



St. Matthew Episcopal Church “Invest in the Promise” Capital Campaign FAQ Spring 2017

Q: What is our *Invest in the Promise* Campaign all about?

A: Our capital campaign is about investing in the future of St. Matthew Episcopal Church.

- It is about building on our faith, and the faith of people who came before us, to revitalize our building and ministry for years to come.
- It is about widening our welcome to people who don't yet know Christ.
- It is about growing as a congregation through a deeper understanding of stewardship, community, and faith as disciples of Jesus Christ.

This spring we will be inspired, informed and involved in a variety of programs including Bible Studies, a Prayer Vigil, small-group Enrichment Gatherings, educational forums, and fellowship events. On Sunday, May 7th, we will be invited to make a 3-year financial pledge, over and above our regular giving to our capital campaign fund. The gifts received from our ***Invest in the Promise*** Capital Campaign will help us accomplish a variety of vital projects for our church. Completing these will empower us to serve our current membership as well as our community, now and into the future.

Q: What types of projects are we seeking to accomplish?

- A:**
- 1). Pay off and retire our mortgage;
 - 2). Replace our roof; and
 - 3). Repair and restripe our parking lot.
 - 4). If additional funds remain after accomplishing 1), 2) and 3), we intend to build up our reserves.

Q: What was the impetus for these projects?

A: The top priority for our long-term goal of sustainability is to retire the mortgage. Accomplishing this task will not only do wonders for our operating budget, it will, more importantly, free up funds to serve God and our neighborhood through mission work. Building up our reserves will also put us in a stronger position to serve others. The leaking roof and pockmarked parking lot are in disrepair, and need our attention before they become serious liabilities. Addressing these issues will also provide a more welcoming environment for new members and visitors.

Q: How will funds raised through our *Invest in the Promise* campaign be used?

A: ***Invest in the Promise*** gifts will be completely separate from the operating budget, and will be used only for the projects listed above, and for operating expenses of the campaign, which are targeted to be less than 6% of funds raised.

Q: What is the amount of our debt, and how did we incur this?

A: Our debt is approximately \$245,000. It began as a standard first mortgage of \$550,000 to pay for more than half of the cost of the “new” nave in 1997, and was then refinanced at different points over the years in order to raise capital and reduce the interest rate.

Q: When and how do I pay my pledge? What if my financial circumstances change?

A: Your three-year commitment to the *Invest in the Promise* campaign may be paid incrementally in weekly, monthly, quarterly, or annual installments, or as a one-time gift. The gifting period will be May 2017 through May 2020. You, as the donor, will decide how best to complete your pledge.

Financial pledges are not legal obligations; however, it is anticipated that members will make their pledges in good faith, and will fulfill these fully. If circumstances change, you may revise your pledge by notifying the church.

Q: How can we be successful in achieving the goals of our campaign?

A: The financial goals for our campaign will represent an appropriate challenge for our church and will be within our capacity to fund. Churches similar to ours have raised between \$300,000 and \$750,000 or more in projects like ours. We have the joyful opportunity to stretch ourselves to meet the current and future needs of St. Matthew Episcopal Church.

We have been blessed by God as we continue to grow in our giving to the church. It is vital that we continue our commitment to support our current worship, work, and witness (our annual stewardship). We also need to build a strong financial base for our capital ministry projects.

To meet the goals of our capital campaign, each of us will be asked to commit a generous and joyful gift **above and beyond** our regular giving. We are all encouraged to prayerfully remember—and celebrate!—the many blessings God has given us, and to seek helpful new modes and strategies for giving that may not have been considered before. The choice is ours to freely commit that which has been entrusted to us. Seek God's guidance as you consider these questions:

- To what extent does my giving truly reflect the value I have for this church?
- To what extent am I acting purposefully, intentionally, and faithfully in my giving?
- In what ways is my giving helping me grow in faith in God, and in service to others?

Your support continues the tradition of generosity in our church, and will help St. Matthew Episcopal move forward in its mission and ministry.

Q: Why is this campaign – *Invest in the Promise* – so important?

A: Our campaign is about realizing God's dream for us through our mission as God's people to welcome all people in Christ's name, offering healing and wholeness to those who come to us and the world around us, as we serve others through Christ's transforming love. It's about honoring the commitment of everyone who has provided for our church over the years, and ensuring a bright future for St. Matthew Episcopal, our community, and our ministries for years to come. Our campaign is about far more than just finances.

Ours is the privilege and opportunity to carry forward the legacy of St. Matthew Episcopal Church, celebrate the abundance God places in our lives, and carry forward God's vision for us here.