

The Four- Year Ride of our Capital Campaign 2018-2021

(with a few phrases borrowed from Longfellow's poem "The Midnight Ride of Paul Revere")

Listen church family and you shall hear
Of the faithful ride of our capital years
On the 16th July in 2018
At a meeting of the Capital Task Force team
A plan to improve our church was floated
An architectural Study was needed! And Yea it was voted
So throughout that year and the next
Many plans and meetings, designs and texts
Though the costs were steep – we must aim
To launch a Capital Campaign!

Vicky called the Conference and a Pastor named New
Minister of Finance explained what we must do.
So, consultant recruited and challenges met
2019 ended and we thought we were set.
For we had thought of everything
A Feasibility Study would be done that spring
Volunteers were recruited – and dates they were picked
For in-person interviews but Lo' we were tricked
2020 arrived and a virus exploded
We had Faith but we also had COVID!

In 2020 the steeple was failing and it was bad
But there were synergies to be had
The cell phone companies needed to repair
Their equipment up those rickety stairs
So, Hank climbed the tower of Old First Church
Where the cell wires abound on their perch
By the wooden stairs, with stealthy tread
To the Belfry chamber overhead,
Hank said: "They can pay for the scaffolding needed"
And all those costs to them we ceded.

In 2021 we really got going - although COVID was still a bit muddly
The virus abated, we had less fear, and we did the darn Feasibility Study!
Results were amazing – We raised the Goal - A new consultant was hired
Reverend Terbush came on the scene and we were all inspired
Dr Jay called Doug and Gail and asked "Co-Chairs will you be?"
We said yes but then we thought we need auxiliary!
Doug & Gail prepared their lists and set about to calling
The finest folks you'd ever know that we were soon installing.

Ric & Sharon to recruit a team and scores of volunteers
To visit families who love our church and have throughout the years
Conversations and faith held deep - the gifts they were forthcoming
Ric & Sharon adeptly managed and the results have been just stunning.

To Jeff and Judy we turned, for campaign communication
We need logo, theme, and branding to create a big sensation
Articles were written, Renew, Refresh, Re-edit? and more than one brochure –
All designed to capture our target market with allure

Then Ken & Karen to plan events – in this realm they are not rookies
Who needs a Dolphin dinner – when we had slate and cookies!
Planning in-person and switching to Zoom – well it just seemed to be systemic
But K & K are unflappable when wrestling with pandemic!

And to the Reverend Weagraff we asked for spiritual goals
And his team delivered prayers and reflections for our souls
He made us think of those before who have worshipped in this place
And loved this building as we do with caring and with grace.

The team of Bill & Wayne have budgeted and planned
Kept track of costs and monies raised, with facts at their command
And when this campaign is over – and our major work is clear
They will be there to track the gifts throughout the next 3 years!

And we have an amazing resource in the office - a Natick-native
Who assisted every team with all things administrative
Humor, laughter, great ideas and terrific attitude
To Peg we owe big thank you's and a debt of gratitude.

And now some words must be said to thank our Co-Chair Hanna,
Who works his magic for this church like heaven supplies manna.
He is a man of many talents, with many jobs, but took on more
Just look up at our steeple in the sun and see it soar
Sheperding the projects might cause others to complain
But Doug did all of this AND Co-chairs the Campaign
He says "We can fix the lights, the floor- and we can fix the rug"
This gentleman is everywhere 1-800-Just-Call-Doug!

There are so many people that we cannot name them all
Who gave their time and talents and their treasure to this call.
The building projects beckon – with design work left to do
Til our sanctuary and kitchen make a ravishing debut
Stay tuned for info sessions and your input that we need
But know that the Campaign is a success because of all of you Indeed!

**So, The Faith in our Future Campaign has drawn to its very end
But not the faith of our First church – The faith of FCN.**

Gail Martin November 21, 2021