

Fourth Notes

May 2009

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Year Three of “Share the Vision” Mortgage Shares for 2009-2010

Two years ago, after several years of working on a plan to expand our church building, Fourth Church had an opportunity to purchase the property next door. Given that the costs of building expansion were becoming increasingly unreachable, the opportunity felt like a Godsend, literally.

So we bought 5 Vinton. We made a substantial down payment and took out a mortgage, which we pay each year through extra mile pledges from our members and friends.

The space at 5 Vinton has made an incredible difference. Specifically, it has given us:

- An office for staff
- A pleasant and quiet space for confidential meetings,
- Program space (allowing Mazemakers to double, Sunday school classes to multiply, and new youth and children programs)
- PARKING!
- An apartment with affordable rent for a family.
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We’ve now had two years of “Share the Vision” campaigns. We have indeed paid our mortgage, made necessary repairs, kept up with bills, and all the rest. Congratulations, everybody, and thank you.

Now it is time for Year Three (July 2009-June 2010) and we again invite everybody to invest in “Mortgage Shares.” Together, we are investing in future ministry, and each \$100 share helps us take care of our mortgage commitment for 2009-10.

Our goal: \$23,000. But we have some great news. Fourteen members of the session and staff have already made commitments of \$8,500. That means we now just need \$14,500! (Or 145 “shares.”)

A mailing will go to past pledgers, and many will also receive a phone call, but we invite the broad audience of Fourth Notes to consider contributing toward one share, or five, or fifteen, or more.

There are many ways we could reach the needed \$14,500. Here’s one path:

2 more people pledge \$1500	2 more people pledge \$500
1 more person pledges \$1200	3 more people pledge \$400
1 more person pledges \$1000	3 more people pledge \$300
1 more person pledges \$800	5 more people pledge \$200
4 more people pledge \$600	18 more people pledge \$100

It’s worth noting that we are taking care of these mortgage payments while we continue to take care of key renovation pieces in our church building. Last summer we finished new bathrooms, for example, and last fall we replaced the roof and added insulated siding to the church exterior. A hard-working building committee has plans to renovate the fellowship hall and update our heating system. We have built a funding base for those plans through the Bluegrass event, Burns’s marathon run and a generous private donation. So while you help us do the necessary task of keeping up with the mortgage; the church is also moving forward in creative ways to improve our facility. Together, these efforts mean excellent space for this ministry we cherish so much.

So please consider this invitation to share in our vision. Use the enclosed pledge card and mail it to the church (340 Dorchester Street, South Boston, MA 02127). Or email your pledge to Burns or Tim (addresses up above).

We want to be done with this campaign my Pentecost, May 31. Naturally we’ll have a party that day with a cookout potluck!! Come on down, wear red for the holiday, and take a place in our group photo.

Confirmation: May 10

Six very special young people are near the celebration of their joining the church as confirmands. As they finish presenting their statements of faith to session, please reserve their day of confirmation and plan to support them with your presence.

They are:

Isaiah Thompson, Ryan Schomburg, Samantha Courage, Nathan Stanfield, Simon Belcher, and John Kealey.

Courtney's Sunday morning class: Bible Basics

Responding to public demand, Courtney VanVeller created a Bible Basics class for Sunday morning. It continues up until Memorial Day Weekend. All welcome, regardless of how much you know about the Bible!! Sundays, 9:30am.

The Power of Forgiveness

This month we continue our Wednesday Soup N Study on "The Power of Forgiveness." Using a film of the same name, we explore stories of forgiveness (from Northern Ireland, from 9-11, from Vietnam and more). All are welcome. Supper at 5:30, Study from 6 to 7.

PENTECOST- May 31

Save Sunday, May 31. It's a potluck weekend and we're going to make it a cookout potluck. It is also the day to celebrate our success in the Share the Mortgage Campaign. Most of all, it is Pentecost: the birthday of the Christian Church and a day for the Holy Spirit.

Come, bring food and friends, wear RED, and bring a smile for the group photograph after worship.

Childrens Day- June 7

We know wonderful our kids are, and we know their special perspective on this life of Christian faith. Tim Hughes, Kathy Burger and Michelle Sanchez are working with the kids as they develop a special worship service for us on June 7. Everybody save the date! The service will include communion and we will no doubt have a little party after worship.

Grayson Slade's baptism- June 14

Grayson welcomes a large extended family in June, and we all get to celebrate his baptism together on Sunday, June 14, in our 10:30 worship service. Come and be a part of a marvelous day.

Coming soon: Summer Interns and groups

We've got some exciting new (and old) friends this summer. Working with us a interns will

be Sarah Manucheri from Harvard, Matthew Johnstone and Hailey Bradley from Princeton. Visiting us with youth groups will be Audrey Hartness (South Carolina) and Andy Kort (NY). Summer will also have a full Summer Meals Program, Teen Crib, Wednesday cookouts and Gospel Night!

Workshop on Socially responsible investing

Thatcher Freeborn is putting together a workshop for us on responsible investing. More information is on the way, but save the date: Wednesday, March 27!

prayers...

Please continue to pray for Albert Aloise. He has had a stroke, pneumonia, and other complications. But his spirits are good and his family is very grateful for the many forms of support. Thank you.

Margaret Brennan is still at Marian Manor.

Sharon Matthews' mother passed. Keep Sharon and family in prayer.

Darla Danilowicz is back, but a recent accident has injured her toe. She is having a tough time getting around.

It has been great to see Shorty and Pam in church, thanks to the "Ride."

It is also great to welcome Bert Tom and Phil Tom from the PC(USA) staff as they continue their research on vital urban congregations.

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