

## Summer, 2010

Summer is almost here! What a great time of year to enjoy the warmth of the season and hopefully more face time with our children, grandchildren, and other family members and friends. The beginning of summer is always a good time to take stock and get caught up on household projects we may have deferred and a really great time for us to update all Stewards of Saint Demetrios with our plans and progress report on building our new church.

### What to Expect

As we move forward with our plans, our new church is going to begin taking on some very new and real characteristics and result in some changes in our parish lives. To keep you abreast of these changes, the Building Committee is preparing several new ways to communicate with you. Soon, the website for our church will be updated to include links to information on all aspects of the development. There will be a respectful number of emails sent to the parish with critical information on the undertaking including real-time updates on the project from finance to construction where you'll receive progress reports, announcements on the use of alternative spaces and timing of events providing parishioners with the ability to conduct site visits as work is being done.

There will be a number of important gatherings and events giving parishioners the opportunity to reflect and celebrate coincident with our last liturgy in the current sanctuary, the ground breaking and the laying of the cornerstone of the new church, the "topping off" of the structural steel of our new dome and the placement of the cross atop the dome, and obviously the opening of the doors of our new church. Think about what you've just read! What an unparalleled opportunity in our lifetimes be part of something so significant to our worship, spirituality, ministries in service to our community, and for our children and grandchildren. The building of our church will serve a testament to our priorities in life and to what can be accomplished by dedicated the Orthodox Christians of St. Demetrios who by the force of their faith, time and treasure will make our new spiritual home a reality.

### Your Leadership

We have come a long way in this first year of our journey. We have much to accomplish. Now that we have received pledges totaling almost 47% of the total, we have exceeded an important milestone established by your vote in the General Assembly: we can move to the next phase, the planning and construction phase. Yes, there will be a broad based fundraising campaign – expect to receive your pledge card in the mail this September. If you wish to gather your family together and consider a gift across all generations or in honor of a parent or child for example, we would be happy to discuss these opportunities in person.

Clearly as the work of building a new church takes on a new, tangible reality, we ask you start to think seriously about your gift over this summer. Join together in your reflective family times over this season and consider what being part of St. Demetrios means to you, your family and its moments of celebration and sadness. Think about the effectiveness of our many ministries. Reflect on the faith and determination of your parents and grandparents who started and built this community for you and your very real obligation to future generations to continue building to serve future needs of Orthodox Christians here. As a teaching parish, St. Demetrios has been a shining example to all of Orthodoxy in America. By count of its Stewards, we lead the country in active participation in global Orthodox institutions making a real difference in peoples' lives every day. This is the moment when St. Demetrios truly needs your most dedicated and profound involvement.

If you have a question, inspiration, or simply want to learn more, there is surely no better time than now and the next few weeks. Have a great summer!

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