



Vol. 3 - November 14, 2025

Welcome to the First Parish in Bedford Capital Campaign Newsletter! This newsletter will keep the congregation informed about what the Capital Campaign Committee is doing and the current progress of the Campaign.

### **What is a Capital Campaign?**

As you may know, the budget of the church is based on various sources of income. These include fundraisers, income from the lease of cell tower space in the belfry, money from the church endowment, as well as collection from weekly services. The most important source of our budget comes from our annual pledge drive. All that money goes to paying salaries, heating the building, keeping the lights on, etc. However, that money does not cover the occasional “big ticket” item for the building and other physical improvements to our church.

### **Past campaigns**

In the past we have held capital campaigns including the Bility campaign that raised money to update the elevator and allow other accessibility improvements. We also added a new high efficient boiler and air conditioning to the sanctuary, as well as solar panels on the roof. These capital campaigns achieved our goals to make the church both greener and more welcoming.

### **Today: Potential Capital Campaign Projects 2026**

Currently we have a list of projects we hope to be able to complete with funds raised through a new Capital Campaign. These include (in no particular order):

1. HVAC in the Common Room and the upstair classrooms
2. Organ maintenance
3. Fire suppression maintenance
4. Power backup
5. **GreenerU Consultant**
6. Kitchen cooktop replacement
7. Rear stairs and ramp
8. Soundproofing Maria's room

We will explain all these projects in more detail in future newsletters, including what the problem is, what we are looking to do, and why the project is needed.

## What Can You Do?

Come to the Capital Campaign conversation with the congregation. It will occur on **Sunday, Nov 16 after the service.**

**Next: Hiring GreenerU**



On our list that we're moving forward with is hiring GreenerU Consultants.

### Why hire a consultant?

The congregation at First Parish has made a commitment to be a “Green” Sanctuary”. It’s the way we “walk the walk”, and the Capital Campaign Committee takes that commitment seriously.

Along with that, we understand we owe it to the congregation to be as fiscally responsible as possible. However, being fiscally responsible and being green can be in conflict and there will need to be trade-offs made.

Ultimately it will be up to the congregation to decide which trade-offs we will have to make, but first we must understand what they are. The Capital Campaign is committed to accurately presenting the trade-offs to you.

As we began to explore different options, it became obvious that this stuff is complicated! There could be a chance to look to the future. There may be options that are out of reach now, but could we design systems to build on and make greener in the future? The more we explore, the more we find competing interests, and that makes us hesitant to select a recommended course of action only to discover it could be the wrong thing. To quote Donald Rumsfeld, (I hate to do it, but he's right) "We don't know what we don't know". We don't want to get bogged down with "decision paralysis", but we *do* know we need help to ask the right questions!

We need some expertise.

So to ensure we are giving the congregation realistic options that are grounded in reality –even if there are real tradeoffs– we felt it was important and would be money well spent to enlist experts who would help us to best understand the complexities, interdependencies, and ultimately choose between choices that had the benefit of experts behind them.

## **Why hire GreenerU**

Fortunately we found an organization, GreenerU, who describes themselves as follows:

***Your mission. Our expertise. A shared path to a decarbonized future.***

*At GreenerU, we help mission-driven institutions reduce greenhouse gas emissions and move toward decarbonization. Whether you're just getting started or already underway, we bring the technical know-how and strategic insight to move your vision forward.*

GreenerU has done this before. They come highly recommended, and our meetings so far with them have been very encouraging. They understand our aspirations, they understand the complexities and tradeoffs for green projects, and understand our limitations.

You can read more about GreenerU on their website: <https://www.greeneru.com/>. Learn more about what GreenerU and all other infrastructure plans by **coming to the talkback session this Sunday, Nov 16 after the service.**

We look forward to seeing you there.

Capital Campaign Committee: *Peter Cho, Jennifer McClain, Gene Kalb, Tom Flannery, Bob Dorer, Joan Bowen, Rev. Jamie Hinson-Rieger*