

October 15, 2008

Dear Friends,

As I write the Choragic Monument is being returned to its place atop our sanctuary for what we all hope will be at least another 163 years. Thank you for making that dream a reality! Now there is more to come . . .

The Prudential Committee and the Board of Trustees have authorized our Implementation Team to hold a series of **Open Congregational Hearings** this month on a “Phase II” proposal for our “First Church – Second Home – Third Century” work. Two of the meetings are scheduled for Sunday mornings after the 10 o’clock service – October 19 and 26. For those who will be away on both of those weekends, a third “Hearing” will be held on Tuesday evening, October 28, at 7:00 in the Chapel. Please plan to join us both to hear the proposal and to offer your suggestions as to how it might be revised. Our hope is to have a final proposal ready for your authorization next month.

Phase I of our work is well underway and should be basically complete by the onset of winter. It includes repairing and restoring the – midway elevator, Chapel / Midway / Education-wing heating system, Choragic monument, Chapel steps, sanctuary column bases, double-hung windows in the Chapel and Sanctuary buildings, sanctuary roof, Education wing windows, and all exterior wood surfaces. We estimate the total cost for this work to be \$711,400. Additionally, our Campaign Expenses last Fall totaled \$72,700. As of September 30, 2008, we’ve received income of \$873,000 (47% of our total pledges).

The proposal for Phase II calls for “Repair and Restore” work encompassing our Dining Room, the Sanctuary Portico steps, and the north wall of the sanctuary. It envisions bringing the fire alarm system throughout our facilities up to code, and removing an obsolete oil tank buried under our driveway. Significantly, Phase II also calls for “Renew” work to build a small two-story addition to the Midway building, giving us a new entryway with an ADA-compliant elevator, much improved access to the sanctuary, and new offices for our clergy on the second floor of the Midway which will be handicap-accessible. With a “contingency allowance” of 10%, and a “pledge payment discount” of 5%, we project this will cost \$1,145,400.

It is an ambitious vision the Implementation Team is asking us to consider. Your input is absolutely vital to it. Please plan to participate in at least one of the Congregational Hearings . . . and thank you (again and again) for making all this possible.

Peace,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be the name 'Bob' written in a cursive, flowing style.