

FORWARD IN FAITH

BUILDING FOR COMMUNITY

April 15, 2008

THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE HOLY COMFORTER CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

Issue 2

Focus on Christian Education

The three focus areas of Holy Comforter's Capital Campaign are Christian Education, Outreach and Music. In a series of newsletters we will provide you with more information on each of these topics so you know what is being proposed and discussed, and how plans are designed to fulfill mission at Holy Comforter. The focus of this particular newsletter will be Christian Education.

Also, in this newsletter you will learn how the parish responded to the Information Sessions held in November and December. Where questions were asked or concerns were raised, the Planning and Building Committees met to address those, and their responses are detailed in this newsletter.

From the Chair

Gail and Tom Fennimore
Capital Campaign Co-Chairs



Holy Comforter is on the brink of a very, very exciting adventure. It's a journey made only a handful of times in this parish's one-hundred-five-year history -- once every generation or so. A Capital Campaign will soon be launched. Building renovations and new construction should soon follow. For the latest version of this oft-repeated parish journey, we have the honor of being your pilots. We thank you for the opportunity to chair the 2008 Capital Campaign.

This will be our second capital campaign at Holy Comforter. The first time, in the late 1980s, we were young parents of two elementary school boys. We can still remember the energy, spirit

Building Committee

For over a year, the Building Committee worked in parallel and in partnership with the Planning Committee to develop a building design that accommodates stated needs. Each of these members has given countless hours of dedicated service to work through a plan that best serves our needs within a budget we feel is achievable.

William Siler, Chair
Chris Ravenberg, Vestry Liaison
Holly Williams, Parish Administrator

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|-----------------|--------------|
| Frank Alexander | Terry Jordan |
| Lisa Anderson | Liz Lovell |
| Steve Bassett | Bob Murphy |
| Freddy Burks | Kevin Utsey |
| Nancy Crown | |

and love as the Holy Comforter family came together to plan, build and celebrate God's grace and the then-new facilities. And we remember the challenge, and the pride, we felt as we, with God's help, made our campaign pledge.

Over the ensuing years we have been inspired and supported again and again through our worship at Holy Comforter and by its clergy and parishioners. Healed and energized within our parish home, we have gone forth from Holy Comforter "to love and serve the world."

Now, through the proposed program of building and renovations, the 2008 Capital Campaign will enable all of us to again improve the settings in which we and our children are spiritually nourished and from which Holy Comforter supports and launches many ministries.



Dedicated Space for Children

Each week, a Holy Comforter Weekday School classroom for three year olds is transformed into a sacred space called an atrium rather than a classroom.

The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd is a Montessori based religious formation program for children ages 3 to 12. Both the children and teachers, known as Catechists, listen, ponder, and celebrate the most essential mysteries of our faith as revealed in the Scripture and the Liturgy in the sacred space of the atrium.

The Catechesis materials are designed to encourage girls and boys to deepen their relationship with God through hands-on experiences. However, each Sunday after church, the atrium materials have to be moved to make the space ready for use on Monday by the Weekday School. During the process of moving each week, the special handmade child-sized materials suffer excessive wear and tear.

Also, due to the limited space we have now at Holy Comforter, we are unable to offer this experience

Children are actually quite spiritual if we just listen to them and provide a space for them to explore their relationship with God.

Beth Armour, Catechist for over 10 years

to our children until they are four years old. Although we have a trained catechist for children ages 9-12, we are unable to offer Catechesis to these children because there is no available space.



Each Sunday, Catechesis teachers, volunteers and children move atrium materials

Youth Ministries

It's quite possible that the youth at Holy Comforter know our facilities better than anyone. For years the YAC has served as the home for youth Christian education classes on Sunday and other activities. EYC meets in Henry Hall and the Journey to Adulthood (J2A) pilgrimage class meets upstairs in the Youth Minister's office. They've even held a class on the former stage in Henry Hall, among ladders and all sorts of stored equipment. They are frequently on a search to find space where they can meet to share fellowship and hear God's word. Truly they are the nomads of Holy Comforter.

With the introduction of J2A, Youth Ministries is growing and needs four classrooms on Sunday mornings. The youth room upstairs lacks sufficient space for the J2A pilgrimage class as the

room serves as the Youth Minister's office. On Sunday evenings the EYC often has a difficult time finding the appropriate space for scheduled activities.

Yes kids are flexible, but they are also very observant. They know that they are relegated to second-class space. As we continue to grow and attract new families, the kids are often a deciding factor in choosing a church. And our facility will make a statement for how welcoming we are.

If we build it they will come. Youth Ministries is excited about the possibilities this Capital Campaign can bring, from bricks and mortar to the creative opportunities our youth will have to serve our neighbors in Charlotte.



What Youth Say About the Capital Campaign

"I hope that the new facility is bigger and cleaner than the YAC"

"Have more youth room space for sleepovers and lock-ins"

"A place for contemplation"

"Our commitment to expanding our parish facilities enables us to provide our youth with more opportunities to grow spiritually on a personal level, as well as a broader, community-based level."

Dwight Francis, Vestry Liaison for Youth Ministries



Adults Need Space Too



The Lord be with you - CLINK
And also with you - CRASH

Not exactly a joyful noise unto the Lord, but this is the all too common sound of adult Christian Education in Henry Hall. When you share space with parishioners finishing breakfast, it can make for some interesting distractions.

Teaching Adult Christian Education with our current facility requires patience and flexibility. We really only have two classrooms in the Parish House - the very large Henry Hall and the very small Room 202. The Library can also function as a small room when needed.

Recently a class called Contemplative Journey tried to explore various contemplative practices, different ways of praying and exploring spiritual life. Starting in Room 202, the size was right but the lighting was bad. The following week, to avoid the noise of a large gathering in Henry Hall, the

class moved to the Music Room downstairs. When the overhead lights were turned off in favor of a lamp, the effect was more ghostly and creepy than meditative. So the next week they tried the Library. After rearranging furniture and placing a CD player in a chair, all was fine - except for overhearing every word spoken in Room 202 next door. The whole idea was to be contemplative, but the experience was often one of disruption and constant movement.

As a parish we have becoming very adept at "making it work" with what we've got. But imagine how much more appealing and attractive Christian Education would be if the room were comfortable, the right size, and free from noisy distractions. And audio-visual support was readily available.



"I dream of the day when we can have Boy Scout meetings and Outreach Committee and small prayer groups and many other events going on simultaneously."

The Rev Sally Johnston

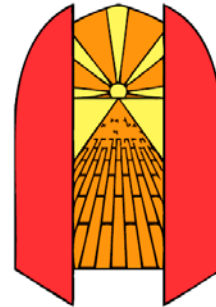


Campaign Theme

The theme for Holy Comforter's Capital Campaign is "Forward in Faith: Building for Community". We have always been known for reaching out to support our faith community as well as those outside our physical facility.

Our buildings serve as home base for our mission, and over the years they have served us well. We have been blessed by gifts from previous generations to have a beautiful place for worship, fellowship and outreach. But we can always do more, and improvements to our facility will help.

As represented in the theme and logo, the Capital Campaign is about opening our doors and moving forward down the path of fulfilling mission - to grow our faith by building community among ourselves and those in need in the broader world.



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BUILDING FOR COMMUNITY

Next Newsletter

Focus on Outreach



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