

*God's Vision...*

**OUR MISSION**

# Church of the Saviour Cleveland Heights, Ohio

**May 24, 2010**

## Capital Campaign Newsletter

### Investing in Faith

For more than 80 years, Church of the Saviour has been the spiritual home for thousands of faithful Methodists in Cleveland Heights and surrounding communities. The original stone church modeled after a French Gothic cathedral has been a bold and constant reminder of the grace of God.

Subsequent expansions have allowed the church to expand its Christian mission, most recently in 2007 when a \$6.4 million addition was completed. The Great Hall has been such a blessing. Many families have embraced the many faith-based programs that take place between its versatile walls from the Sunday morning contemporary worship service to Lenten dinners and Upward Basketball.

At a time when religion seems to be losing ground to secular philosophies about life, Church of the Saviour remains a powerful force of God at work. There is an amazing spirit within Church of the Saviour. Young and old proudly profess their faith, including the 120 active Christian youth who regularly give back to the community and the many seniors who have made Sunday school a weekly ritual for decades.

To keep that spirit going we must invest in the future, and that includes providing ourselves with adequate resources to fully express our faith. Spending money on buildings and grounds is never easy. As Christians we would rather use our offerings to help those in need and spread God's word. But capital investment is necessary to position the church for growth and sustainability. Churches that don't grow sadly fade away. We are all aware of the tragedy that has befallen the Catholic Diocese in Cleveland.

We must have the faith and courage to plan for our future that our forefathers had when building the Sanctuary in the 1920s; later congregations did when the bell tower was completed and educational wings added in the 1950s; and that the present congregation showed in raising the Great Hall generations later.

It did not come easy. People were generous and gave what they could. But we still have two urgent needs.

We need to pay down the remaining \$2.6 million expansion loan, which is due at the end of 2010. The more we pay down now, the less interest we will pay on the loan over time. Every dollar given to this campaign is a dollar freed up in the future to expand our ministry.

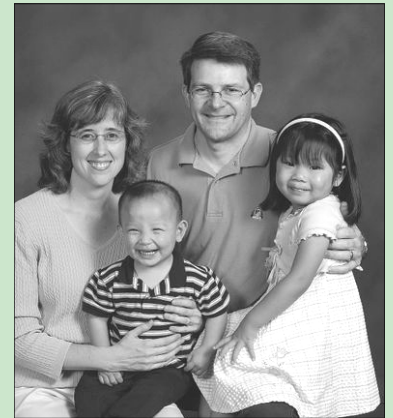
Second, we have moisture problems in the Sanctuary that need to be fixed before winter. The Foundation paid for repairs to the north side of the church. Another \$230,000 is required to waterproof the south side to avoid further erosion.

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### One Member's Faith in the Future

By Sharon Rego

I have been blessed to experience all three services at Church of the Saviour. When I moved to Cleveland in the early 1990's, I was somewhat reluctant to attend Church of the Saviour because it seemed "too big." I grew up in a very small church and didn't think I'd find the same sense of community that was so important to me at my former home church.



*Sharon, Patrick, Kayli and Christopher Rego*

I attended the 11 a.m. service and was in awe of the beauty of the Sanctuary and the service. Within months, I became part of the ushering team and a member of the New Creations Sunday school class.

Pat and I started attending the 8:30 a.m. Chapel service a few years later. We loved the sense of community and still miss our 8:30 a.m. church family.

As our family grew we began attending the 9:30 a.m. service in 2006. We greatly appreciate the "family friendly" atmosphere (and will miss the graduating senior high youth who often help out with our active kids).

But the community of Church of the Saviour goes much further than worship services. One of my most recent memories is watching our kids run around the Great Hall with the visiting youth from IHN.

Vacation Bible School was one of my most rewarding (and exhausting!) experiences at COTS. Our kids can't wait for this year's VBS and I can't wait to see the Great Hall filled with kids from all over the community learn about God's love for them.

We are so blessed to be part of this great community and look forward to what God has in store for us next!

### Capital Needs

Loan Due on Addition	\$2,600,000
Sanctuary Restoration	230,000
Renovations	<u>2,700,000</u>
	\$5,300,000
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## Church of the Saviour

United Methodist  
2537 Lee Road  
Cleveland, Ohio 44118-4198  
(216) 321-8880  
Fax (216) 321-3019

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Church of the Saviour, 2537 Lee Road, Cleveland, OH 44118-4198.

## A Look Back

In the beginning, there was basketball ...

From church league softball to Upward Basketball, athletic competition is a powerful way for members of Church of the Saviour to gather together in Christian fellowship. Vigorous competition is good for the soul and it has been this way down through the years as you can see by this article from the 1928 edition of *The Chimes* ...

### ASPIRATIONS *by Tee Gee the Scribe*

And Certain Young Men, had visions of winning the City Championship in Basket Ball and they banded themselves together, and did practice diligently, even every Tuesday evening of the week.

And when the games were opened they did play right valiantly, and smote the Philistines, hip and thigh, so much so that they prevailed against them and did vanquish them so readily, that there seemed to be nothing to it.

But on the evening of Thursday of the week just closed, being drunk with victory they did scorn the enemy, and on this they did make a grave mistake, for the enemy was made up of picked men -- each selected for the sole purpose of confusing his adversary -- and when the first half was ended the score was 9 to 12 in favor of the enemy, and when

*(continued in next column)*

## Vision & Mission Campaign Meetings

All Church of the Saviour members and friends are asked to attend one of these meetings to learn more about the capital campaign.

Tuesday, May 25 at 7:15 p.m. in Room 121  
Thursday, June 3 at 6:45 p.m. in Room 224  
Sunday, June 6 at 11:00 a.m. in Room 228

## A Look Back (continued)

the referee blew his final whistle the score was still in the enemy's favor -- 19 to 15.

This, however, was the first defeat they had suffered in six games, and while for the moment it smarteth them, yet peradventure it probably will be the making of the team. Better to learn the lesson new while there is still time to benefit therefrom, than to wander later into the enemy's territory -- there to be undone.

But take it from me, they've been playing top notch Basket Ball and it behooveth the elders, the scribes and the Pharisees, the publicans and sinners (of which there are plenty) to attend as witnesses to these great showings of skill, that the Certain Young Men be not weary in well doing, but that they be encouraged to strive as never before, and finally win the City Championship.

## Investing in Faith

*(continued from page one)*

Our goal is to remedy these needs as soon as possible. Additional money will enable us to renovate older portions of the building, installing energy efficient windows, electrical upgrades, zoned heating/cooling and other improvements that will reduce our power bills and provide a more suitable working environment. A columbarium and new organ console are also planned.

We know money is tight for many. We have all felt the recession whether through salary cuts, layoffs or 401K reductions. There may never be an ideal time to ask the congregation to dig even deeper, but the needs remain. Please consider how you might stretch above and beyond to give to Church of the Saviour's capital campaign.

## Campaign Prayer

Dear Lord,  
Open our eyes to see Your vision. Open our ears to hear Your word. Open our hearts to share Your love. Guide us, inspire us, and encourage us to share in this mission for Your purposes. Help us to "*give as freely as we have received.*" In Jesus' name, we pray. AMEN