

**CELEBRATING** the past **WELCOMING** the future

**#3 NOVEMBER 2009**

*The Church exists to worship and serve God alone. Worship is central to the life of the Church. This must be expressed in the design and character of the building.*

*The Sanctuary should, in its dignity and quality, bear witness in the community to this holy calling, the praise and adoration of God.*

*The center of attention in true worship is to be not us but God. Not our state of mind, but his glory, comes first. The significant thing is that God is honored through song, prayer, giving and attentiveness to the hearing of his Word.*

*The worship of the Presbyterian Church is centered in the Word of God. Christian worship does not begin with man's search for God, but with God's search for man. God takes the initiative.*

*excerpt from Some Practical and Theological Considerations Relevant to Church Building, one of the readings given to the first Session by David Meekhof to consider when thinking about the design features of Newport Presbyterian.*

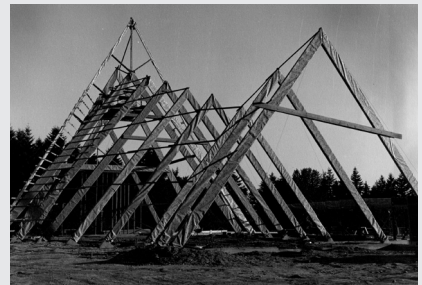
## **A Building Centered on Worship**

### **The Original Building**

In November 1960, five months after Newport was officially chartered, a Building Committee was created. It chose the architectural firm Grant, Copeland, Chervenak and Associates to design a building that would emphasize the relationship of all activities to worship. Bob Chervenak's original design was a sanctuary in the round, however that configuration was not approved by Session and a more traditional arrangement of forward-facing pews was chosen. To emphasize the centrality of worship, the fellowship and educational areas wrapped around and faced into the sanctuary - an innovative design that received an award from the National Conference on Church Architecture. The award commentary noted that in addition to having "a floor plan so shaped as to dispose most of the people forward toward the liturgical centers," it was a design "appropriate to its rural setting" with an "aspect clearly calling people to assemble for worship.

A Building fund, initiated in April 1961, reached its goal of raising \$45,000 in three years. The final cost of the building was \$140,000 or \$11/square foot.

Photos of the Ground breaking Ceremony on March 1, 1962, show members walking up a dirt road to the site which had an unobstructed view of the surrounding hillsides. General Contractor C.B.S. Construction and volunteers completed the Sanctuary, office space, original library and three classrooms on the upper level within ten months and the first service was held in January 1963.



The four classrooms and kitchen area on the lower level were completed by 1965, primarily with volunteer labor.

### **The 1976-79 Addition**

A building committee, formed in mid 1976, took on the challenge of adding 8,600 square foot to the original 13,000 square foot building. This addition created a new foyer to the exterior of the existing narthex, a chapel, the great hall with kitchen, four new classrooms on the south side and three rest rooms. Handicapped accessibility was a high priority.

While ground breaking was scheduled for late July, 1977, additional studies and approvals were required by King County before a building permit and a variance to allow one corner of new construction that infringed about five feet into the required 30-foot set back were granted. Also, unanticipated costs were generated by requirements for an expanded fire hydrant system and fire code provisions.

The Architectural firm Richert and Associates was engaged to design and act as project managers for the construction phase. The final cost of the addition was \$200,000 or \$23/square foot. The addition was dedicated in the Spring of 1979.

### Remembering the Past

1. Originally, the space where the offices are now was a large open space. The north wall was the original library with an open stairway to the lower level. The sink, cabinets and refrigerator were the south end of the room. The secretary's office was about where Janet's office is now. The Pastor's office was beyond that and opened into the secretary's office as well as the hall. The small room beyond that was the nursery. Who had the idea to remodel the office area?

2. A presently active member of Newport is related to the architectural firm that designed and built the Great Hall addition. Name the person and the company.

3. When did the tradition of passing out five kernels of corn originate. Name some of the 'fifth kernels' for which we have given thanks over the years.

4. November 14, 1979 Antonio and Vicente, Chicago fund raisers, presented stewardship pointers at the Stewardship commitment dinner. They also made a cameo appearance at the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary program. Who were they?

5. On November 13, 1994 Newport had a potluck dinner to say goodbye to friends who had been with us for nine years. Who were they?

### Answers to October Quiz

1. December 16, 1962.
2. The 'Newport interchange' from 405 made it necessary to go 'under' 405 and up the 120th Street hill.
3. The addition of a multi-purpose room and chapel plus 4 new classrooms. The first day in the Great Hall was March 4, 1979.
4. February 10, 1970.
5. Renovation of the offices, renewal of classrooms and relocation of the Library.

### The 1983-86 Improvement Plan

A three-year capital improvement program plan with final costs of \$228,000 financed a new roof and storm drainage system which were completed in 1984, a remodel of the office space and relocation of the library in 1985 and improvement to the sound system and parking lot in 1986.

### The \$200,000 for 2000

In 1998, the Property Committee prioritized a list of building improvements and deferred maintenance. These included re-engineering a section of the great hall that had a flat roof, entering into an agreement with the Bellevue Fire Department to install fire alarms on a "phased" basis, so that the Fish Pond area would meet code; and installing a heat pump to serve the office area.

### The 2005-2008 Sanctuary, Narthex Remodel and Atrium Addition

In 2005, a Design/Build task force was created to plan a remodel of the sanctuary that would bring in more light, allow for more flexible seating with individual chairs, and bring the Word and Sacraments (pulpit, communion table and baptismal font) in closer physical proximity with the congregation. Also, there was a desire to create a more inviting narthex and replace the east courtyard with an internal space that would connect the narthex and sanctuary with the Great Hall.

Broweleit, Peterson and Hammer Architectural firm was contracted for the job with Dennis Chivers as the main architect. S.S. Deacon served as General Contractor.

As with the 1976 addition, the permitting process was delayed because of issues related to fire safety. This time the pump for the fire sprinkler system needed upgrading. For almost a year, the city and architect negotiated several options before granting the final building permits. The Great Hall served as the temporary sanctuary until September 2008 when the new sanctuary was completed. The former east courtyard, roofed and appointed with clerestory windows, was christened 'the atrium' and has become a welcoming area for coffee hour and meetings.

The renovation cost \$2.1 million, paid for with pledges of \$1.3 million and a \$1.1 million loan from Synod. Part of the original loan to Synod was re-financed with the Presbyterian Investment and Loan Program out of Louisville, KY reducing the mortgage payments by \$10,000 per year.

Now, in our 50<sup>th</sup> year, we are making commitments to the Capital Extension Campaign whose goal is to generate funds to help pay down the principal on the loan and to complete some additional deferred maintenance .