



First Presbyterian Church, Norfolk

GROWING IN THIS LOVE 2011 UPDATE

“For the love of Christ urges us on...”

2 Corinthians 5:14

It is remarkable to witness the sacrificial giving that has expanded the ministries and facilities of First Presbyterian Norfolk. You will be heartened to see how close we are to fulfilling our *Growing In This Love* campaign goal of raising \$11.5 million dollars. The funds pledged continue to come in and the goal is in sight (take a sneak peak in the back). I encourage you to read through the full report to see what God is doing in our midst.

Throughout our splendid history and over a long succession of years and influence for good in this community and beyond, First Presbyterian Church Norfolk has been a *living people*, gathered together as one body to seek Christ and share *His* love.

From 2000 to 2005 we had a 47% growth in worship attendance and 20% growth in membership. This growth created a need for more space for worship, fellowship, outreach, education, and ministerial support. In 2005, in order to accommodate this growth we embarked on a journey of faith, trusting in God to expand our ministries and purpose through the *Growing In This Love Capital Campaign*.

As we have been obedient to follow His leading God has indeed proven faithful, and this update is a testimony to His goodness and gracious providence. Here we celebrate the expansion and renovation projects that have been completed and the lives that have been transformed as a result. We also provide a status update on the current financial picture as well as prayer requests that look towards the completion of the funding for the campaign.

It is our privilege to build on the foundation of those faithful believers of Christ at First Presbyterian Church that spans four centuries. God is using us to bless others – those whom we know and those whom we may never know. We have been given the great blessing to play a role. Already the resources that God has provided are making a difference.

My prayer is that as you read the following report you will recognize the privilege of sacrificing for Him, so that He will continue to work through us as His Kingdom comes, and we grow in this love.

Please continue to pray about your part in this *Growing In This Love* campaign. Use the prayer requests in this report to intercede regularly for the help of the Holy Spirit in our ministry. Ask God if He is leading you to make your first gift to the campaign or to give beyond your initial commitment.

“For the love of Christ urges us on...” 2 Corinthians 5:14

Jim Wood
Senior Pastor

When the Apostle Paul wrote to the church in Ephesus to explain why he was sending Tychicus to them, he said:

“I am sending him to you for this very purpose, to let you know how we are, and to encourage your hearts.”

(Eph. 6:22)

This report, in the same way, seeks to communicate the status of the campaign and to provide encouragement.

Campaign Background

We sang our hymns by the Elizabeth River in the 1600's. We were immigrants stubbornly in love with our Bibles. The first Presbyterian missionary to America, The Reverend Francis Makemie, discovered us already planted, rooted, and grounded. For nearly four hundred years God has continually been faithful to us. Christ has touched us countless times, nourishing every heart opened to His redeeming love. This love is an eternal seed, meant for growth—and bless us with growth He has!

Growing In This Love celebrates His powerful presence with us and the amazing challenge He brings us to share the love of Christ through worship, fellowship, service, and education.



Our Shared Vision



1. We built a brand-new infant and toddler nursery that is intentionally located between the sanctuary and First Hall, making it particularly accessible to our parents on Sunday mornings.
2. We built First Hall which increased our capacity from 160 to over 400 people for dinners and from 350 to over 600 for worship.
3. We increased the size of our Preschool and with new room for 50 additional children, including infants, we now serve over 200 families through our Preschool ministry.
4. We built the Common which unites our three worship services and gives us a space to gather, find information, and get connected to one another and the church's various ministries.
5. We've invested \$225,000 in further enhancements to the HVAC, Sound System, lighting, and other infrastructure to improve the worship experience in the Sanctuary.
6. With renovated classroom space for our R.A.D.I.C.O.L. elementary age children, we now have bigger, better, and safer space for our children to encounter Christ each week!

Participation

Praise God that as of March 31, 2011, the Capital Campaign had recorded commitments and gifts from 366 individuals and families. In 2010, 81 commitments were renewed by individuals and families who had made a commitment between 2005 and 2009. In addition, 38 new commitments were made by individuals and families who had not made a commitment to the original campaign. These numbers continue to grow.



Revenue

During Capital Campaign Briefings in October 2010, Jim Wood reminded us that:

"Our goal is to retire the debt so as not to limit the depth and breadth of our full ministry to each other, to our community, and beyond. Our purpose is strong and the vision remains clear—to bring others to the saving love of Jesus Christ. Not by the few, but by many . . . For the love of Christ urges us on."

Given that context it is clear that the Lord has been faithful and has provided gifts and pledges of more than \$10.8 million, 94% of our goal. We are particularly thankful for those who have renewed their pledges.

"You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go out and bear fruit, fruit that will last." (John 15:16)



Giving History and Current Financial Situation

We rejoice that God is accomplishing His purpose through the *Growing In This Love* campaign. We have already received commitments or direct contributions from 366 families or individuals. We thank you for your contributions and prayers as we continue our journey of faith.

At the conclusion of the construction phase of our *Growing In This Love Capital Campaign* in December 2010, we entered a second phase of the campaign, which is debt repayment.

If you have not made a pledge, we encourage you to prayerfully consider whether God is leading you to participate in the *Growing In This Love Capital Campaign* over and beyond your tithe. As a congregation, the more expediently we can eliminate this debt, the more resources we can use toward ministry instead of interest.

If you have made a pledge, and not yet fulfilled it we encourage you to fulfill it as soon as possible. Our loan converted from interest only to principal + interest payments in April 2011. With the existing balance of \$1,269,517.17 owed as of April 2011, our payments equal \$10,394.04 per month. We want to eliminate this debt as soon as possible.

If you have not renewed your original pledge, please pray and ask God if He is leading you to give beyond your initial commitment. Your continued participation in the *Growing In This Love Capital Campaign* is still very much needed .

Uses of Funds

The following table provides an overview of how funds have been spent to date.

Contractor and Architect	\$8,747,164.24
AV/Sound	\$794,963.55
Building Improvement Projects Outside Contract	\$692,871.77 *
Furniture	\$435,984.66
Lighting	\$264,936.76
Sanctuary	\$225,000.00
RADICOL Children's Wing	\$183,625.37
Permits and Testing	\$90,518.64
Utilities	\$64,935.01
TOTAL	\$11,500,000.00
* Includes expenses such as the following: New Security System, Landscaping/Irrigation, Signage, Moving, Owner's Representatives, Catacombs, and Unisex Restrooms.	

Summary Financial Report

Gifts totaling \$10,230,482.83 have been received and an additional \$615,431.38 has been pledged. Combined this represents 94% of the \$11.5 million goal. We pray that the remaining 6% (\$654,085.79) owed will be raised as soon as possible in order to fully fund this good work.

Seeking Christ; Sharing His Love

Today, we celebrate how the *Growing In This Love Capital Campaign* has helped us to do more for God's Kingdom through ministry and outreach. **Below are some pictures that represent ministry that we would not have had the space to accommodate were it not for your generosity.**



1st Contemporary Worship Service on December 13, 2009, had over 450 people in attendance.



1st Christmas Pageant on December 13, 2009, had over 400 people in attendance.



Maundy Thursday Dinner on April 1, 2010, had over 480 people including Creative Kids for Christ (pictured) in attendance.



Bulletin Beauties, Pastors, and Camel before 4 pm Christmas Eve Service on December 24, 2010, had over 400 people in attendance.

Items for Prayer and Praise

- Praise God for his faithfulness to our congregation during the course of this campaign.
- Praise God for abundantly blessing this work of our hands.
- Please pray for the Long Range Planning Committee.
- Praise God for givers who are working to complete their commitment.
- Please pray for God's work in our lives as we pray and give.