



As a result of a recent feasibility study about the future of Ankeny First, we would like to take this opportunity to better inform you about our current financial funds. This week we would like to concentrate on the details of our Capital Campaign funding.

Currently, Ankeny First is in the process of finishing the "Faith Grows Here" Capital Campaign. This campaign began in 2014 and currently concentrates on three areas of capital need:

#1 Paying down the debt on the Christian Life Center (CLC)

- In 2009 when the CLC was built, we took on mortgage debt of \$5.5 million to pay for the construction. **70%** of the funds provided through Capital Campaign contributions are used to pay both the principle and interest of our mortgage payment. Our current monthly payment of \$19,475 consists of 60% principle and the remaining for interest at an adjustable rate of 3.5%. If we continue at the current level of giving, the debt is scheduled to be paid off in 6-8 years. The current mortgage debt of \$2.6 million is the only long-term liability currently held by Ankeny First.

#2 Making capital improvements at all three worship sites

- An important part of supporting three worship locations is to ensure each site is safe, comfortable, and well-maintained. By using **20%** of Capital Campaign contributions, we have completed the following capital improvements over the past three years:
 - ◇ Restored glass/structure of the Uptown front entryway with energy efficient glass and materials
 - ◇ Repaired deteriorating roof at JC's Café and entire Uptown roof (excluding sanctuary roof)
 - ◇ Replaced and improved the worship projectors and screen at the Christian Life Center
 - ◇ Renovated Uptown restrooms in the preschool and Sunday school areas

#3 Tithing 10% of Capital Campaign contributions towards capital needs of our mission partners—Trinity/Las Americas UMC in Des Moines and Malawi UMC in Africa. By supporting our mission partner's capital needs, from kitchen/building improvements so more meals can be served to those in need in downtown Des Moines to clean water boreholes in Africa, we are demonstrating Jesus' message to love our neighbors near and far.

For more information about our current/future capital campaign and other financial information, see the Giving page of our website www.ankenfirst.org/online-giving and watch for more inserts like this one in our upcoming bulletins!

Our Stories

We recently asked some questions of our church family about their personal Ankeny First stories. Here are a few answers that you can be in prayer over.

How did you find your way to Ankeny First (How did you get here?)

- a. I grew up going to Ankeny First UMC. (Mackenzie O.)
- b. We moved to Ankeny to be close to our daughter, her husband, and the grandchildren. After getting settled, we began looking at a few different churches. At Ankeny First, Lynn and I found a welcoming warmth and the spirit of a living faith that in a short time drew us to become members. (John B.)
- c. I grew up Catholic, got divorced/remarried and didn't/don't believe in buying forgiveness thru the annulment process. After that, I attended Open Bible Church for a few years and enjoyed the interactive worship, music, and Bible studies. I had rarely opened a Bible all the years of growing up. Then I chose to move to Ankeny to be closer to my job and brother in Johnston. My daughters were 9 & 12 at the time, so I wanted a church home that had an active youth program with a contemporary service. I visited multiple church websites and found Ankeny First's site filled with information. I met with Rev. Bob Ward to learn more about the church and what it had to offer. I began attending on a regular basis and have no regrets! (Kathy M.)

Now that you are here, what gets you excited about Ankeny First? (What keeps you here?)

- a. I enjoyed teaching Sunday School and VBS. I really enjoy my church family. I have made lots of friends here. I enjoy being part of the Education Cluster (Mackenzie O.)
- b. We are a large congregation that can and does have impact in many ways. Our monthly mission projects are a personal appeal for the things people need most to live. The thought of growing along with Ankeny's growth is exciting. (John B.)
- c. I enjoy the many worship opportunities, ways to serve, and small group opportunities. (Tricia N.)
- d. Where do I begin? The music, the contemporary service, how Pastor John's message relates to everyday life, the way broken me was welcomed with open arms, the activities for my children when they were young and as they grew into teenagers. Now, that they are married w/children of their own, our grandchildren participate in the numerous church activities, the abundant offerings...sports, addition, mental health issues, exercise, mission trips, FPU, and on and on. I'm excited to read the announcements each week to learn about the "latest" opportunities. (Kathy M.)

How long have you been here?

- 2 years (John B.)
 - 38 years (Mackenzie O.)
 - 15 years-ish (Kathy M.)
 - 3 1/2 years (Tricia N.)
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