



First United Methodist Church

# Campaign News

## One Campaign, Two Purposes

By Kelly Hayworth,  
Finance Committee Chair

As we prepare for Celebration Sunday, we are asking people to prayerfully consider a special commitment to our church. This year's fall campaign will support two vitally important purposes. On November 15, we will invite members of our congregation to consider both their annual pledge in support of our 2010 ministry budget and a one-time gift to our capital fund, payable over three years.

The Finance Committee met on October 7 to consider First Church's proposed ministry budget for the year ahead. The committee approved a budget of \$885,934, which represents an increase of \$26,739 over our 2009 budget. Three items in our budget account for most of that change:

- **Our conference apportionments have increased by \$5,450.**
- **The cost for staff health insurance rose 24 percent over the prior year.**
- **We have included a part-time custodial position in our budget for 2010.**

As you begin to consider your response to our combined campaign this fall, remember that as important as our facility needs are, our most important purpose as a church is our daily ministries to one another and to the larger community. **Please continue your generous support for our annual campaign.** Our budgeted need will increase in 2010, and we pray that your support will as well.

As you also consider support for our capital fund, please keep in mind that we are asking that your gift to the capital campaign come in addition to your support for our annual budget, not in place of it. Please join us in equipping our church for continued service.



### Upcoming Events

PRAYER WALKS

Sun., Oct. 18

Sun., Oct. 25

*Walks begin at the Jefferson St. door after each service.*

STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

Tues., Oct. 20, 5:30 p.m.

AMBASSADOR TRAINING

Tues., Oct. 20, 7:00 p.m.

Wed., Oct. 21, 12:00 p.m.

EVENTS TEAM MEETING

Mon., Oct. 26, 6:00 p.m.

## Celebration Sunday November 15

10:00 a.m. Worship Service

11:30 a.m. Church Dinner

We will celebrate our fall campaign with an all-church worship service followed by a catered meal at the Old Brick. Please confirm your attendance by RSVPing to the church office.

214 East Jefferson Street

Iowa City, Iowa 52245

(319) 337-2857

[www.icfirstchurch.org](http://www.icfirstchurch.org)

# Join Us at an **Upcoming Informational Event**

Over the next few weeks, we are encouraging church members to gather together for dialogue about our church and its future, our plans for facility renewal, and our fall campaign. These meetings are opportunities to share hopes and concerns and to ask questions about our plans as you and your family determines possible participation in the ***Renew – Rededicate – Rejoice*** campaign. These are not fundraising events and you will not be asked for a gift or a pledge as part of the gathering.

You may already have received a personal invitation by mail to one of these events. In addition to those listed below, additional events will be held in early November. Many in our church have generously offered their time and homes to serve as hosts and speakers. Please help them in their planning by responding promptly with your intentions.

These are important days for the life and future of First Church. Please make the time to join us in conversation and discernment as we prepare ourselves for Celebration Sunday on November 15.



**Pastor John and Pastor Paul help youth raise funds for First Church's capital campaign.**

## OCTOBER *Informational Events*

### **October 18**

Charlie & Connie Funk, 6:30 p.m.

### **October 19**

Jim & Connie Olson, 7:00 p.m.

### **October 20**

Francine Rath, 6:30 p.m.

### **October 21**

Oaknoll, 6th Floor Lounge, 3:00 p.m.  
Jean & Martin Hill, 6:00 p.m.  
Bluegrass Affinity Group, 7:00 p.m.

### **October 22**

Nancy & Dick Johns, 6:00 p.m.

### **October 25**

Doug & Jan Herman, 6:30 p.m.  
Madeline Sullivan, 6:30 p.m.  
Duane & Virginia Means, 6:30 p.m.

### **October 26**

Bernie Mulford, 9:00 a.m.

### **October 28**

David & Susan Dozark, 6:00 p.m.  
Don & Marilyn Shurr, 6:30 p.m.

### **October 29**

Rev. Paul & Marcia Akin, 7:00 p.m.

### **October 31**

Steve Marner, 7:30 a.m.

## ***Why Give to the Church and Support It?***

***By George Dane, Honorary Chair***

It is bigger than any pastor or member. It is an important part of our community. It is factor in making Iowa City a great place to raise a family and to earn a living.

All this did not just happen. Those who preceded us created the environment for a good living. They laid the groundwork, sacrificed so money was available. They cooperated and worked together to make Iowa City the place that it is. We are the beneficiaries of all that has gone before and has been given to us.

The church gives me togetherness and fellowship. It gives me memories and renewal of spirit.

It helps to dispel loneliness and isolation. It teaches me lessons from the past and rules for living. It gives me hope and faith for facing an uncertain future.

It has nurtured our children and grandchildren in love. It gave them guidance for a world filled with temptations and dangers. As parents we were encouraged, supported, and comforted by it in times of sickness and sorrow.

We need to respond to the church and give back to it as generously as it has given to us with our time, abilities, prayers, money, and presence.

How can there be comfort or the beginning of the healing process from sorrow or grief if there is no one to give expressions of support and feeling? What is a Sunday School without a teacher? What is a choir if no one is there? What is a church picnic or work session if no one shows up?

We have been blessed.  
We have been given so much.

## FOLLOW OUR PROGRESS ONLINE:

Visit First Church's web site to learn more about our fall campaigns. There you can download past newsletters, gather more detailed information about our plans, and much more.

[www.icfirstchurch.org](http://www.icfirstchurch.org)



# Questions & ANSWERS

**Why are we planning to replace our current elevator rather than repairing it and bringing it up to code?**

The operating license of our elevator will expire in 2010. In order to continue its operation, the church would need to either spend tens of thousands of dollars to refurbish it and bring it up to current code standards or replace it with more modern equipment.

The existing elevator is too small and slow to adequately serve the needs of our congregation. It provides a particular challenge for funerals at the church, as it cannot transport a casket to our sanctuary. These issues would persist even if we spent significant funds to refurbish the elevator.

The church has concluded the best long-term investment to welcome members of our congregation with limited mobility is to replace rather than repair our elevator. This investment will serve the needs of our church today and for many years to come.

**The project list includes maintaining the stained glass windows. Didn't we already raise money to repair the Rose Window?**

Yes. Professionals who assessed the condition of our sanctuary windows alerted us to the need to re-lead panes and replace failing supports. The Rose Window required the most immediate care and was repaired earlier this year through generous support for a special offering by the congregation.

The funds budgeted for stained glass window repair as part of our capital campaign are for the remaining windows in the sanctuary.

**Will First Church take on debt in the process of completing its building renovation project?**

Congregations undertaking renovation and expansion plans generally rely on short-term lending to begin work on their projects. This construction financing is extended based on the financial pledge commitments shared by members of the church with the expectation that the loan would be fulfilled within three to five years. First Church anticipates making similar arrangements to fund the beginning of its renovations.

It is our hope and expectation that the **Renew – Rededicate – Rejoice** campaign will raise sufficient funds to complete all of our intended projects. If that is not the case, the Church Board will determine whether the best course is scale back the scope of our projects or to take on a modest mortgage.

**What is the process between Celebration Sunday and the actual beginning of construction?**

Once we have received financial commitments from members on November 15, our Building Committee will invite contractors to submit construction bids. These bids will help us refine our project budget.

The Building Committee and Finance Committee will offer recommendations about selecting a contractor and the scope of renovations to undertake to the Church Board. The Church Board holds the responsibility of hiring a contractor and approving the undertaking of our renovation project. We expect these decisions to be made in Winter 2010.

# Reflections

*from our congregation*

**My vision for the church is to be the branches for the vine of Jesus Christ** so that each of us can bear the fruit of meaningful, passionate worship; intentional faith formation to develop a personal relationship with God; radical hospitality to welcome and involve everyone; mission and service to fulfill the words of Jesus Christ... all supported by the extravagant generosity to support this vision. — *Lorna Cress*

**We were married here at First United Methodist Church in 1976.** Peggy's family has attended here for many years. Since our marriage, this congregation has played an important part in our lives and in our faith development. Our children have also benefited greatly from belonging to this congregation. It is our prayer that this congregation and church will be as important in the life of our granddaughter, Gwendolyn, as it has been in ours. — *Rev. John and Peggy Raab*

**Our hope for First United Methodist Church** is that we can honor our heritage while moving forward into the future. We believe that a church that maintains the status quo stagnates. In a healthy church, members expand their faith through reaching out to others, while rededicating their lives to Christ's mission. — *Paul and Pam Ries*

**I have been a Methodist all my life.** My wife and children have gone to several Methodist church's and have benefited from the strong string of faith messages that come down from our founders. We must make sure we can offer this message to those who follow us, and it is important that we can maintain the physical structures as much as we maintain the faith structure. This remodeling demonstrates our commitment to be here for those who follow and need a faith home. — *Bill Burger*

**As chair of the Thanks Team,** I look forward to working with my team volunteers to find appropriate ways to thank members of this church who support our capital campaign. Through volunteering on teams, keeping this campaign in our prayers, and by supporting the campaign through our monetary gifts, we all can lovingly update our beautiful building and make it function in better ways. I am praying for member support of this campaign and I'm excited about what the FUMC building can become for future members! — *Sue Mullins*

**Being part of the life of First United Methodist Church** has helped our family collectively and as individuals grow in faith, love, and charity. Throughout our entire association with our fellow congregants we have received more than we have given. It is in the love of our Lord and Savior that we want to advance the spiritual journey for all who enter our midst. It is the right time for our structure to have a new and welcoming face both in the human context and in the structural context. — *Linda Fink*

## *Stewardship Prayer*

God of abundant grace,  
Renew our hearts and minds in your  
Spirit that we may know your love.

As we rededicate our lives to attain  
this mission, we are grateful for all  
those who laid the foundation  
of this church for future generations.

It is now our time to continue  
to keep this church vital, accessible  
and welcoming while providing funds  
for future mission work.

We rejoice in our challenge and opportunity  
to fulfill the continuing vision for  
First United Methodist Church of Iowa City.

Please hear our prayers and bless our  
contributions that we may fulfill the  
discipleship of your Son and  
our Savior, Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

*Celebration Sunday is November 15*