



First Parish in Bedford

Capital Campaign News

It's our turn

Vol. 6 - January 16, 2026

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.

We have a new logo for our potential 2026 Capital Campaign.

Capital Campaign 2026



Legacy • Community & Inclusion • Sustainability

The bottom explains what this campaign is all about:

Legacy - Community & Inclusion - Sustainability

First up:

LEGACY: (noun): /'legəsɪ/ LEG-uh-see

- A gift by will, especially of money or other personal property.
- Something transmitted by or received from an ancestor or predecessor or from the past.

If we go forward with the Capital Campaign, it will be a commitment to maintain our church home for future generations. *It's Our Turn!*

Over the years the church congregation has consistently stepped up to build and maintain the church building. From the very beginning when Bedford was being formed, people rallied to build the church, which was required to form a town in 1729. That first building cost £560, the equivalent of \$187,047.

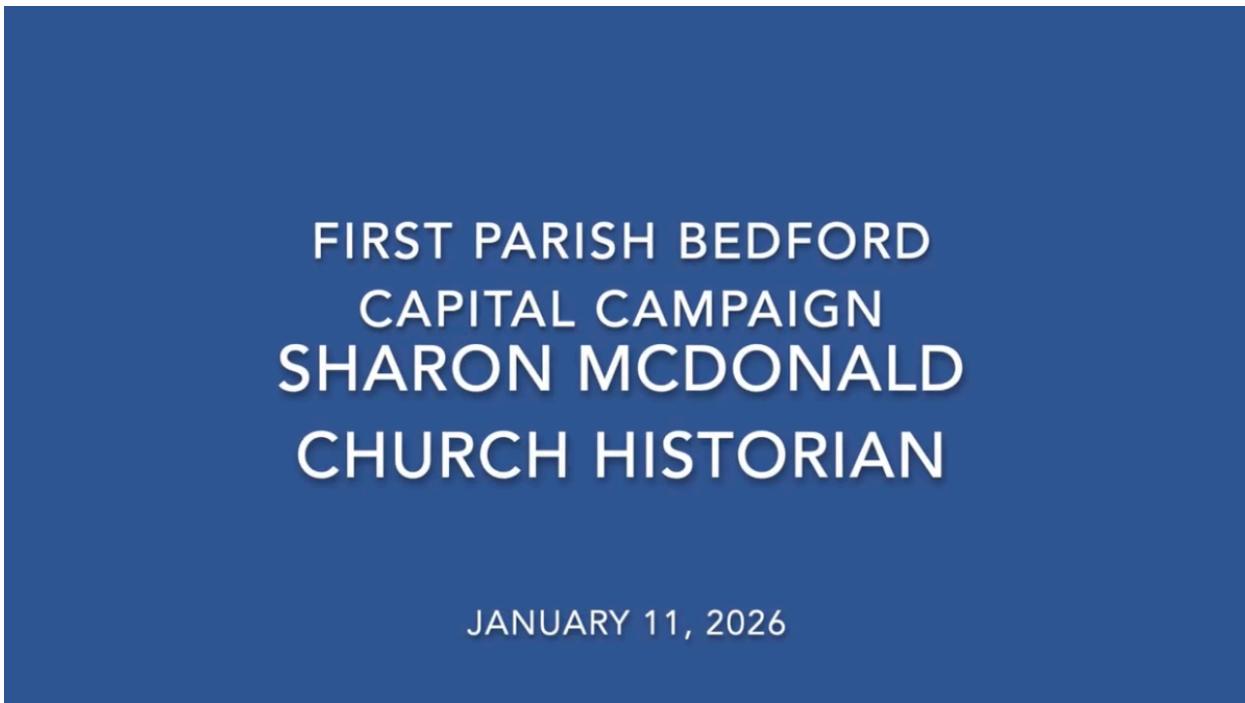
Another capital campaign in 1793 involved buying a bell. This was the bell that was rung on April 19, 1775 to rally the town that the British were coming.

When the church was in disrepair and needed to be replaced in 1818, the church sold off the pews as a fundraiser to pay for the new building. The church also benefited from the “Great Gale” of 1817 which knocked down numerous trees around town. The church took advantage of the inexpensive lumber to build the new church that we’re in today.

Through the last 299 years the congregation kept maintaining and improving our home.

Maintaining our church is a responsibility we all have to our community and, more importantly, to the future of First Parish in Bedford.

Last Sunday, Sharon McDonald gave a great talk on this very thing:



FIRST PARISH BEDFORD
CAPITAL CAMPAIGN
SHARON MCDONALD
CHURCH HISTORIAN

JANUARY 11, 2026

LINK: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hZf-eTTeJKw>

Important Dates



What's Next

On February 8, the church will vote on whether we want to move forward with a capital campaign to raise a specified amount of money. It is a simple Yes or No vote whether to go forward with the campaign.

If We Vote Yes, What Happens Next?

If the congregation approves that motion to undertake a Capital Campaign, then the Capital Campaign Committee will move forward with the fundraising for the campaign, which will happen concurrently with the annual Stewardship pledge drive. Both the Stewardship and Capital Campaign drives will begin March 15, and they'll conclude on April 26. Stewardship pledges will continue, as always, to help pay for the general day-to-day running of the church. As Capital Campaign pledges are paid, the Board, or a special task force appointed by the Board, will manage the use of those funds to achieve the various Capital Campaign projects. Timelines, priorities, and so on will be managed by the Board or its designees.

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