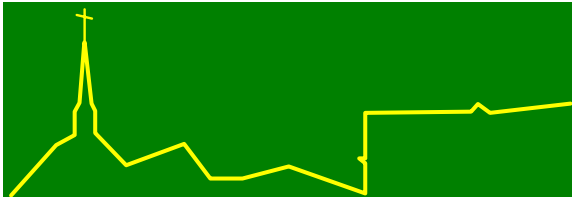


BUSH HILL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
4916 Franconia Road
Alexandria, VA 22310
Renewing the Vision
NEWSLETTER #2 – MAY 2009
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Renewing the Vision

By God's Grace
we have traveled forward

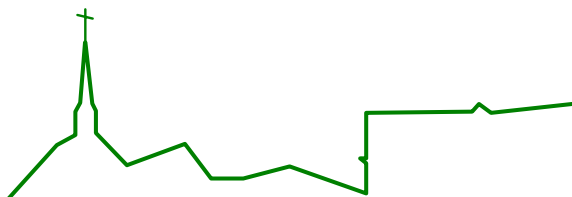
With God's Grace
we can renew our vision

Lord, what would you do
through me
to accomplish your vision
for our church?

**Bush Hill Presbyterian
Church**

Building Campaign

4916 Franconia Road
Alexandria, VA 22310
Dr. Carl A. Rush, Pastor
www.bushhill.org




From the Pastor

On Sunday, May 3, Neil Sampson, Chair of our Building Committee, described the long journey that has led us to where we are in our effort to rebuild fellowship areas, offices, library, kitchen, and classroom space. This new configuration in our facility will better serve our ministry efforts and enable our ongoing witness in our community. This brochure summarizes where we've been, where we are now, and introduces information about some exciting events coming soon in our *Renewing the Vision* Building Campaign.

As you read, and after you read, pray that the Lord will guide your heart to consider what you can do to accomplish God's will for this campaign and His church.

Grace to you and peace,



P.S. Look for Neil's entire presentation on our website at:
http://www.bushhill.org/Building_Campaign/Building_Campaign_Index.htm

History

We started our journey to a new facility well over a decade ago with the growing shared sense that our existing buildings were unable to support the ministry to which we felt God was calling us.



In 2001 we began in earnest with an initial study of ways to improve accessibility—a daunting task in our situation: three buildings with seven distinct floor levels, stairs at every turn, and not a single rest room that didn't require at least some of them! In mid-2003, with lists of "must do" and "nice to have" updates in hand, we engaged the experts at Kuntz and Associates Architects to present us with some options.

We wanted a facility that people could use and enjoy—one that opened up ways to serve both our own members and the surrounding community.

By May 2004, after reviewing three renovation options, it had become clear that to make our existing structures accessible and bring them up to current building code requirements would be as expensive as a major rebuilding effort, so we returned to the drawing board—quite literally—by requesting a whole new plan.

We asked for a plan that would extend a new fellowship and educational wing off the main sanctuary, while retaining the history and "feel" of Bush Hill.

Interestingly, a similar extension had been proposed as an expansion option in the original 1960's sanctuary design.

*Will this new design provide opportunity
to seek the Vision God has given us?*

Yes! The new design does just that. While removing the two older buildings, it retains the look and feel of the church.



The new building will support a vibrant program of worship, mission and outreach to all ages, including:

- Modern Day School and education spaces
- Well located, safe nursery facility
- Fellowship Hall for 250 with a commercial kitchen
- Outreach space for community gatherings
- Adequate office space, meeting rooms, storage

And all with efficient use of space, resources and operating funds:

- no more duplicate, unusable spaces
- improved, updated heating, air conditioning and air flow

Pursuing the Vision – 2005-2008

This next section is a difficult one. Our congregation approved go-ahead with the plan in January, 2005, and we approved the final design that July. Then we began navigating Fairfax County's three-stage approval process.

- Special Use Permit Application to Fairfax County, January 2006 – Approved, August 2006
- Site Plan Application to Fairfax County, January 2007 – Approved November 2008

Four years later, we await approval of our building permit—the last step.

- Building Permit Application to Fairfax County, April 2009 –

During all this delay, however, the people of the church moved ahead to realize the vision. Our first stewardship campaign raised almost \$1.5 million between 2005 and 2008, and we spent just over ½ million on design, engineering, and the purchase of the Cauba Court property.

Moving Forward – Our Tradition

Experts say if a building project doesn't start within 1-1/2 years, most churches abandon their goal.

Bush Hill has waited almost 4 years now. No wonder it feels as if the momentum has stalled.

But the vision remains, because it is founded in prayer.

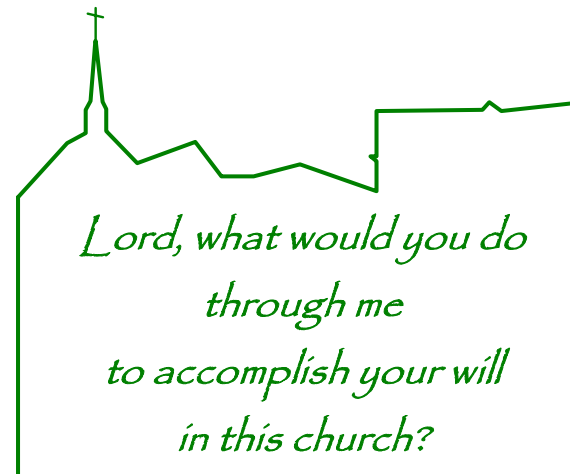
Renewing the Vision

Our goal for 2009 is to renew and re-invigorate our vision. Our approach is grounded in our collective willingness to seek God's guidance through prayer.

Renewing the Vision is:

- Remembering where we started, the road we've traveled, and why
- Rededicating ourselves
- Seeking the Joy of Sharing in an Important Task
- A Major Challenge for BHPC
- A Major Opportunity for BHPC
- Realizing we can do together, with God's help, what none of us could accomplish alone
- Remaining with God in prayer

What is God calling us to do?



Coming Soon! Ministry Expo! Sunday, May 31, 2009, 11:00 AM

The Ministry EXPO will be a fun-filled worship service on May 31 showcasing just a few of Bush Hill's ministries. As a congregation we will celebrate some of the many ways we serve our community, and we will continue the discussion about what's possible in the life of Bush Hill Presbyterian Church. Worship will be followed by a brunch (don't miss it—anytime John Ferree is cooking, there is bound to be a delicious meal!) and great fellowship and discussion. Bring your sense of adventure (and your sense of humor) and celebrate some of what we can be as the people of God.

Christian Education and the Sanctuary Choir rehearsal will be at the normal 9:30 and 10:30 timeslots, but there will be only one worship service this morning! Come early for Christian Education and stay late for brunch!

Presentations

- ⌘ See a year in the life at Bush Hill
- ⌘ See a life in the church at Bush Hill
- ⌘ See our building in a way you may not have thought about it before
- ⌘ And of course, see a committee meeting in action! What Presbyterian function would be complete without it?

*Don't Forget Commitment Sunday!
June 7, 2009 - 8:30 and 11:00 AM*