



HERE FOR GOOD

BRADLEY HILLS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

CAPITAL AND ENDOWMENT CAMPAIGN GUIDE



PASTORS' LETTER

Dear Friends,

We invite you to join us to help ensure that Bradley Hills Presbyterian Church (BHPC) is **Here for Good** by making a contribution to our church's five-year capital campaign. We have a long and cherished history, and we need to invest in our beloved spiritual home to sustain our congregation and our mission in the world.

The primary purpose for this campaign is to create an endowed capital fund to maintain our campus. The grounds and our aging church building are essential foundations for BHPC to achieve its mission – to reflect God's gracious love by following Christ's example to welcome, nurture, heal, and serve. Our campus provides a home for much of what we value and do as a congregation. We need your help to sustain Bradley Hills so it can continue to be a beacon of light and remain a meaningful place for mission and ministry long into the future.

Our campaign scripture, Psalm 121, invites us to "lift our eyes to the Hills." When we look to our Bradley Hills, we see a very special community. Many of us find great meaning in being involved in the church. Some of our deepest friendships are at BHPC. Each week we find inspiration from its music, sermons, and prayers. We depend on BHPC to help connect us with each other and with God and to sustain us during times of great brokenness in the world. Some of us carry deep memories of significant moments in sacred spaces here for us or our family.

Many of us attend BHPC because we want our children to grow up in the faith and to share in the religious and social experiences that BHPC offers. We want to pass along a faith that is sturdy, inclusive, and can sustain our loved ones as we all go through life's journey.

Now is our time to think about the lasting impact we can have on this church community. BHPC matters. We can help BHPC thrive long into the future, but there are real financial challenges that need to be met. We must preserve and maintain our physical church if we are to achieve our spiritual aspirations.

This campaign is about making sure BHPC can fulfill our mission – to be **Here for Good** – to sustain this generation and the ones to come.

Will you join us in this effort?

Let's begin by praying, "God, what do you want to do through me?"

We hope you'll join us in helping ensure BHPC is **Here for Good**.

In Christ's love,



Pastor David Gray and Pastor Denise Diaab



WHY BHPC MATTERS

BHPC was established in 1955, when Washington Heights Presbyterian Church, which was founded in 1901, merged with a new church being founded in Bethesda. For 70 years, BHPC has stood as a home for worship and a center for the spiritual life of the community. We are a church that is deeply engaged in mission, education, and fellowship.



Through the years, our campus home has grown and we have expanded our ministries. Today, BHPC is thriving. Our building has become a community center. We house a well-regarded preschool with 175 students and the Friends Club, a support group for men with early-stage dementia and their families. We host 16-20 music performances a year, and many local groups hold meetings here, including scouts, garden clubs, community associations, and health support groups. Our facility has become an award-winning, world-renowned interfaith center. Each week, through our on-site partnerships with Bethesda Jewish Congregation and Maqame Ibrahim Islamic Center, Muslims, Jews, and Christians worship under the same roof. This is a draw for visitors and an important symbol of understanding and love in divided times. At a time when so much is broken around us, BHPC is a force for good in the world. It is a church worth preserving for the future and in which we should invest.

If we are successful with this campaign to be **Here for Good**, BHPC can build on our rich history and continue to be a bright light reflecting the love of Jesus Christ for generations to come.



A LETTER FROM CAMPAIGN CO-CHAIRS

Dear BHPC Friends,

BHPC is thriving, but as healthy as BHPC is currently, we have a long-term sustainability challenge that led to this campaign. Our campus is wonderful, but our building is aging. For most of our church history, we have had to defer building maintenance because we could not afford to maintain what we had or to make the improvements the church needed.

For many years, the only funds that we could spend to maintain our facilities were funds that were included in our annual operating budgets.

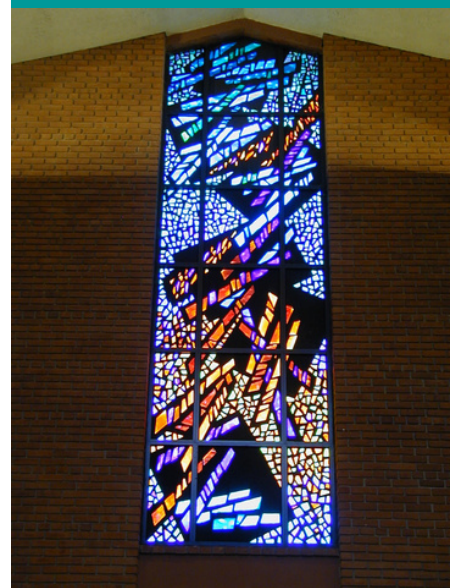
In 2000, our congregation raised funds to build Covenant Hall and our Gathering Space through our Celebrate the Light campaign. The decision to take that step was fruitful and gave us the space that we continue to use weekly to do God's work. We have a wonderful, mostly horizontal, increasingly accessible campus. However, building those spaces 25 years ago was expensive and the church took on about \$500,000 in debt to do so.

Thanks to the generosity of our community in our Building the Future campaign, we were able to retire our debt around 2013 and, for the first time in many years, put substantial funds into a capital reserve fund for needed repairs and strategic maintenance. We have an operating budget that supports our regular annual programming and a separate capital reserve fund that supports long-term capital projects on our building. Through our investments in the capital reserve fund, we made our building energy efficient, with new windows and roofing with solar panels. This cut our energy costs and carbon footprint substantially, and our building has now been Energy-Star certified.

We had enough funds to buy time, allowing us to develop this capital plan to make sure our church is sustainable long term. Our challenge is that the funds in our capital reserve will run out in the next few years. Then we would have to, once again, significantly defer maintenance on our building, set aside mission and ministry to focus on building costs, or resort to special appeals to fund each significant capital project. We had to do this in 2007 when the sanctuary Lantern leaked and we needed a special appeal to raise funds to repair the ceiling.

Even though we invested in our building, our plans the last few years have involved tightening our belts, deferring some building maintenance, and putting off filling some staff positions to save funds. We began making increased yearly contributions from our operating budget to our capital reserve fund, but this put pressure on our annual program funding needs.

Now we have an opportunity to fund the capital needs of the church in a way that will free the congregation to dream and to invest in mission and ministry as we go forward.



If we are successful with this campaign, we will ensure that BHPC is **Here for Good**. We will remove the main challenge we have been struggling with for decades – how to afford our building, while still maintaining our primary worship, community, and missional focus in the church. We will meet this challenge by putting enough money in an endowment that will yield enough funds each year to address our building’s long-term capital needs. In addition, funds raised by the campaign will allow us to fund, in the short-term, three long-deferred projects critical to our worship – replacing our sanctuary floor, performing maintenance on our organ, and updating our AV system.

Our facility is wonderful and earns significant income for our church through its building partners and other building users. But having so many groups, congregations, students, and missional programs use the building causes significant wear and tear on the facility and takes significant staff time to manage. Our building endowment will ensure our facility is cared for long-term so that we can continue to attract and allow our building users to grow, increasing the revenue our church might receive from them, in a way that is sustainable.

We are also committed to missional investment. Through this campaign, we hope to build out our most well-attended mission project, Smart Sacks, to eventually feed twice as many hungry families in our county weekly as we are feeding now. Our hope going forward is that, with the building endowment covering core capital project costs, \$60,000 - \$140,000 annually will be freed up in the operating budget to spend on programs, staffing, and ministries. It would be like retiring the mortgage on one’s home. Once the mortgage is paid off, a family has funds freed to do a lot of other things that are more enjoyable than paying the mortgage.

If we are successful with this campaign, we will change the conversation going forward at BHPC, from maintaining and repairing the building, to all the additional good BHPC will be able to do in the community and world.

God’s love is eternal. As the Psalmist says, “The Lord will watch over your coming and going, now and forevermore.” May we honor God’s promise to us by ensuring Bradley Hills Presbyterian Church thrives for generations to come. BHPC is a special place. We can make it sustainable for the long term.

In our campaign hymn, “Our God Our Help in Ages Past,” we sing, “Our God our help in ages past, our hope for years to come. Our shelter from the stormy blast and our eternal home.” The same God who has been faithful through our 70 years here is our hope for years to come. In a world with all sorts of turmoil, our Lord Jesus is our shelter, who empowers us through the Holy Spirit to do the good that is ours to do.

We invite you to join us in asking, “God, what do you want to do through me?” Thank you for considering joining us in making a pledge over five years to help ensure that BHPC, our spiritual home indeed, is **Here for Good**.

All many blessings,

Co-chairs Bethany Frick, Yoshi Sei, Michelle Scott, Corky Hickey



CAMPAIGN GOALS

1. \$3M to Secure BHPC as a Community Center for Worship, Mission, and Ministry

2. \$800,000 to Enhance Our Worship of God

3. \$200,000 to Expand our Mission to Address Food Insecurity

1

\$3M to Secure BHPC as a Community Center for Worship, Mission, and Ministry.

Our goal is to raise \$3M for a building endowment which, with a 4% average annual return, will yield enough each year (\$120K) to take care of the core capital needs for the building going forward. With the financial advisor we began working with in 2025, we hope to return more than 4% annually, which

should allow our endowment yield to meet inflationary growth costs long into the future. Taking care of our building, so that we do not have to defer maintenance or undertake special campaigns to fund its capital needs, will help secure our congregation long term. This endowment will tangibly support all of the church's work, allowing more of our annual budget to be directed toward mission, music, education, interfaith partnership, youth leadership, and pastoral care.

2

\$800,000 to Enhance Our Worship of God

a. Replace our Sanctuary floor – \$350,000. BHPC still has the original floor that was installed when our sanctuary was built in 1965. We have deferred replacing it for almost a decade past its scheduled useful life. Our facilities team has done great work in patching it, but it's getting to a point where patching

is no longer a viable option. We need to replace the sanctuary floor. As with many of the era, our floor has asbestos underneath which must be remediated. A committee of church members has developed a plan for a new, beautiful, long-lasting, porcelain floor, which will preserve acoustics for our music and will be installed in the summer of 2026. We hope to use this time to create more handicapped accessible spots in the sanctuary and to do some maintenance on the pews at the same time.

b. Maintain our Sanctuary Organ – \$200,000. In 1973, we installed a beautiful Holtcamp organ in our sanctuary. This world-class instrument has enhanced our worship and has been the centerpiece for many concerts. Our organ needs maintenance and enhancements to keep it functioning properly.

c. Upgrade our AudioVisual Livestream Experience – \$250,000. BHPC began broadcasting its services in 2012. We were forward-thinking when we installed dedicated equipment in 2016.

Unlike many churches, we did not need to purchase anything new to live stream our services during Covid-19 closures. While we have a fantastic AV team that has maintained and made some improvements to our system over the years, much of our system is outdated. With a growing portion of our congregation worshipping online each week from other states and countries, we need new equipment to keep up with demand for a high-quality livestream experience. We also need to ensure those worshipping in the sanctuary are able to hear the spoken word clearly each week. Spoken word acoustics in our sanctuary has challenges that better equipment can resolve. Updated technology can improve the worship experience for those in the sanctuary and those on the livestream.

3

\$200,000 to Expand Our Mission to Address Food Insecurity

Congregational surveys show that our members are deeply concerned about food insecurity, which disproportionately impacts residents of color in our area. According to the Capital Area Food Bank's 2025 Hunger Report, inflation, economic uncertainty, and cuts to federal programs have resulted in 35% of households in Montgomery County experiencing food insecurity in the past year, up from 27% in 2023. 27K children in our county are affected. Our Smart Sacks program, which helps address food insecurity in the county, is perhaps the most participated-in mission program at BHPC. Our goal is to increase the number of meals we contribute to needy families each week, eventually doubling it. Increasing our serving capacity, storage, member participation during the school year, and, eventually, in the summer, would allow us to serve twice as many families by the end of this campaign as we do now. Beyond this main campaign goal, we would also like to increase our efforts in other parts of our food insecurity and community programs too, like Feeding Families in Anacostia and with the Scotland neighborhood, but as we still develop these opportunities, the main goal of this portion of the campaign is to double the number of families we are able to serve food to each week through Smart Sacks.

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CAMPAIGN LEADERSHIP TEAMS

Senior Pastor

David Gray

Chairpersons

Bethany Frick
Corky Hickey
Michelle Scott
Yoshi Sei

Coordinators

Kathleen Elliott
Joel Fickett
Jalena Specht

Communication

Bernice Bethke
Kirk Griffith
Sharon Griffith
Robert Reutershan
Jenny Rymarczuk

Lead Gifts

Walter Hill
Andrew Milne
Stacey Milne
Cheryl Naulty
Tim Vanderver
Susan Vanderver

Prayer

Denise Diaab
Steve Fox
Bie Yie Fox
Jeff McCreight
Betsy Scroggs
James Scoggs
Ming Hui Tseng

Affinity

Denise Diaab
Ben Franklin
Rosanna Morrison
Don Ridings

Gratitude/Ministry

Brent Coffey
Jana Coffey
Rosanna Howard
Bonnie Peyer

Advance Commitments

Dave Burgett
Brigitte Burgett
Penny Clark
Steve Meyer
Louise Meyer
Don Picard
Curt West

Celebration

John Buchman
Andrew Graeub
Lee Anne Graeub
Sean Owens
Amanda Owens
Rob Smith
Kate Bushman Smith

Students/Children

Rosanna Howard
Anne Lennan
Cheryl Soltis Martel
Matt Shepherd
Leena Shepherd

REACH

Steve Burns
Joan Burns
Bruce Hunter
Julie Hunter
Neil Imus
Abby Imus

Response

Rick Arndt
Patty Howie
Ed Hummers
Alvin Stenzel

Horizons Ministry Strategist

Don Smith



FAQS

How much are we hoping to raise and how long is the contribution period?

We hope to raise \$4 million dollars (or more) over a five-year giving period, to be received between 2026-2030.

Why is a building endowment the largest category for the campaign?

We need this endowment to meet the ongoing expenses needed to maintain our facility. This endowment will generate income that will free up operating funds for mission, service, and staffing expenses. Without this building endowment, we run the risk of not having sufficient funds to maintain our facility, resorting to crisis campaigns, and not being able to fund our core mission work.

As the contributions come in, how will they be allocated?

Each year, 75% of the gifts will be invested in the building endowment fund and Session will make a determination each year on how to allocate the remaining 25% among the various campaign priorities.

What happens if we exceed the target or if we fail to reach it?

The allocation strategy described above will be used.

Can I shift my annual pledge to this campaign?

We ask that you don't. This campaign is being implemented to raise funds over and above our annual operating budget. We need to continue funding our ongoing church operations beyond this campaign.

When will work on the sanctuary begin?

Work on the sanctuary floor will begin in late May and will continue through the summer of 2026.

Are there different strategies for giving?

Yes. You will receive a trifold that addresses creative strategies for giving, and Jan Spencer can also help identify different ways to give. We encourage you to consult with your professional tax advisor about your specific circumstances.

KEY EVENTS & DATES FOR THE CAMPAIGN



WHAT IS THE NEXT STEP?

Pray: "God, what do you want to do through me?"

You will receive a commitment card, and we encourage you to prayerfully consider making a pledge. All BHPC members and friends are invited to pray for the campaign's success. We are seeking five year commitments to the campaign above and beyond annual giving. What is God hoping to do through you to support this campaign? We are hoping that, as members and friends of BHPC make campaign contributions between 2026-2030, we will be able to survive and thrive long into the future.

Respond: Whatever the amount, your gift matters. Your presence matters. Your prayers matter.

Everyone has a part, and everyone's participation matters. Our 2023 strategic plan called for a capital campaign to help celebrate our 70th year. In the Bible, the number 70 is a symbol of inclusion, completeness, and collective calling. From the elders of the Old Testament to Jesus' disciples, the number 70 reminds us that everyone belongs and matters in God's story.

Contribute: You will receive a Commitment Card. Please complete the card and return it on Commitment Sunday, May 17. If you will not be at worship on that day, you can place your card in the offering plate on a different Sunday, drop it off, or mail it to the church office. Commitments can also be made online and through Realm.

Your engagement — through prayer, reflection, service, and making a financial commitment — will help secure our shared spiritual home. Together, we will be **Here for Good.**



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