



The Journey

February, 2004

THE BUILDING COMMITTEE – A BASTION OF PATIENCE AND PERSEVERANCE, OF PASSION AND EXPERTISE....

At least, that's how it seems to many of us NOT on the committee. We interviewed Building Committee Chairman Scott Fisher to hear his side of the story.

Interviewer: How long has the Building Committee been in existence?

Scott: I'm going to leave out the committee for the construction of our current building. That goes back to the early 1980's. It took ten years for the congregation to go from exploring the concept of a new building and deciding that was the right route to follow to completing the building we now have.

It didn't take too long for us to realize we needed to start exploring an addition to our current space. We have had a series of building committees this "go-round," starting about five and one-half years ago. We started by interviewing architects. Kurt Swearingen started the process, then had to step aside. Carol Schrantz was the chairperson for much of that period. We met with many groups of church members to determine the priority needs of the congregation. Space for fellowship was determined to be priority #1, followed by more classroom space. As we moved into talking with architects and discussing plans, there were a few more changes in committee membership.

Interviewer: Have things changed since that determination?

Scott: Somewhat. The church reviewed its mission statement, and we refocused our thinking. That led to a need to review the plans for an addition to be sure the original concepts would serve our revised focus. We also needed to think about a Building

Fund Campaign, but that was beyond the scope of our committee.

Interviewer: That's where our consultant came in to help, as I recall.

Scott: That's right. You'll recall the major all-church activity – held at the brand new Calvary Methodist Church so we could all be accommodated. Scott McKenzie of Cargill Associates led a two-day visioning process.

Interviewer: I do remember that. And that Visioning/Pre-Campaign Committee and the Building Committee discussed and reviewed the plans.

Scott: We found we had a more noticeable need for classroom space. The Fellowship space remained a high priority.

Editor's note: The Building Fund Committee worked with Scott McKenzie from March through early September, with individual interviews and focus groups, then a multi-faceted campaign in the fall of 2002. We raised \$1.12 million in gifts and pledges, just short of our goal of \$1.5 million. Ultimately, we voted to move ahead with the full plan.

Interviewer: Who is on the Building Committee?

Scott: I am currently serving as chairman, following Carol Schrantz. She remains on the committee. Patty Carlson served on that "middle" portion of the committee. Rex Switzer and John Ten Haken have been faithful members all along.

Interviewer: Is there anything of special note about the committee?

Scott: Well, Carol is truly committed to what the church does. She keeps us focused on *why* we're

building. Rex is an architect and John is in construction. I am a mechanical engineer with additional knowledge in electrical and plumbing. The three of us bring some practical expertise. Together we make a good team.

Interviewer: I'd say this is a wonderful example of how our vocations and skills can become our service to God and the church. What is the status of the project now (February, 2004)?

Scott: The soil testing last fall confirmed there are no problems for construction. As you know, we had the building drawings available for the members of the congregation to review and make suggestions. They have been finalized and are at the printer as we speak. We expect to put out for bids in the next week or so.

The building proposal and financing plan must be approved by Presbytery. We must execute a formal loan agreement. While that's happening, we will review bids and select the builders, entering into a legal contract for construction.

We're planning on groundbreaking in late April or early May.

Interviewer: What a joy it will be to turn over those spades of dirt! Are there any problems to be resolved in the near future?

Scott: It's not really a problem, but folks need to be aware that the city will re-route part of the creek. This will be beneficial in the long run and won't affect our construction work. We just don't want anyone to be surprised to see that work happening, too.

(cont. in next column)

Pledge and Contribution Update

As of January 31, 2003

| | |
|-----------------|-------------|
| Goal: | \$1,500,000 |
| Total Pledged: | \$1,117,965 |
| Total Received: | \$ 536,168 |

Right on target – Yea for us!! But...

Interviewer: Scott, any final comments?

Scott: This has been a challenging project, but it has been enjoyable all along the way. Of course, there have been frustrations, but that's to be expected. I think I can speak for the entire committee when I say that we are grateful for the input of so many members. That means this is important to them. We have been really pleased with the comments we have received. So, our thanks to the congregation for your support of our work.

Interviewer: Scott, I think the thanks go to you and the entire committee, including past members. Your devotion to the task is a blessing to all of us.

FINANCIAL OUTLOOK FOR 2004 CONSTRUCTION

With the plans being placed for bid with a groundbreaking in April or May, the first expenses should start arriving almost immediately as supplies and materials are ordered. We anticipate the need for cash flow of approximately \$100,000 in April, and \$200,000 in May.

In June and July it is estimated our expenses will be \$400,000. The remainder will be spread equally until construction is completed in October or November.

We have approximately enough to cover us through May and still retain a reserve for mortgage payments. Each dollar that comes in between now and May will be used for construction costs and will delay using borrowed funds.

If enough comes in we will be able to borrow less and save approximately \$2.25 in interest costs for each dollar received. **We encourage members who are able to do so, to prepay their building pledge in order to keep our borrowing costs down and give the church the biggest benefit from each dollar received.**