

July 23, 2015

Under the Radar – Marsh 2.0 Update

You may not realize it, but since the congregation approved the Marsh Project, there has been a lot of activity, planning and discussion, to keep our goals on track. Most of this activity, however, has been out of sight, under the radar.

Nevertheless, so as to be good stewards of your trust, we want to apprise you in brief and bring to your attention some recent developments:

The original Marsh Committee, having completed its task of bringing the Project to the congregation for approval, was disbanded. However, the Project continues under two separate initiatives: one for the actual renovation of the building, the other to raise funds to complete the Project.

A team comprised of church members, the architect and the Contract Management Company have finalized the design and are in the process of getting the necessary approvals from the town and the Wethersfield Historic District Commission to proceed. They are also lining up various subcontractors from electrical, plumbing and carpentry trades, among others, that are required to complete the task. All of these activities are consistent with the renovation timeline, which allows for a scheduled start in October.

Within the last month, also announced in the *June Spire*, leadership positions for the Capital Campaign Committee have been filled. While the timeline for the Campaign is being finalized, the co-chairs of the Capital Campaign, along with the seven sub-committees, are busy recruiting additional church members to assist in carrying out their assignments.

The Capital Campaign, itself, incorporates a process of information sharing, prayer, faith and congregational unity building, to be conducted over the next six months. For those who have a heart and desire to immediately give, we ask for your patience and discernment and suggest that you do a few specific things while the Capital Campaign prepares and gets underway: Pray about your potential giving; count your blessings; listen to God speak and guide your heart.

In closing, we want to assure you, a lot of activities have been going on, although much of it for the moment has been under the radar. Soon activities in efforts both to renovate and to raise funds will become more apparent. In the meantime, please be assured that with God's guidance and help, your prayers, and a lot of hard work, this Project will be successful in enabling First Church to better serve its members and our community.

John Davis and Charles Floyd, Marsh 2.0 Publicity Committee, *co-chairs*

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