

## WHY THIS CAMPAIGN MATTERS...

*“For more than 100 years, faithful souls have gathered under the same stained glass dome that now inspires us with its beauty. Lofty praise, never silenced by death or departure, has soared to this pinnacle of our sanctuary, and abundant blessings have showered down upon us.*

*We have a rare opportunity to honor a century of courageous witness and inspiring worship by lovingly restoring this artistic and architectural carrier of our faith history. Inspired by our connection to Pilgrim’s great legacy, may all who come behind us find us faithful!”*

— Ron Morgan

*“It takes a long time every Sunday to get up and down the stairs [with the current chair lift] because of the large number of people who use those stairs. We’re now averaging more than 300 in worship, and many of these are elderly or disabled. I think an elevator would be wonderful. Speaking as a lady that needs it, I really think it’s important.”*

— Charlene Morford

*“If church is family, then our fellowship hall is our family room. It’s where relationships are built and nurtured. So, while the care of the kitchen, the fellowship hall and other areas of our building might not seem glamorous, it does help us realize our goal that all of our space be utilized for ministry.”*

— George Graham



**A campaign about a people’s joy,  
a persistent dream, and the  
treasure that lies therein**

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**To** prepare for our 150th anniversary in 2009, we are launching Pilgrim Rising — a \$1.5 million capital campaign to restore and improve our church's historic building and to provide increased opportunities for mission and ministry.

The participation of every member and friend is needed to ensure this campaign's success. Yes, \$1.5 million is a lofty goal. But, as Pilgrim people, we've grown accustomed to reaching upward!

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**T**he people of Pilgrim Congregational United Church of Christ have always risen to the occasion.

Since 1859, when we were formed as a forward-thinking, ecumenically-spirited Christian community, we've been defying conventional wisdom, pushing back boundaries and bucking the system. Our forebears taught and lived the social gospel, and they came to understand conversion as not only personal, but communal.

To nourish the health and vitality of one's community — our church has long taught us — is to follow faithfully in the way of Jesus.

Even in the 1960s and 70s, when urban flight took its toll on inner city congregations, Pilgrim's people pushed on. In the 1980s, instead of succumbing to relentless decline, our community made a conscious decision: We will rise again!

Today, as a people touched by God's transforming spirit, we know firsthand the power of Easter's promise. We embrace the extravagant welcome of Jesus as the hallmark of our resurrection witness. That's why — faithfully, even persistently — we climb to new heights. Like those before us, we will rise.



# Pilgrim Rising

- \* is a \$1.5 million capital campaign about access, hospitality, and the care/restoration of our beloved church's historic facilities.
- \* will provide for a new elevator in order that Pilgrim might offer true accessibility for all to each level and every area of our building.
- \* will expand our "extravagant welcome" by creating a new, focal entrance for our church.
- \* will facilitate important, much-needed repairs, renovations and restorations to our kitchen, fellowship hall, pastoral wing and sanctuary dome.
- \* will enable the building of an accessible restroom on the sanctuary- floor level.
- \* will beautify the landscape, repair and expand the sidewalks, and make possible a new exterior church sign.
- \* will protect our aging building through less-visible but important repairs to the ceiling, lighting, masonry, parking lot and more.
- \* will include a 10 percent tithes to support the church's wider mission and outreach opportunities.

last two campaigns have enabled us to accomplish. Member gifts have allowed us to rebuild our beautiful organ, restore our sanctuary and downstairs hallway, provide additional Sunday School classroom space, and install a new roof on the building. In addition to building renovations, we have also supported the Interfaith Hospitality Network through our gifts.

This is an exciting time for everyone here at Pilgrim. In the coming weeks we will hear inspiring messages from Dr. Laurie and lay members about Pilgrim's involvement in social justice and what Pilgrim Church means to them. You will be invited to a campaign kick-off luncheon on Sunday, April 17. You will also receive an invitation to an in-home meeting to hear witnessing stewards talk about Pilgrim and to share your thoughts about our present and future.

For the past 145 years, Pilgrim has been a place of love and support for the members of our congregation, as well as the community. The new Capital Campaign will give each of us a unique opportunity to work together to preserve our past, pave the way for our future, and to help others through our mission support.

Giving is not a burden but a privilege and opportunity to be a part of God's work. On June 5, let's make Celebration Sunday a day we have accomplished our goals and can come together in great celebration.

*Scott Williams and John Lauro,  
campaign co-chairs*

*Byron McKnight, honorary co-chair*

## A MESSAGE FROM THE CAMPAIGN CO-CHAIRS

**T**hese past few weeks we have all been hearing a lot about our capital campaign. We now know the goals of this campaign are to make our building more accessible and user friendly, to preserve our beautiful dome and rehabilitate our fellowship hall and kitchen, and support a mission commitment that will be a part of our blessing in this endeavor.

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