

ST. BONAVENTURE CAMPAIGN NEWS

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1565 18th Ave., Columbus, Nebraska 68601



Fr. Mike Welcomes Campaign Co-Chairs

“Faith is the realization of what is hoped for and evidence of things not seen.”

—Hebrews 11:1

Dear Parishioners,

As we develop the Capital Campaign, the role of our faith is so important. Our belief in God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit is the foundation for a great future. It provides us with faith in each other and confidence in the leadership of our Capital Campaign!



I am so very pleased to announce that our Capital Campaign will be lead by Co-Chairs Carol Sand, Clete & Chris Pillen, Jan Fremarek and Mike & Kim Dreesen. Supported by a talented and devoted Steering Committee, our campaign leaders embrace a conviction that great days lie ahead for our parish family.

Hebrews 11:1 tells us that we can believe and be assured based upon good reason. **“Faith is the realization of what is hoped for and evidence of things not seen.”**

That “evidence” is our reason for believing. For this reason, I want us all to make a faith-filled and reasonable decision regarding our Project 2020 master plan.

I ask that you attend one of our official campaign events to further understand the details of Project 2020 and the capital campaign. In addition to sharing fellowship, each event will include an exceptional parish history video, a Power Point discussion of our project, and plenty of time for your questions.

Thank you to our Events Team for their creativity and effort in providing us these important opportunities.

As always, I welcome your questions, concerns and thoughts about our parish and this capital campaign process.

Yours in Christ,

Fr. Mike Swanton

From Your Steering Committee

Co-Chair Carol Sand

Campaign Co-Chair Carol Sand sees “excitement” when she talks with others about St. Bonaventure’s plans to build a new parish center, expand the church, and update the school. “There’s a pride in our parish, and people come together so nicely,” she says.

She knows this because she is often the one bringing us together. Whether giving communion to someone homebound or hosting a Boot Scootin’ Barbecue for hundreds of people to help fund the church’s internal painting renovation, Carol has been a contributing member of St. Bonaventure for approximately 25 years.

Raised in Lindsay, Neb., Carol Luetkenhaus married her high school sweetheart in 1965. Chuck Sand proposed when she was a college sophomore. Columbus became home in 1970 when Chuck moved his construction business here. The couple had three children – Mike, Michelle, and Nicole – who all graduated from Scotus Central Catholic High School and now have families of their own, blessing them with eight grandchildren.

Carol and Chuck joined St. Bonaventure in the 1990s. Chuck was actively involved in the Scotus Endowment Board, and Carol set out on her faith journey, a path she enjoys walking every day.

“I was a ‘cradle Catholic,’” she admits. “My parents were very devout, but as a child, I went through the motions.” Over the years, Carol learned the power of the rosary and takes comfort in knowing it was the last prayer she shared with her husband before he passed away. She prays it daily for

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Carol Sand surrounded by her family: (back row): Drew, Brad, Ian and Seth Stirek; (middle row): Brenda and Mike Sand, Justin Vossen, Michelle Stirek, Nicole Vossen, Jessica Sand; (front row): Toby Sand, Kate and Max Vossen and Elizabeth Sand.

BUILDING UPON THE ROCK

.....St. Bonaventure Youth

By Lynette Klug



Made up of youth of varying ages and a few adults, the Youth Team is a diverse group of people who are active in the church and who serve our parish youth. The teens are engaged, young Catholics who are willing to communicate, be active thinkers and engage in our church community. The adults have a passion to demonstrate to our youth the benefits of being participating members.

“I was involved in the youth ministry team at St. Bon’s two years ago, and I really enjoyed it,” said Naomi Kosch, a senior at Scotus Central Catholic High School. “So, I thought this would be a fun way to get involved in the parish. I enjoy helping the parish find the best ways to access youth.”

The team has activities planned for young people of all ages in our parish which will help educate their peers about Project 2020. One such event was a recent Easter egg hunt. While attending these events, St. Bonaventure’s next generation learns about the improvements planned for the facilities and how those changes will impact their future and make St. Bonaventure an even better church community.

“Our team is working hard to show the youth how we must be good stewards for our church. After all, it is our church community that provides the foundation for a fulfilling life,” says Co-Chair Lynette Klug. “The youth are the future of our church and school, we believe we need to educate and model for them what stewardship is and how it feels to belong to a church community.”

The campaign theme is Behold. Believe. Belong., yet which of these is most important to our youth?

When Jesus called Peter to be the rock upon which he would build his church, he called us to be the body of His church now and forever. We are her caretakers.

If we don’t prepare her for the future, then who?

“One of the most important things we do in our campaigns is to connect the youth to the parish, their faith and the future of the Catholic Church,” according to campaign consultant Joe Akers. “The Behold. Believe. Belong. Campaign is connecting the next generation to the church projects and strengthening their faith in the process.”



Approximately 75 little ones were entertained on April 9 at the Easter egg hunt hosted by the campaign’s Youth Team.

“They are all important,” says Naomi, “but I think that young people sometimes wonder where their place is in the church. It’s important that everyone feels welcome, or it’s impossible to help them believe and belong. I like that when we walk into Mass, there is always someone we know welcoming us,” says Naomi.

“If our youth grow up participating, feeling welcomed, and part of a church family, their faith will grow and lead them to become faith-filled adults,” adds Klug.

Please watch for upcoming campaign youth activities including a June 2nd Color Run, t-shirt design challenge, movie night and our Youth Prayer. If your child would like to get involved, please contact Lynette (402-910-1145), one of the team co-chairs or Dianne Keiter in the parish office.

Campaign Youth Team members include: Co-Chairs: Mike Allen, Jamie Heine, Lynette Klug, Chris Spale, Jill Spale; Team: Hannah Allen, Wren Allen, Amy Brandt, Jan Foltz, Stewart Gerhold, Belinda Keiter, Eric Kluever, Kim Kluever, Eric

Carol Sand - continued from page 1

others whose faith or health is in need of Christ’s mercy and for her own battle against a recent diagnosis of cancer. While the disease has restricted her participation in the campaign, she still prays, writes thank you notes, and supports the various teams.

This dedication has always been apparent. For five years, she participated in the RCIA program, so she could “defend her faith to those who challenged it.” She has been part of the church’s perpetual adoration for years, belongs to a prayer group, reads religiously and attends Mass whenever she can. She delights in the renewed enthusiasm Fr. Mike brings to the parish; her heart is inspired by youth programs such as Godparents and Hour of Power; and she speaks fondly of her past involvement in church activities like garden tours, salad luncheons, Christmas tree and nativity tours. She became a Eucharistic minister for the homebound after undergoing surgery herself. “I appreciated having someone come to my home. If others only knew the joy of giving someone else communion, I think they would volunteer.”

And engagement is what she is seeing in the **Behold. Believe. Belong. Campaign.**

“I love the project,” she says. “We aren’t doing this for us, but for those who will come after us. Look what the early settlers did in buying the beautiful stained glass windows! They added them decades ago, and parishioners enjoy them still today. The new parish center, narthex and school facilities will give us - and future generations - more opportunities to gather after church, hold spaghetti feeds, pancake feeds, and other events - really come together as a church family. It will be part of the legacy we leave.”

“For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.”

—Matthew 18:20

Kloke, Susi Kobus, Colson Kosch, Naomi Kosch, Lindsey Liebig, Lynn Mielak, Angie Ostdiek, Deb Ohnoutka, Hallie Parker, Lizzie Parker, Jacque Schwartz, Angela Swanson, Amy Schaecher, Janet Tooley, Sami Wunderlich.

THANKS FOR COMING!

Holy Guacamole! It was terrific to see so many from the St. Bonaventure family turn out for the first two capital campaign events held April 29 and 30 in the Social Hall! It is estimated the informational events attracted at least 100 parishioners who wanted to learn more about the project.

The next event will be "Eat, Drink & Be Merry" at 7 p.m. on Friday, May 12 in the Parish Center. If you have a conflict, please RSVP to one of the remaining social gatherings. You can come to more than one.

Each event features a historical video about our parish; an overview about the project, its priorities and costs; an outline of how parishioners can help support the campaign in the coming months; and a question and answer session. Oh, and did we mention the events include good food and great camaraderie? Can't wait to see you there!

- Your Steering Committee



FIVE FUN EVENTS

Please join us, at any of these events, to learn more about our project and the logistics of our capital campaign. These are **information only events** to enjoy fellowship with other parishioners.

**We also want your input
because you belong to
St. Bonaventure Parish.**

EAT, DRINK & BE MERRY

Friday, May 12, 7:00 pm
Parish Center

PASTRIES WITH THE PASTOR

Sunday, May 21, 8:00 am
Parish Center
Childcare Provided

PASTRIES WITH THE PASTOR

Sunday, May 21, 12:00 pm
Parish Center
Childcare Provided

CHOCOLATE, CHAMPAGNE FRUITS OF THE SPIRIT

Monday, May 22, 6:30 pm
Social Hall

EAT OF THE FORBIDDEN FRUIT

Sunday, May 28, 10:00 am
Parish Center
Childcare Provided

RSVP Information:

To plan appropriately, please rsvp with event and number attending to Theresa Ingram at 402-276-0357 or stbons2020@gmail.com

We look forward to seeing you there!

St. Bonaventure Catholic Church
1565 18th Avenue
Columbus, Nebraska 68601
Phone: 402-564-7151
Website: www.stboncc.com
Project E-Mail: stbons2020@gmail.com

OUR CHURCH OUR STORY

St. Bonaventure Historical Video Comments

By Tim Cumberland
Communications Team Co-Chair



On October 10, 2011, at a Pilgrimage site of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Ephesus, Turkey, a man of little faith had the occasion to ask a small favor of the Mother of God. To his amazement, she immediately granted that request. Only later did the man realize Mary had given him a new heart that day as well.

Since that encounter in Ephesus, I have dedicated my life and works to Our Blessed Mother. This includes **Our Church Our Story**, the short video now showing at Project 2020 Campaign Events.

Underlying the surface beauty and quiet holiness of St. Bonaventure Catholic Church is a great story. It's a story of an unbreakable bond forged by the mighty hand of God that connects our past with the present, and our present with the future. Most of all though, this is a story of the loving

relationship between God and the family of St. Bonaventure Catholic Church.

In the video you will see:

- The physical building changes in our Church since 1877.
- The unique character, spirituality and dedication common to St. Bonaventure parishioners throughout our history.
- How St. Bonaventure Catholic Church is a single, living and integrated family that includes past, present and future parishioners.

I invite you to come to one of the Campaign Events and see **Our Church Our Story**. You may just find Our Blessed Mother has something special to give your heart too.

Laus Deo!

Community Prayer – All are welcome

Join us as we pray for the success of Project 2020 - Behold, Believe, Belong. Tuesdays from 8-9 p.m. in the church. There will be communal prayer, meditation time and adoration. Come for 15 minutes or the whole hour. All are invited!



CAMPAIGN STEERING COMMITTEE FORMED

Strong leadership is essential to successful capital campaigns, according to campaign consultant, Joe Akers. "I was impressed with the input offered by St. Bonaventure's parishioners during the feasibility study, especially their faithfulness and commitment to this parish. Many of them will contribute as members of the campaign Steering Committee which will review and advise the planning and implementation of each phase of the campaign. Our campaign Leadership includes:

Campaign Co-Chairs: Carol Sand, Clete and Chris Pillen, Jan Fremarek, Kim and Mike Dreesen.

Steering Committee: Kim & Mike Allen, Jody Bargaen, Brett & Penny Bonwell, Janet Brezinski, Phil Buhman, John & Marlene Cimpl, Tim & Connie Cumberland, Joyce & Paul Dohmen. Ron & Ann Ernst, Megan & Marcus Faltys, Dennis & Coni Grennan, Don & Pat Heimes, Jamie & John Heine, Sue Henggeler, Matt & Sharee Jedlicka, Ray & Dee Johnson, Ron & Jean Jones, Dan & Belinda Keiter, Dianne Keiter, Eric & Kim Kluever, Lynette & Andrew Klug, Denny & Kay Miller, Marv & Rose Peterson, Mike & Ray Pilakowski, Bill & Michell Ruskamp, Jeanne & Tim Schieffer, Bob & Michelle Soulliere, Christopher & Jill Spale, Bill Swantz, Tim & Janet Tooley, Sarah & Joe Wacha, Tami & Travis Weber, Bob & Kathryn White, Tami & Tom Williams, Mary & Joel Young, Cheryl Zoucha.

