



CHAPEL OF THE CROSS EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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Clergy

The Rev. Ben G. Robertson, IV
Rector
The Rev. William H. Compton
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~
*Welcoming the stranger,
nurturing one another,
and guided by the Holy
Spirit, the Chapel of
the Cross strives to live
the mission of Jesus
Christ through prayer,
traditional liturgy,
Christian education,
active outreach, and love
of all God's creation.*
~

1 March 2017

Chapel Friends,

Gracious God, we thank you for the many blessings of this life, especially the Chapel of the Cross, those who came before us and those who will follow. Come, Holy Spirit, fill our hearts, inspire our dreams, and give us courage to answer your call to us. Lord Jesus, give us the spirit of wisdom, generosity and perseverance as we step out in faith. In your most Holy name we pray. AMEN.

The prayer above is a version of our Capital Campaign prayer. During our Capital Campaign last year, as we discerned our call to build a new, larger worship space, we prayed this prayer every Sunday, and the various campaign committees and groups also prayed this prayer before every meeting. Every time we said those words, one phrase stood out to me: "step out in faith."

I marvel every day at our parish's many blessings: our beautiful Chapel, our glorious campus, our growing and prosperous community, our vibrant diocese, and, most importantly, our excellent sisters and brothers in Christ. As the old gospel hymn sings, "There's a sweet, sweet Spirit in this place, and I know that it's the Spirit of the Lord."

At our Annual Meeting last month, then Senior Warden Davis Frye thanked all who gave, led, and helped with the Capital Campaign, and he talked about the next phase of the process as we determine the best use of the funds we have raised. I am thrilled to inform you that last weekend, our Vestry took a big step out in faith to advance this next phase.

During the Vestry retreat, the Vestry received a presentation from Barlow, Eddy, and Jenkins, P.A., our architects. They took the original Schematic Design presented during the Capital Campaign, the comments received during the Campaign, the Vestry's priorities, and the amount pledged, and they demonstrated what we might be able to build. The possibilities are exciting. So after the presentation, and after much conversation and prayer, the Vestry passed three resolutions: a scope (an owners' statement of need(s) to an architect), a budget, and a timeline.

Our basic scope includes a 400-person capacity worship space with a Children's Chapel/multipurpose space, a sacristy, and restrooms, with additional sidewalks, parking lots, and road capacity as necessary for access to the buildings. We believe this is possible for a budget of \$3.8 million dollars, and we pray our first service in the new space will be Easter Sunday, 21 April 2019. The architects will take these instructions, begin a design development stage, and produce Contract Documents in the late summer/early autumn, and we can use those documents to solicit bids for the construction of our sanctuary. This is an amazing time!

The design itself is not finalized, but it is beginning to crystalize and it will be consistent with the original schematic. When the Vestry gives the green light to a final design, we will certainly share that with the Parish. Many thanks to all of you who are giving towards your pledge to the Campaign - I am so grateful for your generosity. And I am so grateful for our Vestry and the diligent work they are doing, especially Amy Barker who is serving as our industrious liaison between the Vestry and our architects.

Please continue to pray for the Chapel as we step out in faith. And let us give thanks for these, and so many blessings. May God bless you and your family. See you at the Chapel.

Keep the Faith,

The Rev. Ben G. Robertson, IV