

## **Testimonial of Pete and Becky Adams**

### **Announcing Support for the “How Firm Our Foundation” Capital Campaign**

I have been following the “How Firm Our Foundation” campaign, and specifically the progress of our Sanctuary Readiness and Remodeling Program. I have been very impressed with the scope of the project, its vision, its leadership and the progress that has been made to date.

I think we all know by now the sad shape of this building. Thankfully the Bell Tower is being repaired before it came down, but the rest of the structure is a hazard too and also has to be retrofitted and updated. However . . . the need to open up and repair the structure has also presented NEW OPPORTUNITIES to improve accessibility, sight lines, the organ and the sound system, HVAC, lighting, wiring, plumbing and many other smaller details that make our 116-year-old church outdated and dangerous.

I think our Vestry has been very bold in accepting this challenge, and they have been very prudent too. They have said that we can’t go forward without knowing we have the funds pledged and in hand to complete the project. The total cost for the rebuilding and improvements is \$10.1 million, and they have also asked for an additional \$1.5 million to endow the building into the future, so we will be able to properly maintain the structure and not fall into this obsolescence trap again.

168 families have already given! A matching gift program has been established, and all funds up to \$500,000 received by July 31 will be doubled. Pledges can be paid over 5 years. To date nearly \$9.3 million of the \$10.1 million has been raised, so we are nearing our goal to begin the main project. We are on the last lap of this ambitious project! If the remaining funds are raised by the end of summer, the Vestry will give its go ahead to undertake “Phase 2”, which is all the remaining work to be done to finish the building. If the total of \$10.1 million is NOT raised, the Vestry will NOT be able to give the go-ahead, and they will either have to wait until more funds are received or cancel some of the improvements. I, for one, would like to get on with this and get it finished just as soon as possible! In other words, it’s crunch time!!

Becky and I believe in this project very much! Not only is the necessity for structural rebuilding obvious, but, to us, the opportunity to make improvements is compelling also. Moving the Altar Rail to floor level for greater accessibility makes sense; increasing our capacity for Christmas and Easter, weddings and funerals and special classes by using the now underused vesting room makes sense; finally adding a Memorial Chapel and Columbarium makes sense, and adding ADA-compliant restrooms and more space for the Altar and Flower guilds makes sense. There are no frivolous “dreams” here; these are all improvements which will enhance the usefulness of our Church, without substantially changing its appearance or the sacredness and beauty of its space.

My hope is that every one of us recognizes that the time has come for us to step up and secure our Church home into the future. WE are the ones to make this happen. We have been given the opportunity to ensure that All Saints will survive and thrive for the next 116 years (at least!). My dream is that we will get 100% participation for this project! Why not? The amount you can give is not as important as the fact that you have given. It will show us and others that everyone is on board and dedicated to saving our beautiful spiritual home. Fortunately, many of you and others have already stepped up and raised 80% of our total goal. Now, if EVERYONE will give something – whatever they can- - whatever YOU can - - we will be able to reach our goal.

Please pray about this, talk it over with your family and friends, ask any questions you have, and then COMMIT to making it happen. It’s now up to you.

Thank you!