

Capital Campaign Newsletter



By now many of you have heard about the work that we are looking to do with the church house and the resources that will be needed to make that happen. On January 5 we had a congregational meeting to discuss and share about the progress of the campaign. During that meeting we went over again the five priorities that the Church House requires before we do anything else (windows, exterior repair, bathrooms, asbestos abatement, heating system) and a sense of how much the work will cost. Since that meeting the Trustees have formed a Project Committee, chaired by Jan Fletcher, to oversee the construction, and be a liaison between the work and the board of Trustees. Since we did not get any positive response from the two contractors we originally asked to offer bids, the Project Committee reached out to an architect (Cindy Gerlach from 401 Designs) and hired her to help guide us through the process. This is all done through the approval of the board of Trustees.

Also, at that January 5 meeting, we met Lauren Doty and learned about the fundraising aspect of the campaign. Currently we are estimating the cost to be at least 500k, but it could very likely be more. Lauren is helping us to not only create opportunities for individuals to make 3-5 year pledges to this campaign, but to connect with different foundations that may offer grants for the repairs.

Finally, all who were at the meeting got into four groups: 1) those who want to gather stories of the history of the Church House, 2) those who feel called to connect with people who may have moved or fallen to the margins of church life and would still be supportive, 3) those who would like to host gatherings for people to learn more about the campaign and make a pledge of support, and 4) those who fall into the "other" category who have a passion for the ministry and the work, but are still hearing how God is going to work with them. Each group discussed ways they can be involved and helpful and had a representative of the Generosity Committee with them. In this month we will be looking to see how those plans and discussions can be put into action.

The major point that we were trying to share at this campaign is that it is YOUR campaign. If you are a part of the First Baptist family, if you have fond memories of the Church House and great hopes for what can be done in that building, then this is YOUR campaign. We are all called to connect with others, to share stories, to host opportunities, and to make a financial commitment. Keep an eye out for more information about the campaign and the building projects, and as always if you have questions please ask!

Peace,
Pastor Malone

Thoughts shared by Christine Ellingwood – the Campaign Chair – at the January 5 meeting

Good morning,

I was so honored to be asked to be chair for this project. I love this space and I love this church and I see great potential with all the proposed updates. As I was thinking of how I have been a part of this space over the years, I was a little surprised by the length of my list!! A teacher, a

board member, a youth leader, a parent, a May breakfast participant, Kids Week, Hanging of the Greens, Pie contests, Fellowship Café, numerous meals, blood drives, events for the memorial fund I help run and I won't bore you with the rest! Many of you have been a part of this church for many years. You or your parents have taken part in a May Breakfast, or attended or taught a Sunday school class, been on a board, enjoyed Fellowship Café, attended a pot luck supper, or even come on a day where you have donated blood, or attended a baby shower. How long is your list in how you have been a part of this space? We have great space, but it needs updates so that we can continue to entertain, teach, meet and welcome all into our church family. Currently, our space limits us. We don't have the handicap access that we need, and we aren't able to use of all the space that we have due to asbestos. Our children and grandchildren will be the next generations to use the space and if it is going to continue to provide the services we all enjoy, we need to make the changes now. What do we need to make this happen? Well unfortunately, as much as we would like to plant a money tree on the property and pick from it, Jonathan was unable to secure one, so we are asking our congregation to help us reach our goal of \$500,000. Fortunately, we have already raised almost \$100,00, so we are on our way (*editor's note – as of the sending of this newsletter, we are now at \$120,000*). We would love if we could get 100% participation with the giving for this renovation project, that would be ideal and whatever you are comfortable giving, would be appreciated and put toward the completion of this project. You are able to start giving in February and know that as a part of this congregation, we are helping to continue our wonderful programs and grow many more for years to come.

First Baptist Church of East Greenwich – A Vision for the Church House

Leading people to faith, hope, and love in Jesus Christ.

We are a church community that want to be hospitable and welcoming. We are a people who look to serve others every way that we can. Walk around the Church House, visit the Church House, and you will quickly note that First Baptist Church in East Greenwich is a people who want to be welcoming of all people from all walks of life and wants to use the Church House as a way to reach out and connect. You will notice and see real, tangible ways that the community is leading people to faith, hope, and love in Jesus Christ.