

Campaign Timeline

FEBRUARY & MARCH 2008

Campaign forums through February and March to learn details about the vision and proposal. Watch your mail for an invitation. If you cannot attend your alphabetically assigned gathering, you may attend an alternate event:

- Saturday, March 8, 9:30 a.m. (child care provided)
- Sunday, March 9, 12:00 noon

DATE TO BE ANNOUNCED

Forum with chief architect Chris Ragus to explore the facility plan

MARCH 16, 2008

Forum with liturgical designer Terry Byrd Eason to explore the sanctuary plan

APRIL 4, 2008

Festival for the Future — watch your mail for an invitation

APRIL 6, 2008

Celebration Sunday at 8:30 and 10:45 a.m. worship

APRIL 6, 2008 throughout MAY 2008

Visiting stewards will make home visits to share information and invite your prayerful consideration of a pledge

JUNE 1, 2008

Commitment Celebration Sunday

Chapel Upgrades

As part of the facilities plan, the chapel will receive some relatively minor – but important – upgrades.

- addition of a sound system for speech reinforcement
- improved lighting and control
- replacement of deteriorating floor tiles
- pew refinishing and strengthening
- organ restoration

Sanctuary Windows

Treasured parts of our sanctuary architecture are the beautiful and historic stained glass windows which surround, inspire and instruct us in our worship. Several years ago, a complete survey of the condition of the windows was conducted, and an on-going plan of restoration and maintenance is already in place. Thus, the windows are already being taken care of, and are not part of this capital campaign.

WORSHIP SPACE TEAM

The following persons have been involved in evaluation and planning for the worship space enhancements.

- Jim Chisholm • Joyce Dustman • Jeanne Fisher
- Peggy Hubbard • Randy Kemp • Chuck Lewis
- Betsy Marvin, co-chair • Paul McArthur • Jeanette Olson
- Janet Reed • Kathy Schumacher • Jon Sheppard, co-chair
- Jeff Weis • Peter DuBois, Chris Lenti, John Wilkinson - staff

DATE



A Campaign Communique

God's Presence: Renewing our Worship Spaces



Third Church Family in Worship

“Christian worship joyfully ascribes all praise and honor, glory and power to the triune God. In worship the people of God acknowledge God present in the world and in their lives. As they respond to God’s claim and redemptive action in Jesus Christ, believers are transformed and renewed. In worship the faithful offer themselves to God and are equipped for God’s service in the world.”

The Directory for Worship also provides guidelines for the design of worship spaces in the

Presbyterian tradition:

When a place is set aside for worship it should facilitate accessibility and ease of gathering, should generate a sense of community, and should open people to reverence before God...The arrangement of the space should visibly express the integral relation between Word and Sacrament [pulpit, font and table] and their centrality in Christian worship.”

Continued on next page.

Worship is central to the life of the Church and to the life of Third Presbyterian Church. Worship is a key component of our Christian mission – everything else we do grows from the community in worship. Our denomination’s Directory for Worship, part of the Book of Order, describes the dynamics of worship this way:

I was glad when they said to me, “Let us go to the house of the Lord!” - Psalm 122:1

Because worship has played and continues to play such an integral part in the life of this congregation, and is the fountain from which springs all of our nurture and outreach, consideration of pressing needs in our worship spaces became very important in development of the total capital campaign. To that end, various groups have spent the better part of eighteen months discerning how our worship practice and our worship spaces intersect, and how we might enhance the worship experience for everyone by addressing those areas in which our current space does not serve the ways in which we worship today.

One of the identifying traits of this congregation is the quality of its worship and music ministry, a source of comfort and inspiration for long-time members and a significant point of entry for new members. Over the past sixty years, our congregational life has included the development of significant musical and performing groups within the life of the congregation. These groups function as educational, nurture, and fellowship groups for those participating in them, as well as providing leadership in worship by proclaiming the Word through music. For example, since the last renovation in the sanctuary, in the early 1950s:

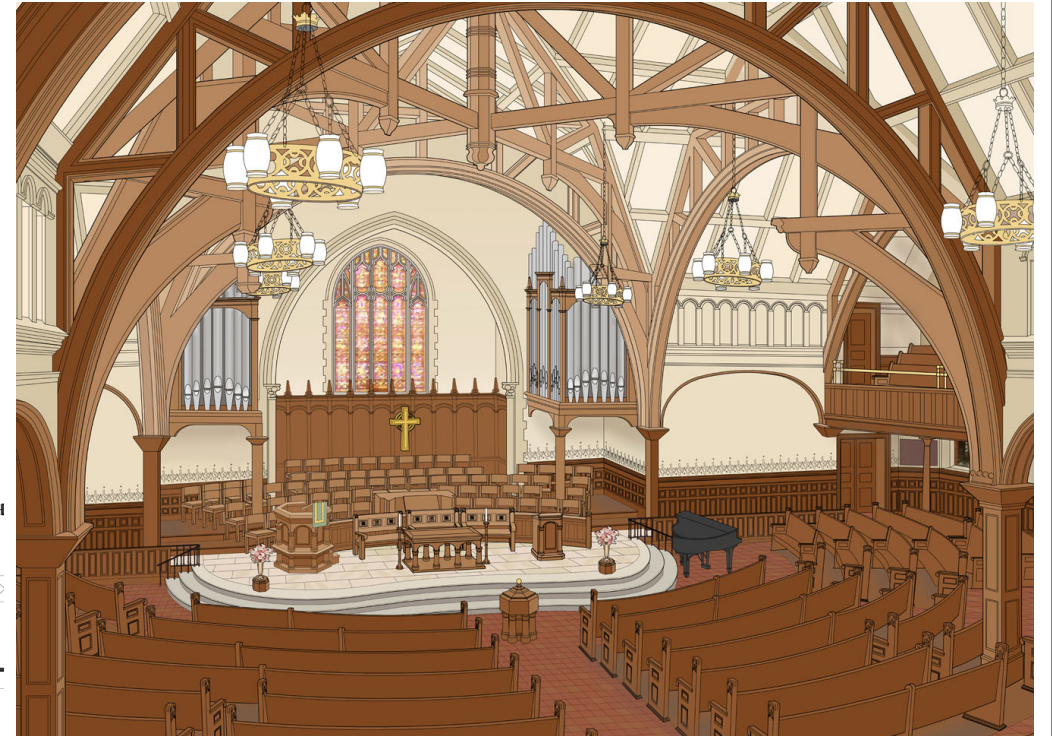
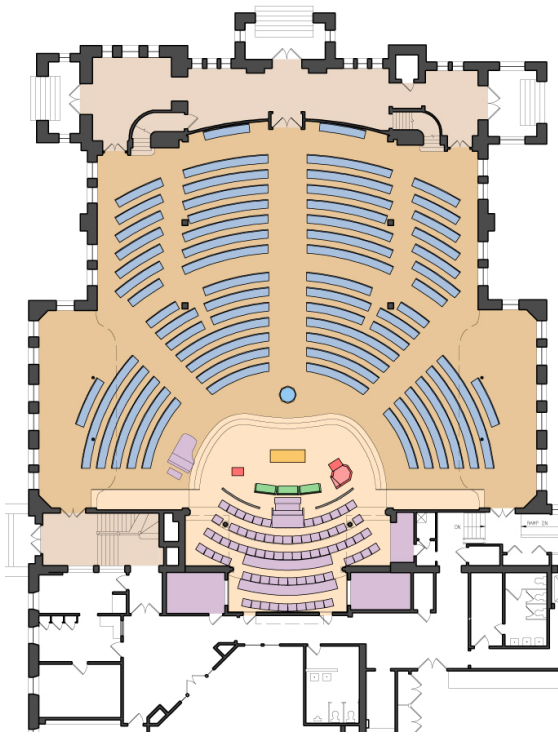
- The Chancel Choir has more than doubled in size,
- Children's and youth choirs have been established and have grown.
- Handbell choirs have been formed, and now number six.
- Children's and Youth musicals have been introduced and have become a significant experience in the lives of generations of young people.



The growth of these programs and the aging of this historic building have provided challenges to our worshipping community, which have been only partially addressed. As we look toward the future, we have the opportunity to look afresh at our vision of this worshipping community for generations to come.

Responsible stewardship of this historic sanctuary, which has been generously handed down through the vision of previous generations, is not to be taken lightly. The infrastructure of our worship spaces, particularly the sanctuary, is in clear need of some careful and comprehensive attention. Three key issues have become apparent

- **Visibility** – improved sightlines to and from all areas of the chancel, and improved lighting throughout the sanctuary
- **Audibility** – so that the congregation members hear each other and the worship leaders effectively
- **Accessibility** – movement into and within the sanctuary should be fully accessible – a value completely in keeping with the larger campaign as well.



The scope of the proposed work is great – recognizing that other than post-fire repair in the sanctuary, neither the sanctuary nor chapel has had major attention in over fifty years. The work addresses needs on three fronts:

- **“Catch-up”**: Includes major infrastructure correctives in the sanctuary (and to a lesser degree the chapel). These include floor strengthening; pew rehabilitation; dealing with aging, ineffective and inefficient mechanical, electrical and ventilation systems as well as lighting and sound systems; remedying visual and acoustical problems; and restoration of the organs in both sanctuary and chapel.
- **Present needs**: Includes analysis of space and functional needs to accommodate the growth in programs already noted, recognizing the ways in which the space is outmoded for our current worship practice.
- **Vision**: Proposed renovations to move beyond catch-up and meeting only present needs to a real vision for an *enhanced worship experience*

shared by congregation, clergy, and choir as equal partners. We will renew the space with flexibility to allow for future evolution of our understanding and practice of worship...recalling the strength of the Presbyterian tradition as expressed in, “The Church reformed, always being reformed.”

Nationally recognized Liturgical Designer Terry Byrd Eason, along with acoustical consultant Robert Mahoney, have been engaged to help our committees in evaluating our worship space and to propose ways of enhancing the worship experience while retaining the rich historic character of the space. The sanctuary proposal, reflecting all of the values and needs outlined in this newsletter will be presented, along with a visual representation, at a congregational forum on Sunday, March 16.

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