



First United Methodist Church

September 2009  
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# Campaign News

## Preparing for Our Future

*By Phil and Joyce Leff  
Capital Campaign Co-Chairs*

We are honored by the opportunity to serve as co-chairs for the capital campaign First United Methodist Church has undertaken. This is a momentous time for us as a church, as we consider how best to prepare for our future together.

We are encouraged by how readily people have stepped forward to help plan and lead our campaign. Over fifty members of our church have already offered their time and talents to this effort as members of one of our six planning teams (Prayer, Events, Thanks, Youth, Ambassadors, and Communications). We encourage you to consider joining with us in preparing for our Commitment Sunday on November 15.

We are blessed to be part of a vibrant faith community. As co-chairs, we have every confidence that together we can undertake the projects that have been proposed to extend our welcome and to lovingly maintain our church. Our goal is well within our reach if we move forward together as a community.

In the weeks ahead, members of our church will be sharing hopes and dreams for our life together and details of our plans through written updates like this and at special events. You will find the hopes shared by many of our leaders in the pages of this newsletter. We look forward to hearing your thoughts and prayers as well as we prepare to renew our commitment to First United Methodist Church.



### Upcoming Events

**Kick-Off Sunday**  
Sun., Sept. 20

**Commitment  
Sunday**  
Sun., Nov. 15

**Capital  
Campaign  
Kick-Off**

SAVE THE DATE!

**Sunday,  
Sept. 20, 2009**

Join us as we celebrate the beginning of our fall campaign in worship, prayer, and fellowship.

214 East Jefferson Street  
Iowa City, Iowa 52245  
(319) 337-2857  
[www.icfirstchurch.org](http://www.icfirstchurch.org)

# Volunteers Gather to Support Capital Campaign

On Sunday, August 23, several dozen members of First United Methodist Church gathered to begin planning for our capital campaign. We plan to spend much of the fall joining in prayer, reflection, and dialogue about our church and our future together as we ask people to consider making a financial commitment to our fundraising effort.

Together, we will work to preserve the beauty of our worship space, provide improved access for members with limited mobility, enhance a spirit of community by expanding gathering areas, make our entries more welcoming and inviting, and provide a suitable space for food preparation.

Several teams of volunteers have begun gathering to prepare for our Commitment Sunday on

November 15. Campaign teams will help communicate our church's plans, invite members to gather for fellowship and conversation, prepare us to prayerfully reflect on the future of our church, involve our youth in our efforts, and honor the commitment of our donors and volunteers.

## **It is not too late to join us!**

Simply contact one of the leaders listed to the right to find out what you can do to help and when their team will next meet.

Your commitment would be short-term. Teams expect to meet 4-6 times, and their work will be completed by the end of this year. Please consider helping First Church celebrate our achievements and prepare for our future together.

## CAMPAIGN LEADERS

**Phil & Joyce Leff,  
Campaign Chairs**

**George & Marj Dane,  
Honorary Chairs**

**John & Allie Dane,  
Honorary Chairs**

**Charlie & Connie Funk,  
Honorary Chairs**

**Lorna Cress,  
Prayer Team Chair**

**David Dozark,  
Events Team Chair**

**Sue Mullins,  
Thanks Team Chair**

**Tricia Ross,  
Youth Team Chair**

**Bill Burger,  
Ambassadors Team  
Chair**

**Paul & Pam Ries,  
Communications  
Team Chairs**

**Rev. Paul Akin,  
Steering Committee**

**Michael Barron,  
Steering Committee**

**Linda Fink,  
Steering Committee**

**Kelly Hayworth,  
Steering Committee**

**Peter Hubbard,  
Steering Committee**

**John & Ronda Marshall,  
Steering Committee**

**Rev. John Raab,  
Steering Committee**

**Kent Swaim,  
Steering Committee**

**Jeff Susor,  
Campaign Consultant**

## Campaign Teams @ Work

The **Prayer Team** has prepared a prayer to guide our campaign efforts. They look forward to sharing the prayer with the congregation as part of our campaign kick-off on September 20.

The **Events Team** is planning a series of informational events. If you are willing to help host a small event in your home, please contact David Dozark.

The **Thanks Team** welcomes its many new members. We are planning ways to share our church's appreciation with the many members who will help make our plans a reality in the months ahead.

The **Youth Team** spoke with the youth group last week. They are excited to help support our capital campaign and are planning two fundraisers – a car wash and a bake sale. *Watch for us this fall!*

The **Ambassadors Team** will begin meeting soon. We are looking for members who can help us explain plans to our members and answer questions people might have. If you are able to serve as one of our ambassadors, contact Bill Burger or watch for notice of our first meeting.

The **Communications Team** has selected a slogan for the campaign and is now working to choose a logo.





**First United Methodist Church is asking members to consider a significant investment in our future together. As we prepare for Commitment Sunday, we will continue to answer questions about our capital campaign and renovation plans.**

### How is a capital campaign different from our annual pledge?

First Church is sustained by the annual pledges and gifts of members. These gifts pay our monthly, yearly, and on-going expenses (i.e. staff salaries, utilities, and ministry costs). Funds raised through our capital campaign, on the other hand, will be devoted to maintaining and renovating our facility.

Both gifts are essential to the life of the church – one to sustain our ministries and the other to support our long-term vision. Our hope is that any gift to the campaign is above and beyond your current support for First Church, not in place of an annual pledge.

### What is the total cost of our renovation plan?


Our current estimate is that our total plan will cost approximately \$1.25 million. This figure is based on our architect's best estimates to address maintenance and renovation priorities for the church as well as contingency funds and a mission endowment. As we work with contractors to seek formal project bids, we will continue to update the congregation regarding a more detailed budget.

### Is our campaign goal realistic, especially in a time of recession?

Yes, we believe we can reach the goal required to fully implement our planned renovations. During our pre-campaign study, a large majority of our congregation indicated a willingness to give a special gift above and beyond their annual support for the church to support the projects we have proposed. We would not have moved forward with a capital campaign this fall if we did not think our goal was attainable.

We recognize that the past year has brought difficult economic news and that fundraising might be more of a challenge than at another time. However, we live in a community that has weathered the recession better than most, and our campaign commitment period will extend for three years. We are confident that between now and 2012 our congregation is fully able to fund the required investment in our church's future if people's hearts are moved.

It has been twenty years since we last undertook a project of this scope. At that time our church set and exceeded a goal higher than we anticipate requiring during this campaign. Other churches of similar size within our conference have successfully undertaken building projects of this size and larger. We believe we can experience the same success that they have.



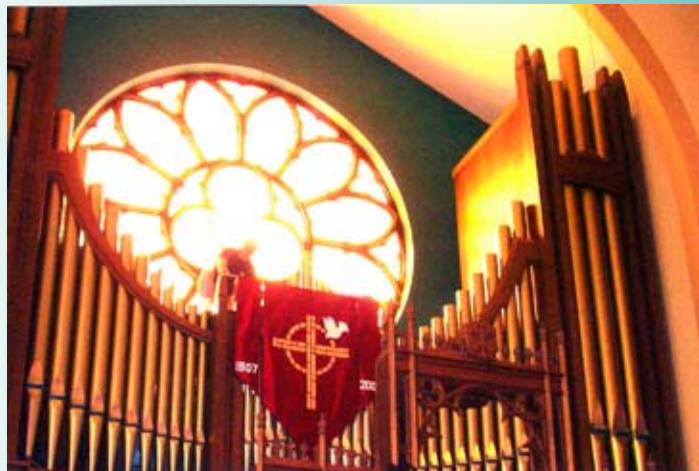
# Reflections

*from our congregation*

**God of grace and mercy**, the Hope of all generations to come, may this building which we seek to renew and rededicate to your name, be a house of salvation and peace where Christians old and new may gather together to worship you in spirit and in truth and to grow together in true Christian community, as we rejoice in love made known to us through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. Amen. ~ *Rev. Paul Akin*

## **Since moving to Iowa City,**

First Church has played an important role in our lives and in the lives of our family. Among other things, we witnessed the Appalachian Service Project have a major and positive impact in the lives of each of our children. First Church is now poised to move forward so that it may continue to expand its outreach and continue to make a positive difference in many lives. That's why we actively support and endorse this campaign. ~ *Charlie & Connie Funk*



**Fifty-six years ago**, we were married in this church, and we've had the privilege of enjoying the music, ministries, and fellowship in this beautiful, lovingly maintained building for all these years. We have slowly grown to realize that this was a result of the caring generosity of the generations before us. Now it is our turn. We are happy to be a part of this very important campaign to assure that First United Methodist Church is better prepared to meet the challenge of the future. ~ *Phil & Joyce Leff*

**In the life of every church**, times come when, in order to continue its mission to serve God and spread the good news of Jesus Christ, it must go through its own time of renewal. For First United Methodist Church, the time is now. To be true to the church we have known and take it forward into the future we need to invest in ourselves, and renovation is a visible sign of our rededication to our commitment to the mission of the faith. ~ *Peter Hubbard*

**I have been a part of the process** for updating our building since 2005. I am looking forward to having a facility with a more modern interior which appeals to both visitors and members while retaining its promise as an historical downtown church. There is so much that our church has to offer, but we need to refurbish for the future. ~ *David Dozark*

First United Methodist Church