



All things
come of thee,
and of thine own
have we given thee
CHRONICLES 29:14

153

ST. COLUMBA'S
PAST, PRESENT, FUTURE
Live God's Love

LIVING GOD'S LOVE: 150TH ANNIVERSARY CAMPAIGN

DEAR ONES,

I am gratified, humbled, and excited to invite you to participate in this 150th Anniversary Campaign. St. Columba's is a thriving congregation; in this day, that is no small thing. As we celebrate our 150th Anniversary, I see us poised at a number of thresholds:

Clearly, we are poised between the first 150 years and the future. Since our first gathering under the Columba Oak, we have sought to be a beacon of Christ's light. Looking back, we rejoice at those times we've taken creative faithful steps and acknowledge the times we've fallen short of our beliefs and values. Looking ahead, we recommit to our calling to be the embodiment of Christ and live God's love – to love God, and to love our neighbors as ourselves.

We are the church gathered within and the church sent beyond. We are the church as we gather within the walls of St. Columba's for prayer, fellowship, worship, service, and song. So too, we are the church as we are sent forth to live God's love through our daily lives. We seek to become what Dr. King termed "a beloved community" where all God's beloved have a place at the table. With its focus on access, hospitality, and ministry, our campaign swings wide our doors to both gather us in and send us beyond, to be the church.

We are poised between the ending of my tenure and the call of a new rector. Grounded in our current values and priorities, our campaign is the culmination of these past ten years. At the same time, each priority creates a firm foundation and provides flexible options for future decisions and new ministries. This is my last "Hurrah!" I pray it will be a gift for your future.

We are conducting this campaign in the months leading up to and following a critically important presidential election. For many, the political campaign will be an important, and competing, financial priority. Let me simply state my own conviction that local houses of worship committed to living God's love, such as St. Columba's, have never been more essential for our well-being – as individuals and within the fabric of our communities.

St. Columba's has arrived at this point through the grace of God and the faithful generosity, worship and care of each and every one of you and countless generations before us. We are fully alive as the body of Christ when we're all in it together. Our mission depends upon the generosity of each and every one of us. Every gift matters – from the least to the greatest. Now is our time, with grateful hearts and sacrificial generosity, to give for the future. Please participate; we cannot do this without you.

**WITH A DEEP BOW OF GRATITUDE,
LEDLIE**





LIVING GOD'S LOVE: 150TH ANNIVERSARY CAMPAIGN

St. Columba's is a church on a mission to live God's love. We are an inclusive Christian community of all ages that welcomes one and all, encourages spiritual curiosity, celebrates children and youth, and embraces the world in the spirit of God's justice and love. St. Columba's is committed to five core priorities: **Strengthening Community, Practicing Faith, Becoming Anti-Racist, Embracing Our World and Building Capacity.**

As we celebrate our 150th anniversary, now is the time to translate our core priorities into action by launching our campaign: Living God's Love, a \$6 million effort. The campaign will support needed renovation and modification of our physical facilities to make them more accessible and welcoming—and also to provide more flexible and inviting space for our youth, expanded laundry and shower facilities for the homeless who are assisted by the Water Ministry, and an upgraded kitchen and Great Hall for the benefit of all who attend Wee-Worship, forums, and informal gatherings (in-person and online) of all kinds. The equipment we now have and the current layout of our building does not enable us to meet our current needs in a quality way.

Second, the campaign will support the creation of an endowment/reserve fund that will secure a more stable financial foundation for the church by enabling it to address unexpected costs and true emergencies (like the pandemic). We should not always be living "on the edge" financially. More balanced finances would allow our parish to focus on the church's ministries and what we can do for others.

Third, through the creation of a Beloved Community Fund, the campaign will encourage parishioners to be Christ's hands and feet in the world, identifying partners in the neighborhood and wider community with whom we can join in seeking to bend the arc of the universe toward justice.

With these initiatives, we see a path forward that honors St. Columba's past, advances its current core priorities, and builds a stronger foundation for the next rector while preserving flexibility to address new challenges.

It has been more than a decade since the last church-wide campaign—a decade with Ledlie's leadership that has seen the church grow in commitment and generosity, in faith and trust, and in vision.

What better time to commit ourselves to this effort than this year in which the congregation celebrates its 150th anniversary, the Rector's decade of leadership, and clarity around our ongoing vision in carrying out our mission?

BEING GOOD STEWARDS

As we embark on our capital campaign, it is important to remember all the generosity that has led us to Live God's Love. In celebration of the work we have accomplished with Ledlie's leadership and vision, we were able to complete two fundraising efforts in 2021 and 2023.

THE NAVE AND BEYOND

Worship is at the heart of our common life: in 2021, 17 parishioners contributed \$2,250,000 to repair the nave and enliven the narthex.

In 2020-2021, with the pandemic among us, we were unable to gather for worship; however, the vestry recognized an opportunity to repair the water damage to the nave and renovate it. A handful of parishioners contributed the \$2.25 million necessary to complete that project.



NAVE BEFORE



NAVE NOW



CELEBRATING ON THE LABYRINTH

LEAP OF FAITH

In 2023, 25 parishioners contributed \$850,000 to create the outdoor labyrinth, develop our live stream, and provide funds for master planning for our 150th.

IMAGINE THIS

NEW EXPANDED KITCHEN WITH LARGER GLAZED CONNECTION TO MULTI-PURPOSE ROOM

NEW CABINETRY, LIGHTING AND FINISHES



FLEXIBLE SPACE FOR MULTIPLE YOUTH ACTIVITIES

Youth Ministry

Music playing, ping-pong game in full swing, snacks aplenty, thirty-five youth from St. C's and beyond gather to play, pray, eat, support one another.

Butterworth Entrance

Improved safety and accessibility will be welcoming to all.



ROOM OPENS TO DOUBLE-VOLUME MULTI-PURPOSE SPACE WITH NEW OPERABLE ACOUSTIC DOORS

REFRESHED SPACE WITH NEW LIGHTING AND FINISHES



Water Ministry

Thirty-five guests welcomed in for a hot shower, delicious meal, clean laundry, conversation, prayer, and the warmth of being seen and known

VISIBILITY TO LAUNDRY/MEETING/CLASSROOM

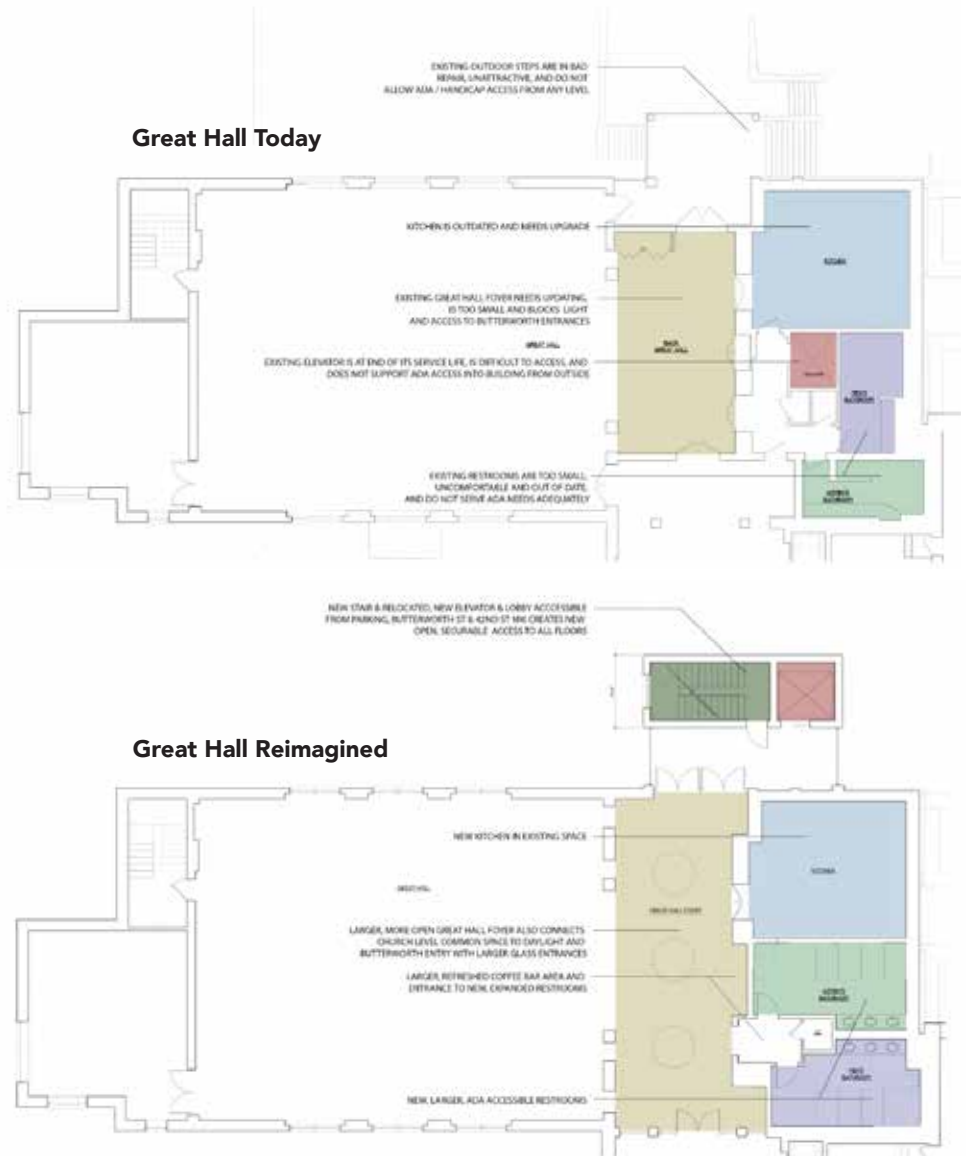
LARGER WELCOME SPACE WITH WELCOME DESK



EXPANDED AND UPDATED RESTROOMS VISIBLE FROM FRONT DESK. THREE BATHROOMS WITH SHOWERS AND TWO STAND-ALONE BATHROOMS FOR TOTAL OF FIVE

Great Hall

Smiling faces and joyful conversations fill a revitalized Great Hall as members connect over coffee, services, and programs, while non-parish groups also find a welcoming space for new connections and opportunities.



\$ 6 MILLION FOR WHAT?

ENHANCING AND ADAPTING OUR PHYSICAL FACILITIES (\$5 MILLION)

We don't need more space; we need different, flexible space. We want to reconfigure our existing property to build capacity in support of our mission and ministries. The work has seven objectives, with seven components.



Youth Ministry

Providing more generous, flexible and welcoming meeting and recreational space. This change involves removing some interior walls on the second floor of the Butterworth wing.



Water Ministry

Providing long overdue upgrades to the facilities essential to the Water Ministry. This work involves removing interior walls on the second floor of the Butterworth wing in order to add new shower, restroom, and laundry facilities.



Great Hall Kitchen

Upgrading the kitchen to commercial-certification status to better serve congregants, the Water Ministry, and visitors who rent the Great Hall. The kitchen space has not been renovated, nor major appliances replaced in decades. Restrooms adjacent to the Great Hall will be expanded and renovated.



Great Hall

Improving the lighting, sound, and audio-visual services in the Great Hall in order to enhance Sunday children's services, Sunday forums, and other gatherings for congregants and visitors. Improved technology with high quality communications infrastructure helps us keep all members of the parish connected so more people can take advantage of our offerings in services, committee work and programs. It will also be an asset to attract and serve non-parish groups.

All guests who present themselves are to be welcomed as Christ, for Christ himself will say, I was a stranger and you welcomed me.

THE RULE OF ST. BENEDICT

\$ 6 MILLION FOR WHAT?

Enhancing Accessibility

Improving our welcome by enhancing accessibility. A three-level addition will replace the current deteriorating steel and concrete stairs to the Butterworth wing at the east side of the church parking lot.



We will be adding a new elevator; as our current elevator is beyond its effective life and can no longer be adequately maintained.

Develop an entry from the parking lot, Butterworth Street, and 42nd Street to all three levels that is more accessible to guests, including those from Friendship Terrace. This enhanced entrance will also give adults convenient access to the building without using the current Nursery School entrance, thereby improving security for the School.

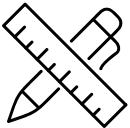


Albemarle Street Welcome

Improving our welcome on Albemarle Street. Create a new entrance to the Parish Offices at street level. Repair of the deteriorating steel and concrete at the entrance to the Common.

Fletcher House Site

Being good stewards and preparing for future decisions about the best use of our property at the corner of 42nd and Butterworth Streets.



Pre-development work – testing soil, zoning, legal restrictions, financial options – increases the value of the property and must be done whether the site is retained, sold or developed.

In the Vestry's view, constructing mixed-income housing is the highest, best use of the site and one that advances our values, mission and long-term vitality. A final decision on this will be made at a future time; pre-development work will ensure that future decisions are well-informed.

\$ 6 MILLION FOR WHAT?

BUILDING AN ENDOWMENT (\$500,000)

The church has operated on a “hand-to-mouth” financial basis from the beginning. In this 150th anniversary year, when we look back to our founding as a mission outpost of St. Alban’s Parish, we recognize that, as the largest parish in the diocese, and with a large and aging physical plant, prudent stewardship requires us to commit to building an endowment.

This campaign provides a vital start.

Our intention is to secure a minimum of \$5 million within the next five years through generous bequests and careful stewardship. An endowment is crucial for several reasons:

Financial Stability

Once it reaches sufficient size, the interest from an endowment can provide a steady and reliable source of income, helping to ensure the long-term financial stability of the church.

Sustaining Ministry and Encouraging Growth

With income from an endowment offsetting maintenance costs, annual pledges can support the church’s ministries, outreach programs, and community services. A well-funded endowment allows the church to invest in new initiatives to foster growth and development, ensuring the church remains vibrant and relevant.

Legacy and Stewardship

Many members of our congregation want a way to leave a lasting legacy. Offering the opportunity to contribute to our endowment ensures their contributions will benefit future generations of parishioners and the broader community.

Overall, endowment gifts provide a lasting impact, securing the church's ability to serve its mission, support its community, and maintain its facilities for years to come.

“We drink from wells we did not dig,” says Deuteronomy; “let us now dig wells for future generations.”

\$6 MILLION FOR WHAT?

CREATING THE BELOVED COMMUNITY (\$500,000)

OUR BAPTISMAL COVENANT:

Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself? Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being? I will, with God's help.

St. Columba's long-standing vision of striving to create a more just and equitable society—to realize the Kingdom of God here and now—and our more recent commitment to becoming an anti-racist church prompt us to create a fund that will encourage and enable St. Columba's parishioners to establish and foster relationships, both institutional and individual, across racial lines.

Study and past experience – e.g., with STEP, Rebuilding Together, Samaritan Ministries, Washington Interfaith Network, and Undersign the Redline – have shown us the limitations of deciding for ourselves what help others need and the transformational potential of partnering with, and ceding control to, others.

As was true of the Columba Fund (created nearly 30 years ago), the Beloved Community Fund will inspire new grassroots ideas for partnerships and relationships. Any parishioner may submit a proposal that advances the church's core priorities of strengthening community, practicing faith, becoming anti-racist, embracing our world, and building capacity.

Priority will be given to proposals that envision working for racial justice in our community; working in partnership with Black-led organizations; and the involvement of parishioners, particularly our youth.



ANNUAL STEWARDSHIP

The Annual Stewardship Campaign is vital for maintaining a solid financial operating and program base for the parish, ensuring operational stability year after year.

Our first commitment is to the Annual Stewardship Campaign and we encourage parishioners to pledge their support for 2025. The Living God's Love campaign will be an additional commitment. This ongoing financial security will allow the new rector to focus on ministry and community engagement without worrying about paying for the church's day-to-day operations.

Annual stewardship pledges cover

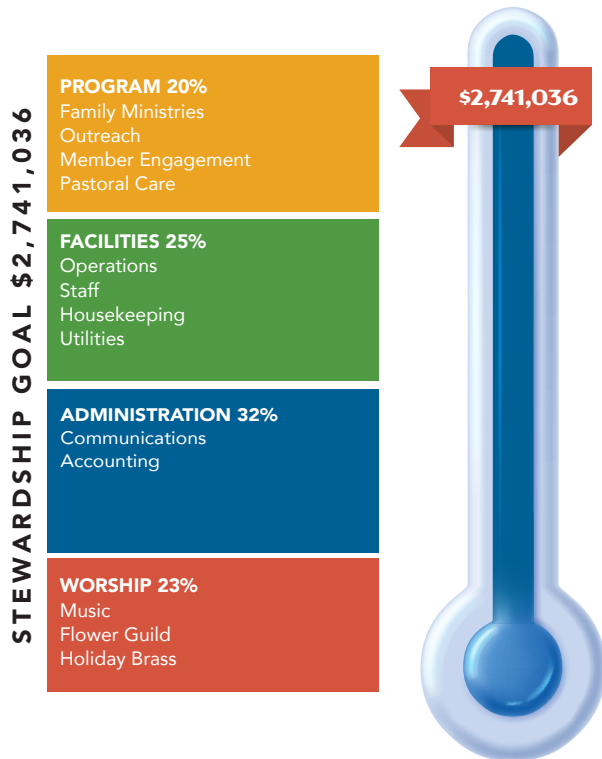
St. Columba's essential expenses, including:

- Funding for various ministries and outreach programs
- Support for worship services and educational initiatives
- Utility bills to keep the church open and active
- Maintenance and repairs for the church building and grounds
- Salaries for church staff

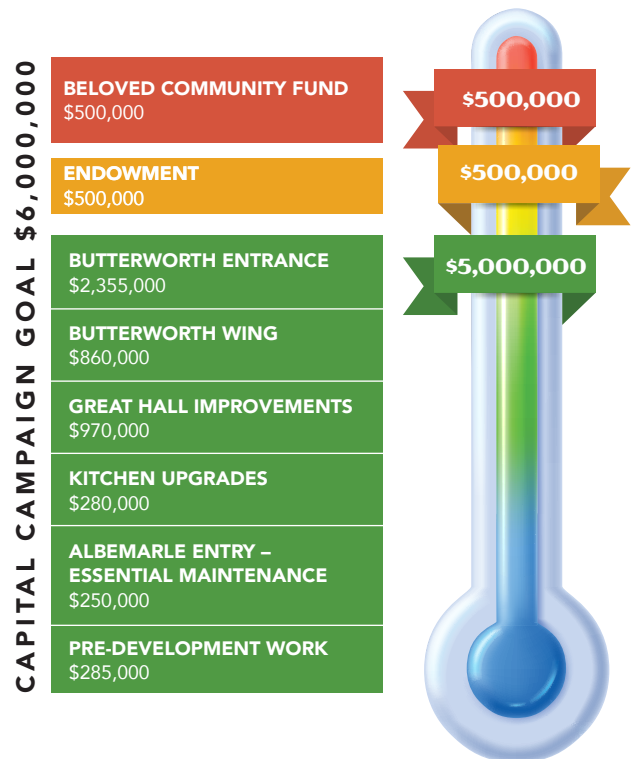


Contributions are crucial for sustaining St. Columba's mission and ensuring a vibrant future for the parish community. While increased pledges are encouraged, if every household maintains their current pledge, we will be able to carry out our goals for mission and ministry.

CARE FOR THE PRESENT



INVEST IN OUR FUTURE



God loves it when the giver delights in the giving!

II CORINTHIANS 9:7,
E. PETERSON, TRANS.

HOW DO I GIVE?

We can think of no better time than our 150th Anniversary to embark on an ambitious campaign to celebrate all that St. Columba's means to us today, and to help us do even more tomorrow. With your support, we can responsibly sustain our church's present, while also ambitiously investing in our future. We ask you to make an annual pledge to sustain St. Columba's ongoing operations, and in addition, to make a further gift toward St. Columba's Living God's Love 150th Anniversary Campaign. We hope you'll join us!

Annual Pledge

First and foremost, we ask you to maintain your annual pledge to St. Columba's, payable in 2025, at a level at least equal to last year. We also invite anyone who has not pledged before to consider doing so! While we welcome any increases in pledges, at a minimum we need to keep our annual pledge income at its current rate to cover our continued operations and existing programs. These include clergy and staff salaries, facility maintenance and utilities, worship services, and other operational needs. They also include St. C's full array of programs: its youth program, music and choir, bible study, and member engagement. Starting this year, annual pledges will also pay for outreach programs like Water Ministry, Grate Patrol, Refugee Response, Stirring the Waters, and partnerships such as Housing Up and Friendship Place. By maintaining our current level of annual giving, we can meet these needs and keep St. Columba's important work going.

150th Anniversary Campaign Gift

Along with your annual pledge, we also encourage you to pledge an additional gift toward our Living God's Love 150th Anniversary campaign. With this further pledge, payable over a period of up to 5 years, you can help make St. Columba's future even brighter. Your gift will help pay for needed upgrades to our building facilities to help better accommodate and serve our parish and its programs. It will also help establish a key endowment reserve fund to give greater stability to our parish finances. And it will establish a beloved community fund to support initiatives that advance core church priorities like strengthening community and embracing our world, including supporting programs that work for racial justice.



FROM OUR WARDENS

The Vestry's decision to launch the capital campaign to address these needs was taken with the advice and support of many, many parishioners. Countless hours of careful analysis and deliberations have occurred in the past several years. We are so very grateful to those (too many to name!) who have given so generously of their time and talent to this effort.

The Vestry's decision was unanimous and enthusiastic. Although each of us may have different priorities, we came together around this final plan — one which reflects who we are as a parish; what we need at this point in time; and what will be lasting legacy for future Columbans.

As you learn more about the campaign and its goals, we are certain you will share in our excitement. Let the Spirit move you to give generously.

SARA GLENN, SENIOR WARDEN
GINA LAGOMARSINO, JUNIOR WARDEN





All things come of thee,
and of thine own have we given thee

CHRONICLES 29:14

Live God's Love

Good and gracious God,

We give you thanks for our lives and the world you have made.

We give you thanks for your love, for your son Jesus Christ.

We give you thanks for the vision you have planted in the imagination
of our hearts;

a vision of the world as you would have us live.

We give you thanks for St. Columba's Church,
for this community that welcomes and embraces us.

Together, we have prayed and been fed;

we have been nurtured and challenged;

we have cried and laughed;

we have joined together for solace and comfort;

we have joined together in ministry to seek justice in the world.

We give you thanks for those who have come before us,

for the fellowship we enjoy together,

and for the ways our lives may be a blessing for those who follow.

Bless St. Columba's in this year of our anniversary.

Bless us, as we each give as we are able.

Bless us, that we may be your heart and your hands in the world about us.

Bless us, as we seek to live your love through our lives.

In the name of Christ our Savior, we pray. Amen.