**Re-Dedication of the CCPC Sanctuary**

**September 28 2014**

**Remarks from the Building Committee.**

**John H. Mather, Chairman.**

Thank you for this opportunity to highlight some events from the past that has impelled CCPC’s effectiveness as a witness to the saving grace of Jesus Christ in this community.

27 years ago CCPC was celebrating its 25th Anniversary. At the celebratory dinner Rex McDaniel approached me, as instigated by Doris Kobe, and asked me to consider leading a process that would result in a dedicated sanctuary.

For several years this had been a controversial issue. I reflected that at least three concerns had to be addressed:

1. That building a sanctuary had to be clearly consistent with CCPC’s mission,
2. That various problems with the existing buildings must be included, and
3. That the expenditure of funds had to be evidently wise and prudent.

In taking on the challenge I concluded that,

* A step-wise approach was going to be necessary,
* The process should include as many CCPC members as possible, and
* That open and frequent communications would be needed,

in order to achieve a new and enhanced campus.

So, onto the trajectory of events for the next 7 years.

In April 1987, a Sanctuary Feasibility Committee was quickly formed and within three months recommended that, if $25,00 cold cash could immediately be raised, a Building Design Committee would secure an architect and prepare a comprehensive design. It happened.

The Kerns Group Architects was selected.

In November the design was approved at a congregational meeting and a Building Committee was elected to do four things:

1. Build a free-standing sanctuary
2. Fix the roof of Fellowship Hall
3. Consider renovation needs of the CE Building, and
4. Establish an Emergency Housing Unit.

A Capital Building Fund Pledge Campaign, the first of two, began the task of securing pledges, using a compelling brochure: “**Building for the Future: Completing Our Mission Base.”**

With Barbara McCamish on point, along with Pat Ashby, they secured a grant from the Presbytery to design and establish the Emergency Housing Unit. It was finished and occupied in August 1989, now named Hudson House.

Over the next 15 months a General Contractor, Scott-Long was obtained, through a competitive bid, and worked directly with Tom Kerns, the architect, on improved design features.

So, in February 1989, with Session’s endorsement, the Building Committee’s report was approved by the congregation, fulfilling the original charge, at a maximum bid price of $1.33 Million with Scott-Long as the builder.

Now, we thought we were on our way to completing all of the projects by the middle of 1990. WRONG.

There were a couple of hindrances. Presbytery waffled on its support which contributed to our inability to secure a building loan to be finally rolled into a mortgage. We were stymied.

Meanwhile Fellowship Hall’s roof was leaking badly. Lynn Ossant, C0-Chair of the committee, took the lead in arranging for what needed to be done. In July, a different architect, Stan Serson, recommended replacement of the roof as it was found to be beyond repair.

In the Fall 1990 the roof was replaced. It took three cranes to lift it off as it was totally waterlogged. The cross from the top was preserved and Gordon Ebersole installed it close to the Memorial Garden.

By the summer of 1991 the renovations to the CE building were completed, but we still could not find a bank to loan us the funds for building the sanctuary.

Two years went by. Then, Hal McAbee accosted me and impressed upon me that we had to find the funding to build the new sanctuary now.

We took a different approach. Working with a Presbyterian approved firm we issued mortgage bonds of $1.25 Million. Gerry Calhoun led a Task Force for the campaign.

By 1993, circumstances had changed. The Building Committee made a new set of recommendations, approved by Session and the congregation for:

* Construction of a new Sanctuary with additional meeting and office space, arranging for the necessary additional parking,
* Connecting all of the buildings with a Narthex and covered walkways, and
* Selecting EBC Industries in a competitive bid as the general contractor for a negotiated price of $1.26 Million.

[This was a saving of $70,000 over the earlier bid.]

In June 1993 there was a groundbreaking for the new sanctuary and fourteen months later, after a brutal winter that delayed completion, the sanctuary and all of the other additions were finished. We had occupancy.

Your Building Committee had a lot of talent:

* Pete Haeussler, an architect himself, kept us on track with the architects and builders.
* The interior designs for the sanctuary were much debated. Nancy Sanford, assisted by Kate McDaniel , made many key recommendations for the aesthetically pleasing colors and the fabulous banners.
* Jack Jones led the program of designated gifts for pews and chancel furniture, arranging for, and installing the engraved brass plaques.
* Although not an official member of the building Committee, Thad Uehling was the on-site liaison with the builder. He was critical in sorting out the various permits, working with the Fire Marshall, including problems with the fire hydrant, and many other practical and thorny issues.

So here we are twenty years after the dedication of this beautiful Sanctuary which has involved the commitment of so many from this congregation

I think Dave Honeyford has captured ,in his fine article appearing in the Bulletin, the impact of all these projects, overseen by the Building Committee, that involved so many to make it happen.

The original vision is fulfilled:

“**Building for the Future: Completing Our Mission Base.”**