



First Presbyterian Church

COVINGTON, GEORGIA

A Congregation of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

REACHING TOWARD 2000

... A Call To Discipleship

Dear Friends,

Each week as we come to worship in the familiar surroundings of our beloved church, we are also filled with increasing excitement as we observe the rapid progress being made on our beautiful new sanctuary building. It is everything we have dreamed about! For those friends and members of our church family who are not able to be here regularly to enjoy seeing first hand our dream becoming reality, we have put together this special update and even a small "photo album" to help you to also feel some of the same excitement.

Last June an overflow crowd, including former pastors, members and other friends processed to the new building site where our member of greatest tenure, Donald Stephenson, recounted the church's great history, before the historical moment of official groundbreaking. The next week bulldozers descended upon the cleared site and in short order the foundation was dug. And then the rains began, as we endured the largest amount of rain for July in Georgia's history! But our contractor has done a wonderful job, and it appears now we will be in our new building ahead of schedule.

High ceilings, big windows, wide hallways, and lots of light are the elements most striking as one tours the building. The choir room and 5 spacious classrooms are underneath the sanctuary. Not to be overlooked are important features such as large accessible restrooms, a large but efficient heat and air conditioning system, and even an elevator which makes the entire new building, as well as most of our existing facility, accessible to physically challenged people. Entry to the sanctuary is either by a corridor connecting to the existing facility or by a large covered porch leading to 3 wide French doors. A beautiful cross atop the apex of the porch roof is a constant reminder to arriving worshipers, as well as the entire community, of what we are here for. Either approach leads into a large narthex which will provide a comfortable gathering space before and after services.

The sanctuary is breathtaking, both in dimension and appearance. A traditional center aisle focuses attention on a large raised chancel where a substantial table and pulpit will make an important statement, as will a baptismal font carved from native Georgia granite. Behind the chancel will rise 40 feet to the ceiling, organ pipes of both tin and polished copper which will rest on a pedestal of handcrafted cabinetry. The warm finish of the chancel furniture, pipe organ console and pedestal will

also be used for the upholstered choir chairs and pews which will comfortably seat over 400 worshipers. Ten chandeliers suspended from the vaulted wood ceiling will provide light in addition to the large clear Gothic style windows.

Our exterior brick has been custom made to match that of the existing buildings. Bands of cream color brick continue the same "Tudor" appearance which identifies our church. A professional landscape plan will enhance the surrounding grounds.

Your continuing interest and the support of both your gifts and your prayers have been vital to the realization of this dream. The magnitude of what has been achieved clearly demonstrates the hand of God at work among us. The commitments of support when we began our campaign 3 years ago achieved a level of success never before equaled by any other church in Atlanta Presbytery. Even more important, those commitments have been met on schedule for the past 3 years. We are now asking all of our members to reconsider their commitment. We are asking those who have already been contributors to consider a renewed or additional commitment. We have had many new members to join the church in recent months and we are asking them to become part of this effort.

As we near completion we have been better able to identify specific opportunities for gifts made in honor or memory of someone to whom our church has been of special importance. Because of your special connection with our church, we want to make certain you are aware of these opportunities. A list is enclosed for your consideration.

As we get closer to the actual completion date we will be letting you know specific dates and plans for a special dedication service as well as plans for special musical events. It promises to be an especially exciting and meaningful spring for the First Presbyterian Church in Covington. We hope you will be able to be with us.

Yours in Christ,

The Toward 2000 Committee

Jerry Bouchillon
Linda Boyd
Sarah Chesnut

Louly Hay
John Howard
Pat Patrick
Billy Wade, Pastor



In the shadow
of the courthouse
clock the first
shovels of dirt
were turned...

... and we
started to come
out of the ground
during the
summer of 1994.



A giant crane
appeared on the
scene and all
the community
began to watch
as we started...



... to change
more than
ever before
the skyline
of our
community...

... but even
still in the
shadows of
important
parts of our
heritage.



As the
framework
began to
rise in
early autumn
...



... the size and beauty of our project began to be more apparent.

As the front entrance began to take shape...



... it became impossible to drive by from any direction without staring in admiration.



A green
insulating skin
was attached
before winter
arrived ...

... and with
the completion
of roofing and
installation
of windows,
we were
"dried in" ...



... and
soon ready
for bricks
to go up.

The lofty
ceiling...



... and brilliant
glass...

... were viewed
up close by members
after worship service
January 15.



A poignant moment.
February 2, 1995.