

Campaign Kick-Off Event  
*Festival Follies*  
April 4, 2008

**Presbyterian Pie (With apologies to Don McLean and "American Pie")**

A long, long time ago...

In 1827 a hearty and faithful group of  
Rochester Presbyterians founded themselves  
a church.

And who knew that 180 years later  
That they'd need a brand new elevator  
That the current one might leave you in a  
lurch.

They sought to name the congregation;  
"First" and "second" had been taken.  
They were searching for a word,  
But not a voice was heard.

Then in a burst of creativity,  
They settled on the number "three,"  
Was "third" a reminder of the trinity?  
Who knows, let's have a campaign.

*CHORUS*

*So my, my, Presbyterian pie.  
We've got faith for the future,  
And that sure ain't no lie.  
We're capital campaigning  
And we mustn't be shy.  
Saying go for it, let's aim for the sky,  
go for it, let's aim for the sky...*

Did you write the Book of Order,  
Why do we need a book of order,  
Does the presbytery tell us so?  
Do you believe in coffee hour,  
The Deacons have such pastoral power,  
And can you teach me how to liturgical dance  
real slow?

Well, I know that you're in love with the Session  
let's join in the prayer of confession.  
And sing Amazing Grace,  
I love "Amazing Grace!"



*Welcome to the campaign kick-off event!*



*Singing Presbyterian Pie*



*John Wilkinson and Kathryn Cowdrick  
Swensen (a.k.a. "Julia Child")*

But let's get back to the vision.  
I know some people have expressed some itchin'  
For a brand new, state of the art, functioning kitchen,  
Let's have a big campaign.

*CHORUS*

We've been at Meigs Street for 115 years,  
The squeaky sanctuary floor brings us to tears,  
But that's not how it used to be.  
When the choir sings or the preachers preach,  
And the organ pipes begin to screech  
And you can't hear the voice right next to you in the cracking pew,

I know that the acoustics are very complex,  
Why are Presbyterians so obsessed with sex?  
It seems a dreadful plight;  
That's why we are More Light!  
And we wrote the legislation,  
That led to women's ordination,  
That seems a cause for celebration  
Let's have a big campaign.

*CHORUS*

Oh, and then the Trustees were gathered to meet,  
To manage the endowment and discuss the heat,  
Their meetings are really a lot of fun,  
But the point is not mortar and the point is not bricks!  
Or just fixing things that we need to fix  
But becoming all that we are called to be.

Surely this building is a beautiful oyster,  
Just waiting for a brand new cloister.  
The proposal really is thrillin'  
Do you have an extra million?  
And we're hoping for enthusiastic participation,  
And invite your prayerful consideration.  
For this and future generations,  
Let's have a big campaign.

*CHORUS*

I met a vision who sang a song,  
Its notes were lovely, its harmonies strong,  
It smiled and placed a pledge card in my hand.  
It spoke about hospitality.  
It spoke about accessibility,  
And some other values that you can read about at [www.thirdpresbyterian.org](http://www.thirdpresbyterian.org).

And in the classrooms the children learned,  
Let's forget about when the sanctuary burned.  
And don't forget the HVAC.  
You can't forget the HVAC.  
And the three components I embrace completely:  
Outreach, endowment and of course facilities,  
Create a compelling case that I will support unashamedly and unabashedly and  
overwhelmingly generously  
Let's have a big campaign

*CHORUS*

John Wilkinson  
April 4, 2008