



# The First Presbyterian Church of Howard County

9325 Presbyterian Circle  
Columbia, Maryland 21045

Dear Friends in Christ,

Our church has embarked on an exciting journey! *Common Connections*, our new capital campaign, connotes both our bond in Jesus Christ and the narthex area of our church building that is the main artery between our sanctuary and the education wings.

The enclosed materials describe a vision for First Presbyterian Church that has been created over the last four years. *Common Connections* is actually the second phase of our church's most recent capital campaign activities. The first phase, *Set the Table...Open the Doors*, established the basis for a firm financial present and future by reducing our mortgage debt and creating the vision to transform our narrow narthex area into a welcoming, vibrant "commons" area. The Commons will provide improved accessibility to the various ministry areas of our church, and this space will also enhance our ability for fellowship in Christ's name.

In a strange way, the current economic climate is making now an ideal time to move forward with the campaign. Construction costs are currently 25-30% below where they were before the recession. Based on detailed construction estimates, we can make the enclosed vision a reality by raising \$910,000 during this campaign. Typically, raising funds of this amount requires a core group of people with means to make contributions of \$10,000 to \$80,000. But even these generous gifts will not allow us to reach the common goal without everyone's participation. All gifts are important and deeply appreciated. If you cannot contribute financially, reach out to the campaign committee to discuss other ways to help. This campaign will run for 36 months and span four tax years to allow each of us to maximize our contributions over an extended period of time. Any and all contributions are needed to realize our vision. We are grateful for your encouragement and support.

I invite you to review the attached information, to ask questions of the campaign leadership team, and to prayerfully consider how you might participate. I look forward to working with each of you to strengthen our common connections. Thank you.

Jeff Livingston  
*Capital Campaign Committee Chair*