



■ TENTATIVE CASE STATEMENT

Church of the Ascension

Silver Spring, MD

Leadership

Parish Staff

Rev. Dr. Joan E. Beilstein+,
Rector

Rev. Terri M. Murphy+,
Pastoral Associate

Mr. David Cato, *Minister of Music*

Carol Schwobel;
Chris Parker Hunt,
Capital Campaign Co-Chairs

Annie Brown, *Senior Warden*

Dick Marks, *Junior Warden*

Diane Martin, *Treasurer*

Peter Chang, *Assistant Treasurer*

Total Proposed Capital Campaign Goal: \$900,000

Embracing our Past, Enriching our Present, Empowering our Future

In 1921 Holy Innocents Mission was established through the vision of The Rev. Dr. J. Henning Nelms, Rector of Grace Church, Woodside, Silver Spring, as a “church within the village of Silver Spring proper.” In 1929, after years of worshipping first at the armory and then the old Silver Spring firehouse, three “founding families” of Silver Spring, *Mr. and Mrs. Edward Brooke Lee, Mr. and Mrs. P. Blair Lee, and Mr. and Mrs. J.H. Cissel*, donated land to the Diocese of Washington to build a parish church. Within ten years, renamed Church of the Ascension (Sligo Parish), the mission became an independent parish. The growing membership quickly outgrew the original chapel and in 1930 the present church was built at a cost of \$60,000.

The *ethos of such generosity* has been a defining characteristic of our faith community throughout Ascension’s 85-year history. Successive generations of church members have faithfully and generously donated their gifts of time, talent, and treasure, to keep Ascension, not only surviving, but thriving for future generations to carry on God’s mission and ministry in the world. In addition, Ascension members have been generous with their hearts. As Silver Spring has grown in diversity, and as the Episcopal Church has become more inclusive, Ascension has opened its doors wider and wider to support the full inclusion of all people into the life of the church, ordained and lay.

We thank God for giving us the privilege to offer Ascension's enduring ministries of inspiring worship and music; Christian education and spiritual formation for all ages; outreach to address regional, national, and world concerns where injustices and displacement of the less fortunate prevail; pastoral care to church members and to all who seek relational, emotional, and spiritual healing; and supportive friends who offer companionship to the faithful, the seeker, the skeptic, and the lost, no matter where one is on life's journey.

It is our hope to continue to offer these ministries. They are the spiritual tools which empower us to be a home for God where radical welcome is extended and diversity celebrated; where hospitality is provided and hungry souls nourished; where faith is informed and ministry gifts developed; where needed assistance is rendered and service opportunities offered; where acceptance, love, and peace are imparted and grieving souls comforted; and where blessing is pronounced, equipping the bestowed to be Christ's heart and hands in the world.

After 85 years of thriving ministry, enduring all forms of heat and cold, and thousands of individuals' footsteps, the church, like an old car which has traveled well many miles, needs a

tune-up. It is beset by regular maintenance needs, and needs to update its existing systems.

Previous renovations, which were significant to live out our mission of welcome, hospitality, and inclusiveness, ensured the church was accessible to all. The time has come again to raise capital funds essential to help Ascension be a healthy, safe, and beautiful environment in which present and future generations can serve God, grow in faith, and be empowered for Christian service.

***HVAC System* | \$400,000**

We are unable to worship in our beautiful Anglican sanctuary with its stunning stained glass windows and organ, due to the stifling heat in summer months. Forced into the parish hall for worship, summer attendance drops by as much as 50% and visitors do not fully experience us as the joyful vibrant parish we are, with a "*sweet sweet spirit*". Other impacts of this intense heat: loss of opportunities for weddings, baptisms, funerals, concerts, and community events.

Replacement of the current aging HVAC system would improve air flow and maintain comfortable temperatures in the winter and summer months in the undercroft, especially in the downstairs Sunday school classrooms, the parlor, and the multi-media choir room.

Stained Glass Windows | \$13,000

Extreme heat and cold over time, has caused damage to the frames of our stained glass windows. These windows depicting the life of Christ, were created by Willet-Hauser (a family owned business since 1898), and have been donated throughout Ascension's history by church members. Eleven of the east side windows have the most severe damage and need to be fixed first.

The Roof | \$62,500 or \$164,500

Interior water damage repair and new gutters and downspouts: \$8,500

Slate roof replacement:

- Option A—Slate: \$156,000
- Option B—Fiberglass shingle: \$54,000

The roof is a constant challenge. The run-off from the roof, is allowing water to flow between the stone siding and the underlying structure of the outside walls, resulting in crumbling stone. The envelope of the building, then, is quite compromised and is in dire need of replacement/repair. Despite many costly repairs to address this problem, the roof still leaks. These leaks cause damage to walls, floors, and carpets, and prevent ministries from taking place in areas where there is residual dampness, mold, and mildew.

Stonework and Walkways | \$74,500

The outside stone of the church building has crumbled in some places. Not only does this detract from the outer beauty of the church, but it also poses a safety concern if someone is hit by crumbling stones or trips on them on the ground. The same is true of the walkways. It is important to note that the earthquake that struck our area in the summer of 2011 added to the deterioration. There was damage done to the foundation stones of the church.

The Kitchen | \$50,000

The kitchen is in dire need of remodeling. Ascension is a community that prays together, serves together, and has fun together! Other than worship, nothing draws us together more than an evening of good food, lively entertainment, fundraising, and socializing. With its antiquated appliances, counter tops, and sinks, the kitchen severely limits its ministry. We have lost opportunities for rental revenue, receptions, special events and even community cooking classes due to the condition of the kitchen.

The projects total range of \$800,000 to \$900,000, includes contingencies, bonds, project manager and campaign consultant fees.



Gifts Essential Chart

This chart illustrates the size and number of gifts necessary for a successful \$900,000 capital campaign.

Size of Gift	Number Needed	Cumulative Total	Monthly (over 3 years)
\$150,000	1	\$150,000	\$4,167
\$100,000	1	\$250,000	\$2,778
\$75,000	1	\$325,000	\$2,083
\$50,000	2	\$425,000	\$1,389
\$25,000	5	\$550,000	\$694
\$15,000	8	\$670,000	\$417
\$10,000	9	\$760,000	\$278
\$5,000	12	\$820,000	\$139
\$3,000	15	\$865,000	\$83
\$1,000	18	\$883,000	\$28
\$500	20	\$893,000	\$14
Less than \$500	Many	Goal Achieved	Variable

CAMPAIGN PRAYER

Almighty God, We come before you in awe and in thanksgiving for the mystery of life that you embody as creator, redeemer and sustainer. We come as those who take on the mantle of discipleship, knowing that sometimes the cloth is ragged and soiled. Yet, this cloth can be repaired and cleansed through the loving grace you freely give to us. Now we hold before you one another on this journey of discipleship. We ask, for the sake of our mission, to be present to your call and vision for all people. May we be open to be fed by your presence and the presence of one another. Enable us to use our gifts so that we may serve others to your glory. We lift up the community of the Church of the Ascension, acknowledging all those whose lives have been or will be touched by the presence of your spirit. With humility and boldness we claim responsibility for daring to embody that spirit. We will not offer to God offerings that cost us nothing. This we pray In the name of the Trinity. **Amen.**