



*3 Monument Square
Hollis, NH 03049*

**Capital Campaign
Committee**

Ed Wigfield
Chair
Ed@HollisChurch.org

Peggy Gilmour
Lead Gifts Co-Chair
Peggy@HollisChurch.org

Holly Babcock
Lead Gifts Co-Chair
Holly@HollisChurch.org

Tom Hildreth
Printed Materials
Tom@HollisChurch.org

Cindy Ryherd
Publicity
Cindv@HollisChurch.org

Traci Weaver
Caring Callers
Traci@HollisChurch.org

Ruth Kabel
Correspondence
Ruth@HollisChurch.org

Kimber Harmon
Pre-Decision Parties
Kimber@HollisChurch.org

Kara Tulley
Continuity Committee
Kara@HollisChurch.org

Ex Officio

Dot Hyde
Church Council Liaison
Council@HollisChurch.org

Sarah May
BOV Liaison
Sarah@HollisChurch.org

Tanya Stormo Rasmussen
Pastor
Pastor@HollisChurch.org

Bill VanderWyden
Advisor

Some of you may or may not know that I'm the FOV publicity chair, and as such have been tasked to produce a campaign video. I have some personal reflections I want to share that I think many of you may be able to relate to; reflections based on what I've heard as I've been talking to people for the video (which, by the way, is going to be epic so plan to come to a Pre-Commitment Party to see the video! Two-words: Randy Forgaard – amazing video editor and special effects guy, and yes, OUR church campaign video is going to have special effects!)

The truth is, when I was first approached about the campaign as a potential "lead giver", long before the campaign officially started, I had reservations about the scope. Months later I was asked to be the publicity chair on the FOV team to help raise the \$2m for the campaign. Even as I officially agreed to do so, I didn't know if I was completely on board. I think many here are nodding, at least inside their heads, to having at least SOME reservations.

Fast forward a few months. Now I have completed capturing video interviews of 16 people representing 14 church youth and adult members, plus an adult Boy Scout leader and the Fire Chief. The FOV video will only be 6-8 minutes long, so some important stories shared with me will not be able to be in the FOV video, including some I know you'd be as surprised as I was if you heard them.

I heard about a time when someone unable to traverse stairs wanted to enter during the weekday, requiring them to enter the front door by the elevator. They had to knock and knock at the front door which is locked during the week, and of course, the administrative staff cannot hear this from their current office. Can you imagine anything more unwelcoming and frustrating to that person?

I heard about the need to have water pumped out of the 2 emergency exits of Hardy Hall every time it rains hard, sometimes needing pumped every few hours, including the middle of the night. I learned those same emergency exits need heavy snow shoveled and carried to the top, not just right after a snowstorm, but sometimes numerous times (even days) afterwards, as snow comes down from the church roof and refills the exit stairs. I heard about turning down a meeting space request for parents of children who had died from opioid overdoses, due to lack of space (the downstairs being off limits right now due to not meeting life safety code requirements). I heard about how other churches are able to serve hot dinners to those in need because their kitchen and fellowship halls were to code and could accommodate such an outreach, but despite our desire to do so, we cannot do such outreach with our current kitchen and Hardy Hall. I learned about how every time the CE team starts planning Children's Day and the Christmas Pageant, they first have to consider the limitations of the chancel size and the sanctuary AV system.

I'm 57 years old. 30-40 years from now, I probably won't be here to give my time, talent, or financial resources to the church. But I want the church to continue to be here as a community house of worship and as an important part of the heartbeat of the community. I want the church to have the resources to continue to serve others then as we do now. For that to happen, we MUST bring in new, younger members to replenish the pool of time, talent and financial resources as we are no longer here to provide that support. We must consider what it TAKES to bring in new, younger members. And here's where I think my internal voice might be similar to some of yours, because part of my brain says "The look, feel and functionality of the building shouldn't matter to attracting new members, it's all the good things we do as a congregation that's important." and "Wouldn't it be better to raise \$2m and give that much more to help and serve others?" and "I love our church. It was good enough to bring ME in as a new member some 14 years ago"

ANYBODY who knows me, KNOWS service to others is very important to me. I thought about this a lot. If I thought we could raise \$2m, use it to just fix the safety issues and use the rest to serve others, and the church would have enough membership 30-40 years from now so that generation will do the same, I'd say "Let's do that!" What I've come to accept, right, wrong or indifferent, is that there is NO WAY that will happen.

From the new, easier U-shaped driveway drop-off, to having one focal entryway with admin there, to a welcoming lobby when you enter (not an elevator bank or set of stairs), to a bigger chancel with more space, natural light and updated AV system, to an entryway into Hardy Hall that isn't a funnel, to an upgraded kitchen with passthrough to Hardy Hall in a space that meets life-safety codes allowing us to do more food-related service to others, to a safe exit out of Hardy Hall which creates a beautiful indoor/outdoor place of interest to passersby, to an upstairs nursery and a dedicated teen space, the changes the BOV team are proposing WILL draw new people to the church.

We've all heard the saying that the definition of insanity is doing the same thing over and over again, but expecting different results". "Results", right now, is declining membership in churches. I don't want to be a church that keeps doing the same thing and hope for different results. I want to be a church that digs deep and embraces the changes necessary, even if we wish such changes weren't necessary, to keep our church a place of "Welcome", "Worship", "Learn", and "Serve" long after I'm gone. I am "all in" now with the campaign and my financial support of it. I hope by relating my story of overcoming my own reservations, some of your reservations will be overcome. Please ask questions, consider these stories, pray hard, and dig deep. We CAN do this! Change is always difficult, but THIS change is a GOOD thing!

Sincerely,

Cindy Ryherd