

BUILDING CONNECTIONS...

...AMONG THE **CONGREGATION**

PARTICIPATING IN WORSHIP

...AMONG THE **ELEMENTS**

OF THE WORSHIP SERVICE—

PREACHING, SINGING, AND

ENACTING THE **WORD**

THROUGH THE SACRAMENTS

...BETWEEN OUR WORSHIP

EXPERIENCE AND OUR **WORK**

IN THE WORLD AND

...BETWEEN **US** AND

THE LIVING **GOD.**

GIVING CHALLENGE

"Come to Him, to that living stone, rejected by mortals but in God's sight chosen and precious; and like living stones be yourselves built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ." 1 Peter 2:4-5

Our giving to the NYAPC's Building Connections vision is a joyful expression of our faith and gratitude for God's grace through Christ, "that living stone...chosen and precious." Our gifts and pledges express our commitment to Christ's ministry through the church and to God's call to be "like living stones...built into a spiritual house," fulfilling our membership promises.

AS YOU CONSIDER YOUR PLEDGE...

▲ Remember the ways in which God has blessed you.

▲ Consider how the connections enabled by our church touch many lives with the Good News of Jesus Christ.

▲ Consider a gift of both assets and income:

• **ASSETS:** A gift of stock, mutual funds or other property may enable you to make a "once in a lifetime" gift to the Building Connections vision and provide significant tax advantages. This gift may enable you to respond to the vision in a way not possible from your income alone. Members of the Building Connections vision team are available to consult with you and your advisors as you consider such a gift.

• **INCOME:** In addition to an asset gift, consider pledging 4% or more of your income each year for three years.

All tax-deductible gifts are gratefully received; we hope that all will consider a pledge to the campaign, whatever the amount. Together, we will claim the Building Connections vision that God has set before us!

BUILDING CONNECTIONS VISION COORDINATING TEAM

- | | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------|
| • Wilson Golden, Chair | • Jack Molenkamp |
| • Jennifer Clynh | • Margaret (Meg) Neill |
| • Martha Davis | • Douglas R. Porter |
| • Rebecca L. Davis | • James D. Rhodes |
| • Margaret (Peggy) E. Evans | • Catherine K. Schultheis |
| • Stacey Younger Gagosian | • John F. Schultheis |
| • Paul Gebhard | • Joyce Schuman |
| • Rev. Roger J. Gench | • Marilyn J. Seiber |
| • Michele Holland | • Kathryn (Kitty) Smith |
| • Doug House | • Edith Holmes Snyder |
| • Susan M. Jolley | • Daniel A. Stokes |
| • Rev. Riley McDonald | • Matthew Weitz |
| • Sam McFerran | |



2007 - 2009

THE NEW YORK AVENUE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

1313 New York Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20005-4790

202-393-3700



FOR MORE THAN 200 YEARS, the community now known as The New York Avenue Presbyterian Church has worshiped and served in downtown Washington. Since 1820, we have gathered in a building at the corner of 13th Street and New York Avenue, to “hear outstanding preaching and inspiring music, attend varied Christian education activities, and continue our commitment to inclusiveness, hospitality, nurture, spiritual growth, and visitation among our own members and our neighbors,” as our mission statement says.

We are the church together, the old song goes—but the church *building*, this place in the midst of the busy nation’s capital, is where we gather from across the area. And it is the place where we come to worship God, where we connect as a community, and from which we respond to God’s call to serve others.

From time to time in our history, this place—our church building—has needed significant attention and so it is now. This year we begin a major capital campaign, the first in more than two decades. The vision for this campaign, called Building Connections, consists of three main elements:

- ▲ elevator modernization
- ▲ sanctuary renovation, including the organ and moving this instrument and the choir to the chancel
- ▲ sound system and lighting upgrade, floors and paint

ELEVATOR MODERNIZATION

Our ministry happens seven days a week on all six floors of the building, and beyond. The elevators make the sanctuary and other parts of the building accessible to all, connecting us to one another and to the community around us.



Photo: Susan Baumbridge

SANCTUARY RENOVATION

The organ has needed upgrading for many years. Due to postponed repairs, it has become increasingly undependable. Many stops are already unusable, and the wind supply system needs significant repair. Rebuilding the present instrument would cost nearly \$500,000. After much study and discussion, the Organ Committee, established by the Session in 2004, determined that a new instrument is “more likely to deliver a polished sound and a dependable overall quality in terms of long-term maintenance costs.”

Our deteriorating organ gives us a unique opportunity to adjust the elements of worship to more fully connect us with one another, and with God. Moving the organ and the choir to the chancel will enhance the sound of both, and improve the choir’s connection with the rest of the congregation. Other changes to the chancel will help



Drawing of proposed renovated sanctuary with organ as seen from the balcony

reflect the multiple ways in which God speaks to us in worship.

Presbyterians believe that the Word—the self-communication of God—comes through a variety of media, and not solely through preaching. In describing the proposed changes to the chancel, pastor Roger J. Gench writes, “The pulpit will continue to be a prominent symbol of how preaching is important to us, yet other worship symbols should be emphasized as well. The relocation of the organ and choir will highlight how the Word comes to us in a very special way through music. The elevation of the communion table and more central relocation of the baptismal font will accent how God is revealed through the Sacraments. The eagle lectern will continue to hold a prominent place in our chancel, and its relocation will make it more accessible to a variety of worship forms. Consequently, **the overall intent of renovating our chancel is to make the whole area a visible sign of the many ways in which we believe God is revealed in worship.**”

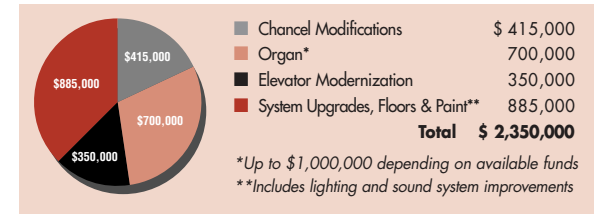
The sanctuary renovation will include:

- ▲ a relocated organ with better sound, a long life expectancy, and much lower maintenance costs, so that future generations of the church will not have to revisit this issue for many years;
- ▲ space for the choir in the chancel, to improve the choir’s ability to lead hymn singing and to enhance choir members’ worship experience by connecting them to the rest of the congregation;
- ▲ the pulpit lowered and moved forward to bring the pastors closer to the congregation; and
- ▲ a slight elevation of the communion table and more central relocation of the baptismal font to improve visibility, and a ramp to the raised area of the chancel, making it more accessible to all.

SYSTEMS UPGRADES, FLOORS AND PAINT

Upgrades to the sanctuary’s lighting and sound systems are essential. Lighting updated to today’s technology will improve visibility and flexibility and reduce energy use and costs. Enhancements to the sound system will improve accessibility of worship and make the space easier to use. Finally, the sanctuary is long overdue for a new floor covering and a fresh coat of paint. With the organ in the chancel and new flooring, the acoustics of the sanctuary will change, and adjustments to the sound system may be necessary.

\$2.35 MILLION PLAN



BUILDING CONNECTIONS TIMELINE

Goal: 2009—Bicentennial of Abraham Lincoln’s Birth and 150 Years of Worshiping as the NYAPC

- ▲ March 25, 2007: Congregational Meeting and Official Campaign Launch
- ▲ April 29, 2007: Celebration Sunday – Dedication of Pledges
- ▲ Spring/Summer 2007: Contracts Let
- ▲ Fall/Winter 2007 through Fall/Winter 2009: Construction (anticipated time the sanctuary will be unavailable for worship – 6 months; during this period, worship will take place in Peter Marshall Hall)
- ▲ Summer/Fall 2009: Dedication

