

## GENERATIONS...Past, Present...Forever

For those of you who are new to our congregation, GENERATIONS is our capital campaign designed to support a multi-faceted project to enhance and expand our “tool box” of facilities in order to grow our present ministries and prompt new ways of reaching out to downtown Lexington and beyond. GENERATIONS funds:

- Property acquisitions and current indebtedness
- A new Ministry Center
- Facility improvements (downtown and Andover)

The vision for our congregation’s project has not changed since its inception prior to the launch of GENERATIONS early in 2007. Your sacrificial giving to accomplish what we have thus far has shown your commitment to our plans—the results are tangible and evident. We now press on toward the future knowing that your support is there to do great things for God.

### **Thank you for your faithfulness...**

Giving has been vigorous throughout GENERATIONS, and we remain solidly ahead of projected contributions. Our plans have progressed to completion, with the exception of moving forward on building our Ministry Center. Nearly \$650,000 is in a cash account until our decision on the next phase of our plans is made.

### **Here’s what is happening...**

In July 2008, we completed all phases of GENERATIONS except building the Ministry Center. These planned phases included:

- Phase 1: Launch of our Andover Campus in a newly remodeled sanctuary on Todds Road; debt retirement related to property acquisitions (327 S. Upper St.)
- Phase 2: Renovation of 323 S. Upper St. for Sunday School rooms and Room In the Inn.
- Phase 3: Expansion and renovation of Rokeby Hall for staff offices.

These phases were like pieces of a puzzle assembled to prepare our main building downtown for the Ministry Center addition to be built. There are, of course, many more details to address when the time comes for us to move forward as a congregation to build this new addition.

### **The Ministry Center**

The Ministry Center will include:

- New covered entry to the church, atrium for expanded gathering space close to the sanctuary; large fellowship hall for worship, receptions, dinners, seminars, outreach ministries to serve the downtown Lexington community; kitchen
- Secure nursery check-in and children’s welcome center; children’s chapel, library, art suite, more restrooms.
- Prayer Room
- Vestry, coat closet, restrooms
- New education space and classrooms for Sunday School in the fellowship hall and in the proposed basement

Other renovations in our main building include: Updating our youth wing and music suite.

### **To give you more time...**

Because the GENERATIONS funds will not be needed until our congregation decides on our next steps, we are recommending that we extend the campaign from 36 months to 48 months, *giving you an additional year to complete your current commitment* (conclusion would be in May 2011 instead of 2010). Times are tough—why make them tougher when we can offer you extra time. When it is right for us to move forward, we know you'll be there with strong giving as well as a passion for the future.

**Can I continue to give even though we've extended GENERATIONS to May 2011?**

Of course! And most of you will likely want to keep up that habit. But please know that you can use this extension to spread out your giving over an additional year.

**In the mean time...**

Our Building Team, under our 2009 Chair Ernie Stamper, will be focusing on fine tuning our plans. They will visit other new church additions, keep an eye on building costs, and assess when it is time to recommend moving forward on our plans.

**What's next?**

The recommendation to extend the campaign will be presented to our Administrative Council for affirmation at our May meeting. For more information, contact Ernie Stamper ([erniestamper@windstream.net](mailto:erniestamper@windstream.net)). This information is also on our web site at [www.lstumc.org](http://www.lstumc.org). You may also pick up our original campaign materials and proposed plans in the Gathering Hall (downtown) or foyer (Andover).

**An Update About Our High and Broadway Property and Parking**

Our purchase of the High and Broadway property follows our history of buying property surrounding our facilities to ensure the viability of our church to grow and minister in the downtown area. We have been making payments only on the interest of our property loan, but will begin reducing the loan principal in 2009, including a payment of \$60,000 from GENERATIONS, as approved by our Administrative Council in January 2009, for debt reduction on the principal, Income from the property (event parking, building rental, monthly parking) also helps offset expenses. Any shortfall has been built into our church's annual operating budget.

Adequate space to park is always on everyone's mind, and this property has the potential of meeting that need. Since the purchase, First Church has been approached numerous times by developers to sell the property or partner with them in a mutually beneficial way. *We are not property developers—we have a mission of making disciples*; however, we recognized the value and opportunity in this property to not only ensure parking, but to provide income or profit from a sale to help fund our GENERATIONS plans. These are exciting times, yet sometimes daunting in the midst of economic uncertainty. But God has great plans for us. Please pray for discernment and a focus on Christ in our decision making.