



Pillars of Faith

2016 Capital Campaign

Chapel in the Pines Presbyterian Church

February 14, 2016, Capital Campaign Minute

The following is the Capital Campaign Minute to the congregation on Sunday, February 14, 2016, announcing the idea of building a Fellowship Hall now rather than way into the future:

Good morning. My name is Stan Campbell, Chair, Capital Campaign Committee. I have good news to share with you today.

(Heather Bogan and children interrupted Stan by coming from the Narthex with Lego blocks. Heather asked the children what they had in their hands and they shouted "Legos!" She then asked what they do with Legos and they shouted "we build things!" She then asked what they thought should be built and they shouted "a Fellowship Hall!" Heather then mentioned they did not have enough but she bet people in the congregation had some to share--which the congregation received when they got their bulletins. She said "go get them" and the children ran around the congregation collecting them in plastic bags. Heather helped them move toward the back and said to the congregation "they'll be building a Fellowship Hall for you!" The congregation clapped with approval.)

Stan started over.....

Fellowship Hall??? What a great idea. Let's see where this takes us!

Pillars. Pillars of Beauty. Pillars of Strength. **Pillars of Faith.**

These strong, beautiful pillars (Stan walked around to touch pillars) were built on faith by our 2010 congregation and friends when over \$800,000 was committed to buy this land and secure a mortgage.

That was the first of three campaigns required by the loan agreement with the Presbyterian Church USA. The second campaign was in 2013 when over \$300,000 was pledged to continue to pay down the mortgage.

Back to 2010. Those of you who were not members at that time, look up at these handsome and lasting pine pillars and you will see small round dowels holding them together, not nails nor screws. There's not one nail nor screw holding this roof up. That's Faith. **Pillars of Faith.**

Those dowels contained phrases on their sides written with sharpies by members of the 2010 congregation—perhaps in memory of a loved one, perhaps in honor of a living relative or friend, perhaps a favorite scripture message. They are all up there looking down upon you--the current pillars of faith--the congregation and staff and visitors. Yes, you are the 2016 pillars of this church.

Pillars of Faith. As Jerry Wehmueller, our treasurer, announced here last week, it's time for our third and final required campaign to pay down the mortgage. But, as witnessed by the enthusiasm of our children, youth, church committee members, the Session, deacons, staff, adult education leaders, and community groups who love our church and its mission, it's also (in addition to that loan requirement) time for us to enjoy the space and convenience and warmth and love of a beautiful Fellowship Hall, not years away, but now.

Meeting space for pot lucks (and we Presbyterians love our pot lucks, don't we?), wedding reception space, classroom space, Scottish dancing space, community space, Strobilus space, but just as important, indoor play space for our children and youth.

Pillars of Faith. (The Pillars of Faith Campaign logo and 8' wide banner was unveiled behind Stan by Bruce Raymond and Jerry Wehmueller). That's the name of the 2016 campaign to raise \$800,000---\$400,000 to pay down the mortgage on this beautiful space and education wing and \$400,000 to build the Fellowship Hall, which will be a mirror image of the education wing on the grassy area out front.

Now for more exciting news. Four members of our church have stepped forward to offer a challenge matching gift to the congregation of half the amount needed, to pay down the debt and so that a Fellowship Hall can be constructed within the next year. \$400,000 as a challenge of faith that will do our part to match that challenge via our personal pillar of faith.

Oh, and there's more good news. If the bids for the Fellowship Hall are lower than expected, we hope to pave the parking lot after the construction is completed. **May I hear an Amen!**

We need to secure \$400,000 in pledges for the challenge gift to be consummated. There are TODAY 50 more member households than in 2010 when that congregation pledged nearly \$800,000 in the first campaign. I feel confident this larger congregation can raise half that amount to meet the challenge gift. I trust you do, too.

Like the faith we have in these pillars every day hold up our roof, the Session, Finance Committee and Campaign Committee do indeed have faith that our larger congregation today can meet the challenge of \$400,000 to make the **Pillars of Faith** Campaign a grand success.

More to come over the next 90 days.....thank you in advance for your prayerful consideration of this important effort. **God bless you all.**