Campaign and Construction Update

The Church for EveryBody (CFE) Accessibility Project helps First Parish solve an almost two-century old lack-of-access problem by providing universal access to all of our highly used public areas.

As we enter the second year of our five-year, CFE fundraising effort, we thank all who have contributed or pledged to our campaign so far and hope that those who have not yet given or pledged to this transformational project will consider doing so. The CFE Project Team has calculated that we still need to raise $235,000 to complete our full list of improvements. We are off to a great start - 26% of this amount has already been committed!

Construction will begin in earnest this coming Monday, August 3, when the remainder of the old back stairway tower facing the high school plaza is demolished, the debris is hauled away, and we break ground for the structure that will house our Plaza entrance and new elevator and egress stairs. Other needs that will be addressed in the coming months include major renovations to our ground level kitchen, Community Room and rest rooms, the construction of a fully accessible rest room and shower in the Parish Hall, and significant improvements that will address the needs of the visually and hearing impaired who visit our historic church or who wish to attend service and other church-sponsored events via the internet. We will also make changes to our Memorial Garden that will enable all to access and enjoy this wonderfully peaceful setting in the “heart of our city.”

With our CFE Accessibility Project we have an exciting opportunity to create a legacy that will endure for generations to come. For more information, please email Austin Farrar, Ted Oldham or Stephanie Desrochers at CFE@firstparishportland.org.

July 29, 2020