

## **The *Forward in Faith* Capital Campaign**

*Maria Metz & Russ Graunke, Co-Chairs*

In challenging times like these, who believes that it's a good time to undertake a significant fund-raising campaign? Only those who feel compelled to move forward in faith, both in defiance of the adverse times and also because of them. We are called to be the light, the salt, and the hope that will lead the way. Our congregation is built on a legacy of forward thinking and faith, demonstrated by the eight women from the founding congregation who saved for eight years to buy a bell fit for a tower that didn't even exist yet. Like those women who saved for the bell, we had lofty ambitions for our *Forward In Faith* campaign. And together, we exceeded our goals

Our hope was to raise \$1 million for our Annual Fund to support the church and its ministries in the coming fiscal year; \$1 million to support near term capital projects; \$3.5 million for our Endowment, which will continue to support operating costs into the future; and an additional \$500,000 to build a community fund that will provide ongoing support for mission partners in our community. Altogether, that's \$6,000,000.

- **218** households have pledged to support the Church financially in the coming year, including **14** brand new pledges.
- We are pleased to share that **80%** of giving households were able to increase their annual pledge, **12%** have pledged to maintain their current level of giving, and **7%** are entirely new commitments this year.
- Our pledge total for this year's Annual Fund campaign, thus far, is **\$1,018,551**.
- Our Capital Campaign pledges amount to **\$5,277,110**, exceeding our hopes and fully funding our Capital Projects, Endowment, and Community Fund.
- In addition, **25** families have made plans to include us in their estate with a legacy gift that will sustain our church long into the future.
- In total, we raised **\$6,245,661**, a truly remarkable demonstration of generosity and faith.

What will FCCGE be doing in a hundred years? This campaign will help the church continue to be an island of coherence in the uncertain times that surely will greet us in the next century. We are truly blessed to be an island of coherence at a time when the future is uncertain and our community is in need. Thank you all for your support during our Forward In Faith campaign. And a very special thanks to the folks on the various teams who led our efforts, including team chairs Celia Rodee, Andy Ginger, Maggie Fredericks, and Deb Giampoli. Together, our church family has enthusiastically committed to moving forward in faith.