

**Life Abundant**

**building joyful community**

Capital Campaign News from Christ Episcopal Church—Seattle, WA

Issue 3 —April 2023

## **MAKING OUR COMMITMENTS**

### ***Key Dates to Remember***

We're at that point when each of us will soon be invited to offer financial commitments to our ***Life Abundant – building joyful community*** Capital Campaign – a three-year pledge above and beyond our regular offering. As we draw closer to making our commitments that will help fund vital renovation projects in our church, celebrate this opportunity to serve God with what has first been given to you. Our culminating campaign activities include:

#### **Saturday, May 6: Angel Commitments Gathering 4-6 PM**

**The Mountaineering Club at The Graduate Hotel** 4507 Brooklyn Ave NE

Any member who wishes to make an early, inspirational financial commitment to our campaign is welcome to attend a hosted gathering. Children are welcome. Please contact Melissa Morrell at [melrel99@hotmail.com](mailto:melrel99@hotmail.com) to participate.

#### **Saturday, May 13: All-Church Celebration Banquet**

**Officer's Club at Magnuson Park**

**5:30 PM Social Hour 6 PM Dinner**

A night of fun, food, and celebration of the Christ Church family. Everyone is invited and encouraged to attend, including children. Reserve your space by May 3rd: Sign up in church, online with the Signup Genius link included in The Daily Bread, or contact Linda Donaldson at [linditalouwho@yahoo.com](mailto:linditalouwho@yahoo.com) or 425 488 0171 (leave a voicemail message).

#### **Sunday, May 21: Commitment Worship**

After prayerful consideration, each of us will decide on the amount of our financial commitments to our campaign. Pledges to our facilities renovation campaign are above and beyond our regular giving and may be contributed as a one-time gift or in weekly, monthly, quarterly or annual payments over the coming three years ending in May 2026. Bring your pledge card with you to church on May 21<sup>st</sup> as together we will make our commitments in worship then.

#### **Late-May/June: Commitment Follow-Up**

Because we hope to have a 100% response to our capital campaign, we will reach out to those who have not made a commitment by May 21<sup>st</sup>. The purpose of these contacts is to answer any questions, provide information, and receive each household's pledge response.

#### **Sunday, June 11: Celebration Worship**

We will share the results of the commitments received to date and give thanks for God's abundance in the life our church.

## Successful Informational Gatherings

Over the course of the last several weeks, a series of Informational Meetings was held in members' homes, at the church and online to give us an opportunity to learn more about our ***Life Abundant – building joyful community*** Capital Campaign.

These sessions included campaign information, a wonderful presentation featuring renderings and descriptions of our planned renovation projects, as well as time for questions and dialogue. We wrote down our dreams and prayers for Christ Church on Prayer Tents which were blessed on Easter Sunday.

More than 30 members of the Christ Church family attended and had important questions and comments. Here are a few of the recurring questions (and answers) that people asked:

*Q: Are we buying a new free standing altar?*

A: That is yet to be determined. We do already have an existing altar (the one we use on Sundays) which is movable, so we may not need to buy a new one.

*Q: Are the new sanctuary chairs good for all body types and sizes?*

A: That is something we will consider when we buy new sanctuary chairs.

*Q: Where will the choir vest?*

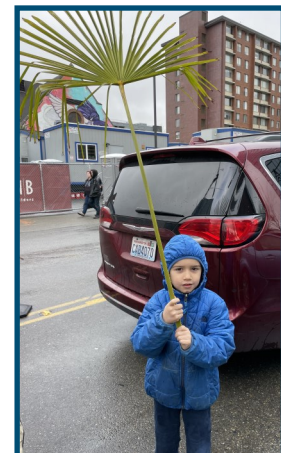
A: That is still under consideration: possibly the chapel.

*Q: What about a Children's Area and a place for a sign language interpreter?*

A: Because the sanctuary will be reconfigurable, we can include both a children's area and a place for a sign language interpreter.

*Q: What about the beautiful needlepoint kneelers?*

A: These will continue be used in our new space.



*Reserve Your Spot Today!*  
**All-Church Celebration Banquet**  
**Saturday, May 13**  
**Officer's Club @ Magnuson Park**  
5:30 pm Social Hour  
6 pm Dinner

Close your eyes and imagine a favorite celebration in your life. Chances are that memory involved food and wonderful interaction with those you hold dear. Over a century ago, a band of faithful Episcopalians formed Christ Episcopal Church and began building the facilities we enjoy today. They recognized that what they were building was not only for themselves then, but also served as a legacy for future parishioners.

And now, as we pick up the mantle of continuing their vision with necessary updates to our church home, we recognize that our work begins right here at home with our current parish family and the many wonderful relationships we share in the Christ Church family. And so, in order to celebrate the people of Christ Church, the ***Life Abundant*** Banquet Committee is excited to invite you to a celebratory banquet—for you and in honor of you.

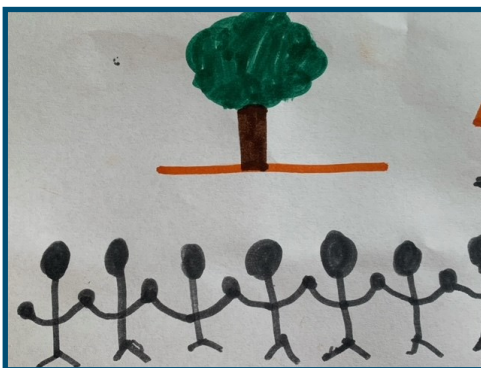


Please mark Saturday, May 13, on your calendars as a night of celebrating our past history, our current friendships, and our future legacy with a beautiful, fun-filled evening. Together, we look forward to *refreshment, renewal and rejoicing* within our community as we embrace the many wonderful relationships that make Christ Episcopal the wonderful church that it is.

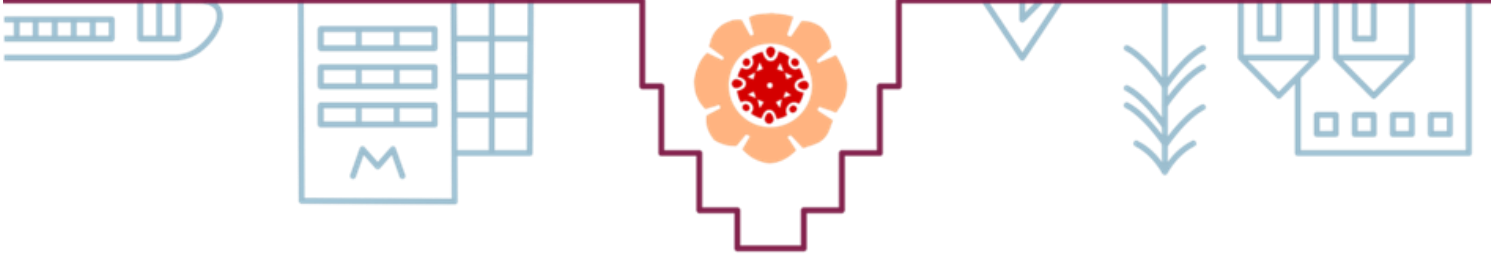
To reserve your spot, sign up in church, online with the link provided in The Daily Bread or contact Linda Donaldson at [linditalouwho@yahoo.com](mailto:linditalouwho@yahoo.com) or 425 488 0171 (leave a voicemail message).

## **Children and the Capital Campaign**

During one of our recent Godly Play sessions we wondered about the story of God's people building the temple in Jerusalem. The story makes a point that all of the people helped in some way. We wondered how the children may have contributed way back then. Over the last few weeks, we continued the conversation about the renewal planned for our community's space. Many of the children connected to the idea that the space should be accessible for all people and everyone can help in that process. Feelings are mixed about potential change, but the shared vision of a deeply welcoming place is strong. There is both hope and a desire for justice in our next generation, and this campaign is a way to connect all of us to the future of Christ Episcopal Church.



*"Community" by Felix Alfeo*



Christ Episcopal Church  
4548 Brooklyn Ave NE  
Seattle, WA 98105

## *What are parishoners saying about the capital campaign?*

I'm excited about in-the-round worship because it is better than a forward-facing service. The important parts of the Episcopal worship service are the same. The liturgy, music and the beauty of the service remain. What is different is the increased accessibility and inclusion. Everyone is close to the front, and you get to see and listen to other people in our community. The sanctuary remodel and addition of the ramp will make joining worship easy. People who can't easily climb stairs will join everyone else in entering through the front door. This campaign allows us to continue Christ Church's legacy of changing our space to meet the needs of our community.

*—Ruth Ewald*

Rev Shelly's sermon on Easter Sunday resonated with me: "God is coaxing resurrection... 'Look, can you come with me? I'll show you what you can do with this rich soil.' ... In the resurrection on this day, we know that the victory belongs to love." Our Life Abundant Capital Campaign is all about the abundant display of love by the Resurrected Christ. It is the beginning of our long-desired dream to make our building lovingly accessible to all bodies.

*—Becky Haver*