

Saint Clement's Episcopal Church

Berkeley, California



Centennial Capital Campaign

St. Clement's Church is 100 years old!

The past century has seen us grow, much like our fabled redwood tree, from a small mission church to the thriving parish we have today. Along the way, St. Clement's has established its own identity in the larger Episcopal community through our many exceptional ministries including our music, our youth programs, and our traditional style of worship. The parish is blessed with beautiful buildings and grounds: the unique shingled sanctuary, the rectory and the renovated Palache Hall.

While we are fortunate to have avoided some of the extreme financial difficulties that many parishes have gone through, we still subsist on a year-to-year basis on a budget that only covers the bare minimum. As with any aging physical plant, St. Clement's is faced with several items of deferred maintenance that require immediate attention, far beyond what we can cover in our annual budget and from the income generated from our endowments.

As we move into our second century, our committee had planned to ensure the future financial strength of the parish through the initiation of a capital campaign. The Centennial Capital Campaign was intended to address critical near-term needs and set the stage for the continued growth and financial well-being of the parish. The vestry and clergy have worked to define a list of critical needs and have been in the process of obtaining quotes from reliable vendors and laying out plans for completion of these projects during our centennial year.

Given the extraordinary financial challenges our country is currently facing, challenges that are impacting each and every one of us, we have decided to defer our general capital campaign to a future date.

However, one project that cannot wait is the refurbishing of the organ. If you've been listening carefully to the beautiful music on Sundays, you may have noticed some interesting noises emanating from the organ (even with Linda's skillful efforts to suppress them). Over the past several years we have obtained quotes from vendors recommending that the organ be overhauled, but due to budget constraints, we have deferred taking action. We have been fortunate so far to have avoided a serious breakdown, but feel that we must act now to maintain the integrity of our music program.

Working with Linda and Swain & Kates, the firm that built and maintains our organ, we have determined that \$60,000 will be required for refurbishment. While this seems like a daunting amount, we are fortunate to have already received a very generous gift from a parishioner for the amount of \$15,000. You may make a pledge to this campaign by contacting any of us, or the church office. Better still, you may make your donation now, by either sending a check to the church office, or leaving it in the collection plate (specify “organ campaign”). Please act quickly as we are looking to complete the campaign by the end of June. Every donation, no matter what the amount, will help us get closer to achieving our goal!

We hope that you will join us in helping St. Clement’s celebrate a century of ministry to the Berkeley community through your generous support of the organ campaign and give serious thought to supporting our general capital campaign when we reignite it in the not too distant future.

Sincerely,

Centennial Capital Campaign Committee:

John Morris, Chairman (jmorrisxk8@sbcglobal.net)

Dick Hunt (rhunt@hhja.com)

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