

CAMPAIGN FOR THE FOURTH CENTURY

BRUTON PARISH CHURCH

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Campaign Mission:

The Campaign for the Fourth Century is designed by and for the people of Bruton Parish, that we may each give as we are able, and effectively support both the present and future church.

CAMPAIGN NEWS

I am grateful for this space to report on the Campaign for the Fourth Century and to thank you for your support of all kinds. Nine months into our Campaign we have much to acknowledge and celebrate, yet there is time left and gifts needed to reach our goal. We are 80% of the way there.

Through gifts of every amount we are building this faith community together. Through the Annual Giving objective we are helping Bruton Parish increase its fiscal lifeline. With the organ fund we are preparing to give our aged pipe organ a well-deserved retirement and ready our building for its replacement. Through gifts to the Bruton Parish Church Foundation we seek to leave Bruton strong for our children and their children. Those three objectives make up the Campaign. Here is a bit of news about each.

Annual Giving 2016

It is not too late to make a pledge to Annual Giving 2016. Doing so now initiates your Campaign participation. Though we are well into the year, your pledge remains important.

We have a goal from the parish of \$1,400,000, an increase of 28%; as of this writing \$1,153,000 has been pledged or received. Achieving the difference of \$247,000 will help us do what the parish reported that it desired. We will begin to build a maintenance reserve for unbudgeted needs — those things that are not true capital projects but which could be managed starting with a more robust annual budget. We will begin to restore mission and outreach spending to prior levels, supplementing what the Shop provides. If your pledge remained at the same level as 2015, would you consider an amended pledge to help achieve the across-the-board increase we seek.

The Organ Fund

For the organ fund, the parish and the Bruton Parish Endowment Fund together have committed \$1,648,500 in gifts and pledges as of this writing. Having achieved the amount the vestry asked us to, we gratefully announce that an agreement between Bruton Parish and Dobson Pipe Organ Builders, Ltd. has just been signed. This means the building of our new organ in the Dobson shop in Iowa can begin. The \$1,000,000 lead gift by the Endowment trustees jump-started the organ fund last August. It is now up to us to bring in the remainder for our smaller and appropriate new instrument. Others have chosen to make pledges toward necessary and desired projects to accommodate the new organ and refresh the church interior.

The Foundation

Over the years, many of you provided for Bruton Parish in your estate plan or gave seed money to establish the Bruton Parish Church Foundation. As such, you became members of the Legacy Society. This group is now folded into the new 1715 Society — established by the vestry in January and named to honor the 300th anniversary of our present church building. The 1715 Society welcomes all who choose to supplement the assets of the Foundation. We are working this winter to contact existing members and add a new generation of members, letting them know that this too is a way to participate in the Campaign.

The Campaign is designed so that there is a “place at the table” for all of us —wherever we are on life’s continuum. We need only uncover what gifts we desire to make. Chris has written that this is not a “reluctant chore” Bruton Parish has entered into. Rather, it is aligned with the values that guide all that we do at Bruton Parish: gratitude for abundance, the building of the Kingdom of God on earth, investing in the future harvest we hope for.

I’ve read that sometimes, those leading a campaign can feel strangely cut off from the very place they are working to build. Not so at Bruton Parish. Your commitments, willingness to listen and share your interests and hopes for the parish have proven that this is not just a side activity of a very few. The full support of Chris and Charles has made this a ministry not about transactions, but one filled with optimism. Campaigns unfold over time, and this one with its three-pronged approach is no exception. Thank you for your patience for the process to move along. We will reach everyone in the coming weeks and months until our successful conclusion. Thank you!

Campaign for the Fourth Century

By Marty Easton, Chair

	Goal	Received in Cash and Pledges	Balance
Annual Fund 2016	\$ 1,725,000	\$ 1,478,000	\$ 247,000
Annual Fund 2017	1,750,000	577,500	1,172,500
Congregational Organ	1,880,000	1,648,500	231,500
Church Interior Improvements	320,000	332,000	-12,000
Gifts to the Foundation	2,200,000	2,186,000	14,000
Special Projects	125,000	109,600	15,400
Total Cash and Pledges	\$ 8,000,000	\$ 6,331,600	\$ 1,668,400

Figures include support from the Bruton Parish Church Endowment Fund.