

Address to the Congregation

Annual Parish Meeting

November 8, 2015

This is the day that the Lord hath made, let us rejoice and be glad in it. Good Morning. I'm grateful to speak today about our exciting, ongoing Campaign, designed by and for the People of Bruton Parish, that we may each give as we are able, and effectively support the present and future church.

In the next few minutes I'll outline the three campaign objectives, but let me begin with an update on our progress. You will remember that on September 27 we announced a goal of 8 million dollars and on that day we reported 4.5 million was in hand or pledged. Now as of Friday we have added another half million in cash and pledges for a total of 5 million dollars committed.

As you know, this is a comprehensive Campaign. We will continue inviting participation in various ways until December 31, 2016. Right now we are in the Annual Giving phase of the Campaign-- the first objective-- with focus on receiving parishioner pledges for next year. Annual Giving 2016 has its own goal from the parish at large-- one million four hundred thousand. Over the next several weeks we will be giving updates on how well we are doing.

If we can each increase our pledge, it will bring the operating budget to a new level that can support greater outreach to those in need and ongoing investment in the care and maintenance of the church and other buildings. Please take to heart the 28% increase goal by increasing your annual pledge commitment.

Second, the Campaign addresses one major capital objective --replacing our 1937 pipe organ. We have had a strong response and are moving toward agreement with the builder to make this important project a reality. To date, the lead gift toward the organ is from the Bruton Parish Church Endowment Fund. For the Campaign, the Endowment has added major funds to the usual and customary support it gives the church.

Therefore on behalf of the entire parish, deepest thanks to the Endowment trustees. You have set the pace for the Campaign by coming out early with a transformative gift and thereby challenging us, the parish at large, to go and do likewise. Thank you, thank you.

Of course there is still money to raise for the organ and desired interior work and we will get there.

Third, we have the objective of increasing the assets of the Bruton Parish Church Foundation—primarily by means of promoting our planned giving program. Help ensure Bruton Parish's future by placing the church in your will, trust or other arrangement. By informing us of your intent, this too becomes a way of contributing to the Campaign for the Fourth Century.

May I commend to you the written report on page three to read later. Also, we'll have a handout at the doors called The Case for Bruton's Campaign. As has been said, everyone will have opportunity to participate in full toward all of the objectives in the coming months.

In closing, all year we have been thinking about this building—and the significance of worshipping here for 300 years. To paraphrase Joan Chittester, this is a place where old ideas are kept and new ideas can begin. This Campaign is new but certainly not the first here at Bruton. Every week we make progress, we come a little closer to our goal, an inch at a time. Every step, every week, every amount, every person will get us there.

Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Amen.

Marty Easton, Chair, Campaign for the Fourth Century