



## Crossing the Finish Line

There is something immensely satisfying about the end of a project: crossing something off a 'to-do' list, putting the last brush of stain on a piece of furniture, turning on the sprinkler after a day of planting in the garden, or crossing the finish line at the end of a long run. All the hard work has paid off!

At First Christian Church we can see, just up ahead, the finish line of a project begun a little over 12 years ago. With God's help we have come this far and we hear God calling us in this moment to eliminate our debt. Together we can answer God's call. Together we can

**FINISH THE RACE!**

## Original Project Listing

- ◆ Sanctuary improvements:
  - ◆ Added raised platform in front of chancel
  - ◆ Shortening, refinish pews
  - ◆ Add 2 aisles
  - ◆ Replace carpet
  - ◆ Refinish pulpit and lectern
  - ◆ Add sound console
  - ◆ Projector and screen
  - ◆ Handbell tables
- ◆ Replaced slate roof with shingle roof
- ◆ Repair tower exterior and add lighting
- ◆ Window wall in Narthex and upgraded lighting.
- ◆ Upgrade heat and air system in building
- ◆ Reconfigure office area
- ◆ Interior treatments throughout facility
- ◆ Other projects as we have gone along:
  - ◆ \$40,000 to Oklahoma Regional Campaign
  - ◆ \$29,228 to Phillips Theological Seminary
  - ◆ Further upgrades to the heating and air system.



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## Finish The Race

*I have fought the good fight,  
I have finished the race,  
I have kept the faith.*

**2 Timothy 4:7**

## The Project

**Our goal is to raise \$385,000**

- The current debt of First Christian Church is \$292,508.
- Pledges we receive will be payable over 3 years.
- During that time, interest will continue to accumulate.
- The earlier we pay off the debt the less interest we will pay!
- Your generous gift now will help free up resources for other ministries.

## The Original Work

In 1997 work was done to the church building at a total cost of \$1.4 million. The congregation borrowed \$935,500 from Church Extension ([www.churchextension.org](http://www.churchextension.org)) to pay for changes to the sanctuary and other improvements to the building and equipment—for a list of the projects, see the back panel. Among other things, these improvements continue to aid in our ministry through our two distinct worship services as well as more efficient office space.

## Previous Campaigns

**Cornerstone 2000** (1997-2000)

Pledges: \$635,228...Contributions: \$607,686

**Tower of Faith** (2000-2003)

Pledges: \$515,276...Contributions: \$430,679

**Count Your Blessings** (2003-2006)

Pledges: \$392,508...Contributions: \$364,066

**Forward in Faith** (2006-2009 cont. to 2010)

Pledges: \$327,000...Contributions: \$361,781

To date we have paid \$643,000 in principal and \$467,148 in interest.

## We Are So Close!

This last \$292,508 represents about 21% of the original project cost. The goal of \$385,000 is less than the average receipts of the past 4 campaigns. We can see the finish line up ahead! Let's burst through the finish line so that we can look back at what we have accomplished with a sense of satisfaction and hope for the future. It will take all of us to Finish the Race.

## Finishing for the Future

FCC is still harvesting the fruit of these projects done 12 years ago. Our worship space is beautiful and effectively houses two different kinds of worship services. Both services continue to welcome new people into opportunities for praising God. We continue to benefit from the comfort the heating and air conditioning system provide. But these were only part of the goal. It remains our fundamental desire to serve God into the future; to follow where God leads. We have a responsibility as faithful stewards of God's resources to take care of our financial obligations so that we can move into the future unfettered.

Or as a wise woman recently put it:

**"I don't believe in buying new goodies until you pay for the old goodies."**