

Frequently Asked Questions



1. Why do we need Our Hope & Home for Years to Come now?

It is time to reinforce our complement of clergy to the meet the needs of our growing church. It is time to renew our spaces, adapting them to the needs of our current and evolving parish and ministries, including an elevator, accessible bathrooms, and improved livestreaming. It is time to renovate and reinforce our parish for a future that has space for big dreams and bold vision, along with the solid steady love of Jesus Christ that we proclaim, century after century. It is time to nourish and sustain the ministries we hold dear. It is time now to gather the resources necessary to move forward.

2. Why is this called a “Comprehensive Campaign instead of a “Capital Campaign?”

Both campaign models are aspects of a holistic and diversified fundraising strategy. A “capital campaign” is one that specifically provides essential revenue to support an institution’s capital funding needs, such as large-scale “bricks and mortar” building or infrastructure projects. A “comprehensive campaign,” on the other hand, enables monies to be raised more broadly to support every aspect of church life – including both capital and operational funds.

For Christ Church, a comprehensive campaign best suits our current funding priorities: Capital funds necessary for identified urgent facilities and infrastructure improvements to the Parish Houses; and Operating funds to support select, high-priority and short-term need that cannot be met from the current annual budget.

In other words, a capital campaign supports places. A comprehensive campaign supports places, programs, and people.

3. Who determined the list of immediate needs?

We all did. The ideas and projects were not identified over the past year, but rather in previous studies developed over the past decade and longer. And, of course, they’ve been identified in daily life. Christ Church has gotten close to engaging Parish House improvements several times, and significant work by dozens of parishioners allow us to begin this campaign well ahead of where any other church would be. We are grateful to previous campaign committees, to Our Calling, Our Campus, and to the 4 Treasure Chests strategic work that led to the development of the final list of urgent, “no regret” projects reflected in the Our Hope & Home for Years to Come campaign.

4. Was there one need that was most crucial?

We desperately needed a third full-time priest, and we didn’t have the money in the budget.

Since 2021, our priests have been doing double- and triple-duty. With church attendance averaging nearly 400 on most Sundays, the clergy are stretched thin to meet the needs of our parishioners. Through the comprehensive campaign, we are seeking operating funds to provide “bridge funding” for three to five years for a full-time member of the clergy. This is not a permanent fix, and it is not an endowment, but rather a bridge to the full inclusion of this third clergyperson in the operating budget. A rule of thumb is that parishes should have one full-time priest for every 100 active parishioners.

By 2029 and beyond, our lease with Linder Academy, together with all our other revenue streams including generous individual giving, will support our current staffing levels, including three clergy.

Angels In Our Midst: An early generous and anonymous gift to the campaign provided seed funding to call the Rev. Beth Bingham, who arrived in December 2025.

5. What space will we lose to fit in the new elevator?

In the short term, we will lose one Outreach Office and an office that has served as a storage room for Outreach & Mission. However, those offices will relocate in reconfigured Parish Hall spaces.

6. What about bathrooms?

Four new accessible, bathrooms will be added – one on each side of the Library entrance and two at the Washington Street side of the Auditorium. (Yes, bathrooms, at last, in the Auditorium.) All other Parish House bathrooms will be updated.

7. How will this improve the Auditorium?

The most important improvement is access via an elevator and bathrooms! Currently those who have difficulty climbing stairs, including people with walkers or families with strollers, struggle to get up to the Auditorium. And, once people do make it to the Auditorium for an event, there are no bathrooms, making it particularly challenging for parents with young children and older adults.

The campaign will enable us to upgrade the accessibility, reliability, appeal and ministry capacity of this space, including the kitchen. The work will make it even more functional for our current programs, our community, and for ministries we have not yet dreamed of.

8. Will Our Hope & Home for Years to Come improve Sunday worship?

Updated audio and video capabilities will improve our Sunday livestream. We will install additional cameras and microphones that will better capture the sights and sounds of our (extraordinary) worship, organ, and choirs. Additionally, we must overhaul our WiFi to accommodate the demands of livestreaming as well as our campus-wide connectivity. We must also replace a damaged piano, so our musical offerings are a truly glorious experience in our historic church and online.

9. How will the campaign affect our Outreach and Mission work?

At the heart of our vision is God's call to mission and ministry, which is embodied and deeply rooted in the work of our Lazarus Ministry that supports those in our community who experience poverty, violence, and injustice. Throughout scripture God calls us to tithe by returning 10% of our resources to God for the care of people in need. To that end, a tithe from this campaign will support the vital work of the Lazarus Food Pantry and Lazarus Financial Assistance ministry. These funds will enable us to expand these ministries and provide urgent funding for our Alexandria City neighbors facing dire financial emergencies.

10. How will we remember the enslaved persons who helped construct our church building and our church families' wealth?

Since the start of Christ Church's 250th anniversary celebration in 2023, a dedicated committee has been working to find a creative, meaningful way to remember the enslaved persons who helped give us our church home. The campaign will fund a memorial in the churchyard that honors the enslaved people who built our parish through their labor on the church building, and who, through their labor, also built the wealth of church families.

11. This campaign sounds great, but how do we know Christ Church can afford this?

Our parishioners told us – with help from church fundraising experts. Our consultant, Horizons Stewardship, conducted a feasibility survey to which 175 Christ Church members responded. 96% of respondents agreed with the needs identified in the Feasibility Study and 93% agreed that these projects are important for furthering the ministries of the church. The results were exciting. Some respondents noted that they would commit funds early. This summer, the Rector will be talking to potential early donors to begin the fundraising phase of the campaign. These will be essential to ensuring a successful campaign. The official churchwide campaign will kick off on Welcome Sunday in September.

12. How do I give?

Thanks for asking! Please see the "Ways to Give" document in this packet for information about the many ways you can contribute to the campaign.



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