

May 19, 2015

FUPC Alumni & Friends:

As we prepare to celebrate the outpouring of God's Holy Spirit at Pentecost, we wanted to share an exciting update on how First United Presbyterian Church is seeking to keep in step with the Spirit.

Many of you heard about our adventure of faith and renewal when we sent out a letter at the end of last year. Over the last many months we have earnestly and prayerfully made preparations for a Nehemiah ministry of "rebuilding the walls" at 1418 Cambridge Street this summer. You can find details about our efforts to create a more hospitable house of prayer for all nations and generations in the enclosed capital campaign materials, and you will also find a pledge card if you feel led to participate in this ministry of renewal.

We've come a long way! After 3 months of campaigning, the expressions of generosity and sacrificial stewardship have been inspiring. Our pledges are at ~\$620k; previously designated funds for accessibility and heating total \$180k; and we were awarded a \$50k matching grant from the Cambridge Historical Commission. A \$700k construction loan from the Presbyterian Investment and Loan Program (PILP) has been approved, and a plan is in place to substantially repay the loan over the 3 years that pledge proceeds are received.

The exterior renovations were pre-funded by generous and anonymous donors, so our fundraising efforts these last many months have been focused on the interior renovations that are estimated to cost \$1,150,000 after architecture/engineering fees and 10% contingency are added in. Our hope is to raise another \$100-200k to go with the \$850k we already have committed or in hand.

The congregation has energetically embraced this monumental task of stewardship, much like that of Nehemiah's generation, and with the same ultimate aim: to see God worshipped and glorified in our city. Our location is such an immense blessing and strategic mission post—as you well know, this congregation has been a formative spiritual home for so many who have come for a season and been sent out to serve the church and world in manifold ways. One such story is that of Michael Birbeck, our most recent seminary intern—you can find his story on our website, along with news and updates on the many other ways we are seeking to keep in step with God's Spirit and be salt and light in our community.

Would you please pray for the *Rebuilding Walls* initiative and prayerfully consider making a pledge to help renew our presence and proclamation of the Gospel in Cambridge?

Gratefully,

Kevin Manuel