

Sanctuary Renovation Fund

When the church acquired the building at 500 I Street, we knew immediately that we would have to make changes to the building to make it our new “home”. Phase 1 was to renovate the fellowship hall, classrooms, and offices, to make the spaces habitable for the congregation. Phase 2 was to be the renovation of the sanctuary with all its antiquated systems. We had an unexpected benefactor step in at the end of Phase 1 who offered to help us restore the exterior of the church. Of course we said, “yes”, and as a result, we have a gorgeous “new” restored exterior that has won many awards for the restoration. The church has successfully completed Phases 1 and 3 of the church’s building renovations; it is now time to refocus on Phase 2, the sanctuary renovation.

In November 2009, the church undertook to raise \$1.5 million in 2010 to supplement the roughly \$1 million already in the church Building Fund. The objective is to raise sufficient funds to start the design of the sanctuary renovation, since total renovation costs are expected to be \$3 million. We trust God that if we can raise the \$1.5 million, we can raise the remaining funds during the design and construction process. The renovation will provide the congregation with a much safer, greatly more energy efficient and comfortable sanctuary in which to worship God.

There are those that question the need to renovate the sanctuary, and while those that question the need are correct in asking the question, the reasons for a sanctuary renovation are many. As a church, we can wait until things break, and then do the repairs, or we can be good stewards of the building we have been entrusted with, and take care of the problems that we know exist, before catastrophic failures occur. The systems we wish to replace – the sanctuary ceiling, the electrical wiring, and the heating and air conditioning systems, are all antiquated and capable of causing a major negative event in our church. Details on the objectives of the renovation were covered in the Summer 2010 church newsletter.

In order to aid in fund raising efforts, the Fundraising Committee has approved a means of recognizing significant donors in one central prominent location in the church. Once the Sanctuary Renovation is complete, a “donor tree” will be installed on the Fifth Street side of the Hung Memorial Hall between the two southern-most windows. The existing wainscot will be modified, and the “tree” will utilize most of the width and height of the space between the windows. The tree will be of metal, with donors’ names on metal leaves and acorns on the tree, and on metal stones at the base of the tree. The leaves will be colored in gold, silver, and copper to recognize the level of giving. Donation level recognition will be thus:

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| 1. Copper leaves | \$500 to \$5,000 |
| 2. Silver leaves | \$5,001 to \$24,999 |
| 3. Gold leaves | \$25,000 to \$49,999 |
| 4. Acorns | \$50,000 to \$99,999 |
| 5. Medium stones | \$100,000 to \$249,999 |
| 6. Large stones | \$250,000 and up |
| 7. A dedicated plaque next to the tree | \$1,000,000 and up |

A legend will be placed next to the tree explaining the donation ranges for each color leaf, acorn, and stone. For those designating their funds for a specific use within the project, a line on the respective leaf/stone will state, “pew”, “stained glass window”, “chancel”, etc. The picture of the donor tree that accompanies this article is representative of what can be installed, but is not necessarily the tree we will be installing.

It is hoped that the church and its friends will be motivated to pledge sufficient funds to get started on the drawings necessary for the renovation this calendar year. The nation’s economy is still in recovery mode; the local construction industry is far from fully utilized, and a construction project at this time would be able to take advantage of the competition between firms for our business. The church would benefit greatly from the resultant sharpened pencils and lowered pricing for the work. But the economy has to rebound at some point, and we as a congregation should move rapidly to take advantage of the current economic malaise.

THE GIVING TREE

