



On Target

Someone has said that a picture is worth a thousand words. I included a picture of the graph we will show this Sunday so please relax. I won't be sharing a thousand words!

For those who are new to Laurelwood, we discovered that our worship center, Fischer Hall, had “rickety rafters and rotten posts.” So, to be able to use this facility for ministry and avoid paying millions more for a completely new building, we began a capital campaign to repair and restore Fischer Hall two years ago. Our original budget was \$1.5 million for the project, with the target of raising, through giving and pledges, \$1.1 million. So, at the end of our five-year pledges, we would have a \$400,000 loan to carry.

The good news is that we exceeded the amount of giving and pledges to \$1,112,490! The bad news is, during the repair and remodeling, we encountered additional repairs that needed to be done - fire hazards, electrical problems, moisture coming through the floor, etc. Ever wonder where that distinct “Laurelwood aroma” came from? While these additional repairs meant that our worship center would be better than ever, it also meant that the project budget increased to \$1.725 million, which the congregation approved by vote last December 18, 2016.

I'm happy to report that the project is “on target” and we're estimating that once we get in all the invoices in, we will be within our revised budget. However, the increased costs resulted in a mortgage larger

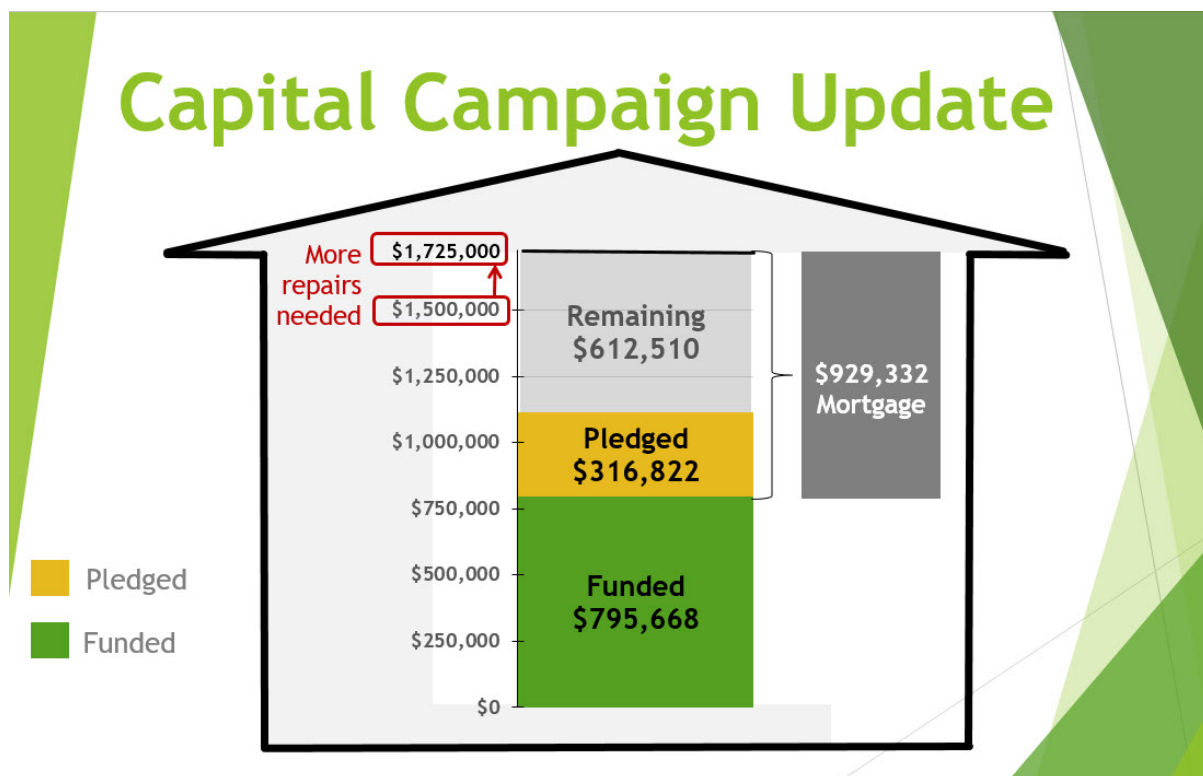
than we had originally hoped. This means less money available for ministry (which is what we're all about) and less flexibility to be ready for whatever God calls us to do in the future.

We're happy to be "on target" with our building. But we'd like to be more "on target" with our mortgage. So, we are asking you to prayerfully consider new giving or pledges to reduce it.

Let me state again what I said last week when we asked you to take pledge cards home to pray about this. There are some of you who, when we began our capital campaign, were not able to give at that time. Perhaps now you are in a place to be able to join those of us who were able to give and make pledges. We also realize that some of you made pledges and gave and are able to give more and we would ask you to prayerfully consider making a new pledge and gift. Finally, there are many of you who have come since our capital campaign and we want to invite you, as part of the Laurelwood family, to join us as we give towards this project.

This Sunday we will share the graph, give an update, and ask you to consider what God would have you give towards this great and awesome challenge.

~ Pastor Mike Wilde





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