

# INVESTING IN GOD'S BLUEPRINT FOR COVENANT'S FUTURE



**The Past...**



**The Present...**



**The Future...**

**Covenant Presbyterian Church**

400 Lancaster Avenue

Frazer, Pennsylvania 19355

## **A Brief History Lesson**

### **Covenant Presbyterian Church**

in Frazer, Pennsylvania

has its roots in two forward-looking local congregations:

#### **East Whiteland Presbyterian Church**

**founded in 1839**

**and**

#### **First Presbyterian Church of Malvern**

**founded in 1893**

These two streams of faithfulness united to form the river of grace called Covenant on September 1, 1976.

This year, as we celebrate Covenant's 35th anniversary, we are thankful that the goal of both churches was to offer a strong, resourceful body in service to God through varied, innovative, and intergenerational church and community activities.

Enhancements to the facility in 1980, 1993, and 2000 provided safety, space, and lighting improvements to better serve the needs of the staff and Covenant's ministries.

Congregational approval of the expansion project was obtained on September 28, 2008.

## **Who We Are**

The Covenant family is a welcoming, diverse and intergenerational community of people who encourage and affirm each person's faith journey.

Its quest for spiritual growth, participation in activities, utilization of leadership, dedication and talent, caring and sharing, respect for all Christian traditions, and its commitment to Christ makes us who we are.

**Our Mission Statement says, "As we embrace our faith, we are led by the Holy Spirit to share the Gospel as we meet, seek out, and support people of all ages in our church and our community."**

Thus...

our growth and community outreach is wholly dependent upon our Christian charge to "Spread the good news of the Gospel".

## Why Build Now?

**Over the past 6 years session, the pastoral staff, two facility review commissions, and the congregation have prayerfully concluded that:**

- Current spaces limit the provision of inviting environments for worship, pastoral care, Christian education, music, youth activities, and fellowship.
- Future growth will increase the problems of coping with cramped spaces and curtail our ability to provide expanded or additional ministries, programs, and community outreach.

**Three major priorities have evolved:**

### **Priority #1: Expanding Covenant's Mission and Ministries**

**Current facilities prohibit the initiation of new programs.**

**Pastoral staff "dreams" of expanded Covenant programs, worship opportunities, and community outreach include:**

- The room to enroll more children in Vacation Bible School.
- One Sunday School classroom for each elementary grade.
- A wider variety of programs for adults.
- A well-designed worship space which would accommodate all forms of music and provide a comfortable and spiritual worship environment for all.
- A youth center where teens would be encouraged in their faith journey and have room to enjoy activities in an un-cramped, well-supervised environment which is especially important as school districts reduce youth programs.
- More space for community groups who request a place to meet.
- Enough available space to say, "Welcome!" to all who would worship and praise God with us.

## **Priority #2: More Program and Classroom Space**

- Pastor Patty's "office" in the music room is fully shared by all music groups and lacks privacy for counseling, study, sermon preparation, meditation, and planning and scheduling.
- Opportunities to broaden the music ministry are severely limited.
- Significant staff hours are wasted juggling schedules to accommodate all groups needing meeting space.
- The confirmation class has no permanent place to meet. The "second class citizen" feeling they get by being moved from room to room or to a cold scout cabin is not a good way to introduce youth to church membership.
- Sunday School classrooms offer less than desirable conditions.

## **Priority #3: A Larger Sanctuary, Chancel, Choir Loft, Narthex**

- First time worshippers sometimes do not return to worship or special services due to overcrowding. Some leave due to lack of space to worship as a family. Later services frequently exceed a seating "comfort level".
- Overflow seating areas do not provide a genuine worship atmosphere for active participation.
- Hand bells do not play: on communion Sundays because there is no room; on Easter Sunday and, in the future, during Advent and Lent because their seating uses precious pew space.
- The choir loft accommodates 28 singers. Additional singers (up to 26 or more!) must use pew space. No room is available for additional music venues to enhance congregational worship.
- ***If our membership grows at an average of 4% per year, as it has during the past 5 years, in 2015 we will surpass 800 members!***

**Can we afford to wait for the breaking point?**

## **A Review of God's Blueprint for Covenant's Future: The "Sanctuary Plus" Phase**

- A youth center with additional classrooms and activity space
- A larger sanctuary, choir loft, chancel, and narthex (gathering area)
- Additional, larger music rehearsal and storage rooms
- Enough rooms for committees and other groups to meet, sparing the staff countless hours of juggling schedules to obtain space
- Additional parking spaces
- An estimated project cost of 4.5 million dollars
- LEED certification from the United States Green Building Council

plus...

**The Covenant family has made a commitment to increase the mission and outreach budget by a full tithe (10%) of the construction costs to be distributed over the life of the mortgage!**

### **Investing Today in God's Tomorrow**

Each Covenant member and friend is asked to commit to this campaign according to their abilities. We ask everyone's help in contributing to our first goal of 2 million dollars in pledges and cash gifts so that additional funding can be obtained and that construction can begin. (Remember: Capital Campaign gifts represent extra-giving and often come from personal savings.)

In addition to your generous financial gifts, we also ask that every household commit to regular prayer to accomplish our vision.

## Frequently Asked Questions

**Q. Why have a Capital Campaign?**

**A.** The Capital Campaign is designed to raise money for the construction of “Sanctuary Plus”: a new sanctuary, additional music rooms, and a teen center on the lower level.

**Q. How long will the campaign last?**

**A.** At least 5 years.

**Q. How much will this project cost?**

**A.** The estimated cost is \$4,500,000.

**Q. How much will the annual mortgage be, and for how long?**

**A.** Estimates range from \$180-250,000. The actual amount will depend on the interest rate and how much first year cash is raised. The length is assumed to be 30 years.

**Q. What if we can't raise enough money for the sanctuary?**

**A.** We may discover that a secondary goal is needed to replace our primary goal. If that time comes, session will be asked to identify another pathway forward. This may be to proceed first with the extension of the area behind our current sanctuary, (the Annex Phase), or scale back the “Sanctuary Plus” phase.

**Q. What if I can't contribute a lot of money?**

**A.** Everyone's participation is our goal, and every financial gift is important, regardless of the amount. We ask only that you give as you are able. If you are unable to help financially, please commit your prayers and support for all who are working to make the project a success.

**Q. Is the Pantry part of the project?**

**A.** No. The Pantry will be funded separately and is not related to this campaign.