

### What is this project about?

Our "Renewing God's House" project is comprised of five parts:

- Pave our parking lot
- Address sanctuary foundation issues that are causing water infiltration in order to renovate the Youth Room and bathrooms nearest the sanctuary
- Finish the interior elevator that was a planned part of the Fellowship Hall addition
- Update the Manse so that it may be rented for income
- Renovate the Sanctuary and repair our stained glass

1

2

### Who approved this project?

This campaign was approved by Session after a year-long visioning process that included members of all ages, and a year of exploring the cost and feasibility of each improvement.

## FAQs

RENEWING GOD'S HOUSE



A Great Heritage, A Great Future

# Capital Campaign

for Alexandria First Presbyterian Church

### Why are we doing this?

We want to undertake these important updates to ensure our church is welcoming, accessible, well-maintained, and healthy for years to come. We want our youth to feel appreciated and welcomed into a warm, dry, attractive and functional space. We want community visitors & members to enter a well-cared for, functional parking space that is easy to navigate in all seasons; whether permanently or temporarily disabled, and relieve the building & property team from the burden of extra parking lot maintenance. We want visitors & members to enter & circulate throughout the building, without undue difficulty or embarrassment. The sanctuary is where we come to worship. We want to build on what the generations before us have provided for our use and maintain God's House to reflect His glory for the next generation.

### What is the timeline for this work?

We will undertake the projects when the funds are raised.

4

5

### How do we plan on paying for this?

All projects will be paid for by the funds raised over the next three years for the Renewing God's House campaign.

### What is the cost?

After a process of receiving multiple bids, our estimate to complete the projects is \$350,000.

### What are the key dates?

- 5/7/17 - Ministry Sunday
- 6/11/17 - First Fruits
- 5/21/17 - Commitment
- 6/18/17 - Celebration Sunday

8

7

### How will people be asked to commit?

There will be a variety of ways to join our campaign. Keep an eye out for invitations to home gatherings, and more information about how to make pledges over a 3-year period.

## Campaign Team

**Nicholas Hatch, Pastor**  
**Karl Nielsen, Chairperson**  
**Renee Skibinski, Coordinator**

**Communications Team**  
 Laura Navarro  
 Joan Carroll  
 Dee Maglio

**Youth & Children Team**  
 Cyndi McDowall  
 Athena McDowall

### Prayer Team

Barbara Pederson  
 Nancy Schumann  
 Steve Cameron  
 Clyde Branson

### Home Gathering Team

Howard Jones  
 Flora Nielsen  
 Jeanne Cole

Alice Hansen  
 Maureen Sutton  
 Charlie Tiedeman

### Connection Team

Pat Keefe  
 Doug Bondor  
 Keith Irwin  
 Eric Strangfeld

### Gratitude & Ministry Team

LuAnn Keefe  
 Marie Knapp  
 Jeri Bone  
 Jim Hansen

### BY KARL NIELSEN



Dear Church Members and Friends,

We are making amazing progress with our Capital Campaign. Each of you should have received an invitation to one of the home gatherings being held during the week of May 8, 2017. I encourage all of you to participate in an evening of fellowship as we discuss the campaign

and answer any questions you may have. And, as in any Presbyterian gathering, there will be refreshments provided for your enjoyment.

Please read this detailed brochure as I found it very helpful and enlightening. The FAQ's address many questions and the "Renewing God's House" sections detail each project with explanations of why they need to be completed. We have an opportunity to step up and show our gratitude through prayer and by using our time, talents and treasure.

Please pray "Lord, what do you want to do through me?" At the risk of plagiarizing JFK: Ask not "what your church can do for you", but ask "what can I do for my church". I challenge each of you to pray and make a commitment to this capital campaign.

Blessings,  
 Karl Nielsen, Campaign Chair

# Lord,

## What do you want to do through me?



1998  
 Fellowship Hall built; extensive renovations & sanctuary updates; roof repair

TODAY  
 Renewing God's House for a Great Future



1976  
 New carpet and fresh paint in the sanctuary

1963  
 Renovations; original organ replaced with present organ

1956  
 Two story Christian Ed. wing added



1887  
 Manse built



1802  
 Chapel built on grounds opposite site of present church

1842  
 Session approves new, bigger church



1752  
 English Presbyterian Church in Mt. Pleasant



## OUR MINISTRY IN ACTION!

### RENEWING GOD'S HOUSE

A Great Heritage, A Great Future

#### Introduction

The visioning for this campaign started about two years ago, but you might say that seeds had been planted by the generations who came before us. Looking at our history shows that each generation did the hard work necessary to ensure that God's House at Alexandria First was strong and enduring as well as welcoming – a commitment to our legacy.

After a process of dreaming, visioning, and information gathering by all ages, the Renewing God's House campaign comprises five projects.

#### 1. Improve the Parking Lot

The parking lot, though sufficient, is an on-going challenge to our Building & Property team volunteers. In winter, the team graciously gives their time to plow. After that, the work continues when spring comes and gravel must be re-spread, year after year. Ice & mud in winter, along with uneven gravel makes walking more treacherous for our seniors and disabled folks.

Our Christmas concerts and holiday attendance typically overflows the lot- which is a blessing and a curse. We love to welcome visitors! However, when guests cannot find parking quickly, it's likely they simply keep driving.

A paved lot would provide a more efficient entry for our church and the community that uses our building. Lines would add more spaces and be easier to maintain by our volunteers, with no need for spreading or purchasing gravel year after year.

#### 2. Youth Room Renovations

"Dark," "dank," "odiferous," "cold".

These are some of the descriptions people gave when asked what they thought of the Youth Room. It's not the most warm and welcoming place in the building! Yet time and again, folks highlighted the strength of our Youth programming at Alexandria First. Surveys overwhelmingly indicated that our youth are our top priority. Undertaking Youth Room renovations is meant to provide tangible proof of our strong commitment to our kids.

The bathrooms located in the Youth Room are the closest to the sanctuary but the least welcoming. Peeling wallpaper, old fixtures and evidence of water damage means that Ushers direct visitors to walk through the sanctuary, through the hall, and into Fellowship Hall to use restrooms instead of the more convenient facilities downstairs.

Currently, the foundation of the sanctuary building has a water infiltration problem so that moisture is penetrating the structure. It is peeling the paint and wall treatments in the downstairs, as well as creating a humidity problem in our organ closet.

Our goal is to address the moisture problem so that we can renovate the Youth Room and bathrooms. We want to create the warm, welcoming space our kids deserve, provide more functional and inviting restrooms, as well as maintain proper humidity in the organ closet.

#### 3. Interior Elevator

In 1997, our church took a leap of faith and raised the funds necessary to build a wonderful Fellowship Hall. At that time, a very large, successful fundraising effort ensured that we have a gathering space to enjoy for so many of our activities and ministries.

Planners had the forethought to allow the space for an interior elevator but decided to save the installation for another time.

We currently have a lift, which, while rusty and outdoors, is functional. If the lift is needed, one must get a key and find someone who knows how to operate it. Once inside our sanctuary, we want everyone to circulate throughout the building and enjoy fellowship. But those who may be least capable of extra walking must return to the sanctuary and again find that key and operator to assist them with the lift in order to exit the building. That does not provide the welcome we hope for: that visitors, members, and the community – whether permanently disabled, temporarily less capable of walking, or even pushing a baby stroller – are able to participate fully in the life inside our walls.

We plan to install an interior elevator so that everyone may enjoy worship and fellowship without the perceived stigma and hassle of using the exterior lift.

#### 4. Stained Glass & Sanctuary

Our sanctuary is the heart of our spiritual home. The years of love and use have taken a toll on our stained glass and the paint and decor in the space. Applying fresh paint and carpeting and removing the dated paneling will bring a fresh look to the sanctuary and restore its glory. Fixing the stained glass that is cracked in places will preserve its original beauty for the next generation to enjoy.

#### 5. Manse

*But wait! I thought we decided to tear it down!?*

Yes we did! Several years ago, a team did indeed recommend tearing down the Manse. Like many churches, we no longer needed the Manse as housing for our pastor, but we knew converting the building into a space for public use was cost prohibitive. Primarily, the decision was based on the assumption that it would be cheapest to demolish it. In addition, it was a headache for our church to be a landlord.

Unfortunately, we quickly learned that it would cost \$30,000 for demolition. Instead of taking an immediate hit to our budget, we reopened discussion about the best way to proceed. An alternative plan was developed where the money to demolish would instead be invested in updates to put the manse back on the rental market.

To alleviate the hassle and risk of being landlords, we propose using a rental agent, who would run background checks and manage the property. We could conservatively expect \$12,000 in annual income, after taxes and fees. This plan means we keep a large asset on our books, get closer to balancing our budget, and build our endowment: a promise to the next generations.

*Not an equal share,*  
**BUT AN EQUAL SACRIFICE**