

Expansion Plan Update

As you may remember, the Vestry conducted a feasibility study in the fall of 2008 in order to determine the parish's ability to financially support an expansion and renovation of the parish and school facilities. The study was conducted by RSI of Dallas, TX. It was determined at the time that we had the potential to fund between \$4M and \$5.5M. While the Vestry was heartened by the results of the study, the anticipated cost to proceed with the entire expansion exceeds that amount. In view of the recent global financial crisis, the Vestry decided to postpone the planned capital campaign.

Additionally, respondents to the feasibility study ranked the priorities of proposed expansion plan as follows:

1. Expand and renovate the church
2. Provide for adequate space for our youth ministry
3. Provide adequate facilities for Episcopal Day School
4. Expand administrative space to support the church's staff
5. Expand the rehearsal, vesting, and storage spaces for the choir
6. Expand our fellowship space

In order to determine how to break down the expansion plan into phases, keeping in mind the above mentioned priorities, the Vestry contracted with Mr. Terry Eason, an architectural consultant from Chapel Hill, NC who specializes in liturgical and master planning for churches. Mr. Eason is leading us through a process for developing a master site plan for our campus, taking into account both the short-term and anticipated long-term needs and priorities of our congregation and school.

The Vestry expects that this planning phase could last through the fall. When a prudent plan that meets as many of the priorities as possible is developed, the Vestry will present it to the church and school community. Following this necessary informational step, the Vestry will make plans to proceed with the fundraising and subsequent construction phase at an appropriate time.

As has been said many times, this process is much more than an "expansion of our facilities." It is a journey of faith and we must proceed according to God's timeline. Please know that your Vestry is approaching this as such, and asks for your prayers and support in these days and weeks ahead. The best is yet to come!

2009 Budget Update

Following two successive years of budgetary growth in excess of \$100,000 in 2007 and 2008, the Vestry initially proposed an increase of an additional \$120,000 for 2009 in order to meet the parish's growing missionary initiatives. The 2009 budget as it was initially drafted in the summer of 2008 was based on the requests of each of our eight commissions: Worship, Christian Formation, Outreach, Pastoral Care, Fellowship, Stewardship, Communications, and Finance.

The key budgetary initiatives for 2009 included:

1. The addition of a third priest to Emmanuel's staff
2. The hiring of a youth pastor
3. Addressing our many deferred maintenance needs
4. Offering our full fair share contribution to the Diocese of North Carolina
5. Increasing our community, national, and global outreach initiatives
6. Forming a 9:00 choir, and strengthening our overall liturgical music program

The worldwide financial crisis has impacted Emmanuel's budget for 2009. We feel so blessed to report that Emmanuel's budget for 2009 has increased by some \$45,000. However, our annual campaign fell some \$75,000 short of our initial goal. Far from being disappointed, our clergy and Vestry are so thankful to God and to our parish for this success!

That said, the Vestry has reduced expenditures in order to achieve a balanced budget. This was accomplished primarily by:

1. Deferring the addition of a third priest
2. Reducing the overall budget for the music program in certain non-essential categories
3. Tightening our control over administrative and maintenance expenses
4. Marginally reducing several line items, while still producing an increase over 2008

The Vestry has asked each commission to be very careful in its expenditures for 2009, putting off any discretionary expenses until the third and fourth quarter. In so doing, should further budgetary adjustments need to be made, we can finish the year with a balanced budget.

Thank you for your support and your prayers. Together we will, by God's abundance, continue to "reflect the light of Christ," especially in these challenging times!