upgraded to make it handicapped accessible.

**78% increase in Loaves and Fishes
and food ministries spaces**



Forward in Faith

Our clergy, staff and vestry, the Planning Committee and the Building Committee have laid the necessary groundwork. Now, we're all being called to respond. For just as no structure can be built with a single brick, nor can it be built by one individual.

The Trustees of the Holy Comforter Foundation have already stepped forward to make a campaign gift of approximately \$250,000. The Foundation's gift is wonderful and generous, and other campaign gifts, large and small will also be made by parishioners in the weeks ahead.

\$3.2 million is not an inconsequential number. Nor is it an unattainable goal. Time and time again, we've proven ourselves to be exceptionally caring parishioners and faithful stewards. And with your help, we will once again.

Holy Comforter Vision

We are a vibrant community, challenging and committing ourselves to serve Christ through Discipleship, Stewardship, Worship, and Leadership



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