

## **BUILDING COMMITTEE (VISION 21) 2008 Annual Report**

Our committee spent most of 2008 trying to get our Site Plan approved by Fairfax County. We had received our Special Use Permit in September of 2006, and hoped that the Site Plan could be approved in a matter of 6–9 months, or sometime in mid-2007. Instead, we finally got site plan approval in November 2008—almost two years after it was first submitted. We are grateful for the patience of the Session and congregation as this frustrating process unfolded.

The next step will be to develop bid proposals, have conferences with qualified bidders, and get a realistic estimate of what all these delays have done to the costs of the project. Without those final cost numbers, we are unable to come to the congregation with a firm plan for moving ahead with financing and for building the new addition to the church. Obviously, the global economic situation has dramatically changed during the time we have been working for county approval. Just how these new economic realities will affect us, we can't say at this point.

When we have the new estimates, we will share them with the church congregation as we seek the necessary Session, Congregational, and Presbytery approvals for a financing plan. In early 2009, we will sponsor an audit of the church's books, since both Presbytery and the bank will require a current audit.

The Building Fund has continued to grow throughout the year as members fulfill their pledges. As of December 31, 2008, preliminary reports indicate a total of \$777,500 in cash, memorials, and securities in the building fund accounts. We continued to gain cash as the members fulfilled their pledges, but like the rest of the American economy, we suffered a book loss of almost 62,000 on the securities that were held in the fund. Hopefully, that value will come back if we are patient. In addition, the building fund loaned the congregation \$108,274 for the purchase of the Cauba Court property that was added to the church's site during 2008.

For most of our members, 2008 represented the third year of their 3-year pledge to the Building Stewardship Campaign. As the project now gets the chance to become a reality, it is time to begin Phase 2 of that campaign. We plan to begin that new stewardship effort in early 2009. We hope everyone will stay with the vision that is coming ever so much closer to reality and renew their pledge of support in Phase 2.

Respectfully submitted,  
Neil Sampson, Chair, Building Committee