

Building for Generations

Frequently Asked Questions

Town Hall Meeting October 9, 2022

“Enter into His gates with thanksgiving and into His courts with hymns. Give thanks to Him; praise His name, for the Lord is good; His mercy is everlasting, and His truth is from generation to generation.”

(Psalm 99)

At every stage of our growth since 1998, God has bestowed His blessings and gifts on our young parish, and we strive for humble gratitude. We also give thanks for the vibrant and active community of Orthodox Christians who call this parish home, dedicating their time, talent, and treasure. As we celebrate 25 years of Orthodox Ministry in 2023, it is a fitting blessing that we break ground next year on the Ministry Center that will serve future generations.

Our holy temple, in which we worship our God, is the center of our life and our campus. The buildings that surround it magnify our ability to extend that ministry, according our Lord’s bidding. They are an extension of our commitment to provide loving service to God and to humanity.

What is the “Building for Generations” campaign?

The “Building for Generations” capital campaign was launched in 2021 with great results. By the generosity of many donors we were able to raise significant pledges towards our goal. Our clergy and ministry leaders were also able to reevaluate the initial plan and make important refinements. The result is a cohesive design that improves form and function that supports our vision.

Now we are poised to take our next steps to build the Ministry Center and to renovate the Spiritual Life Center. The master plan for our St. Nektarios community has always included the Ministry Center so we may fulfill our mission and vision statement to better serve God and each other.



1998-2023

*Celebrating 25 years
of Orthodox Ministry*

More specifically, why do we need the Ministry Center?

To foster community with a multipurpose room and gymnasium which will serve all ages—both athletically, and as a banquet facility able to accommodate 500 people. New flex space will support large and small ministries, including a dedicated library for counseling and education. An improved kitchen will connect with the Ministry Center to serve all facilities.

To grow our faith with additional space for youth and adult education to address our overwhelming need for more classes and programming. The Narrow Path Bookstore will finally have a permanent location. Leading technology will enhance our learning environments and allow us to integrate advanced campus-wide safety features.

To support each other with more programming for large and small groups. We can respond to the needs of all parishioners, at every stage of their continuing walk with God. Additional space will allow for simultaneous ministry programming and informal gathering in a “social corner” designed for fellowship.

To serve beyond ourselves as we share our resources with the greater Charlotte community who are hungry or need shelter and assistance. We will be able to easily continue our partnerships with local public service groups and outreach programs. Larger scale service projects and fundraisers will support local, national, and international charities.

How big will the Ministry Center be?

The Ministry Center is currently projected at 31,000 square feet, encompassing three levels. The plans include a multi-purpose space to serve as both a 500-person banquet facility and gymnasium; additional technology / “smart” classrooms for expanded ministry programming for all ages; dedicated space for Narrow Path Book Store; walking track with exercise area; covered walkways to Sanctuary and Spiritual Life Center; ministry support spaces, and more.

What about updating the Spiritual Life Center?

Opened in April 2002, the Spiritual Life Center has seen 20 years of heavy use by all ministries and is due for renovation and improvements. Included in this capital campaign are funds to

renovate our beloved Center. Funds have been earmarked for improvements to include a reconfigured kitchen and integrating it with the new Ministry Center; a new reception area and enhanced office support; updates to existing classrooms; replacing the roof, installing a fire suppression system; upgrading building facilities to meet code requirements; and improving lighting, flooring and HVAC systems.

Do we still have a Sanctuary mortgage?

No. We give glory to God, and thanks to you, our good and faithful stewards.

Before we launched the campaign, a church-wide survey in 2020 indicated that parishioners overwhelmingly wanted to pay off the mortgage before proceeding. To build our Sanctuary to the glory of God, our faithful pledged \$8.3 million from 2004 to 2007. We took on a mortgage of \$4.9 million in 2007, which had a balance of \$700,000 in January, 2020.

On January 2022 we burned the mortgage balance and we are now debt free.

What ministries and groups will use the Ministry Center?

It is extremely important to note that this Ministry Center is designed for use by *all* of our community members at all ages and stages of parish life: children, teens, college-bound students, young adults, singles, newlyweds, young families, and more as we fulfill our church's mission and vision statements.

What about the cost?

At the beginning of the campaign, we budgeted \$10,900,000 for the complete project. This cost included high level feedback from experienced general contractors for the Ministry Center. The ultimate cost will be ascertained when we receive pricing from contractors. The process moves from our current schematic drawings to construction documents which then go to contractors for pricing. We are targeting pricing by May 2023. With the current inflation, we expect the pricing to be higher than the initial budget. We will assess what steps will be needed to address the gap and to proceed.

Is it a good time to take on debt?

The Parish Council has remained committed over the life of St. Nektarios Church to be responsible and transparent stewards of the community's dollars. Each stage of our parish's development, from the purchase of the property at Kuykendall Road, to the building of the Spiritual Life Center, to the erection of our magnificent Sanctuary, has been managed in a fiscally responsible manner and accountable to the community.

The Parish Council commissioned a community-wide survey in 2020 to assess the feasibility of building the Ministry Center and taking on debt. The community response was indeed favorable, and the Clergy and Parish Council voted to move forward.

Another benefit of a three-year pledge payment program, it makes it more likely that we will be able to carry less debt which in turn could be paid off sooner.

What if the unexpected happens during the building process? Do we have reserves budgeted?

There are many uncertainties that can occur while undertaking a project of this scope. For example, none of us could have predicted the pandemic and its effect. Our Parish Council and Clergy have budgeted \$1.1 million dollars in reserve for post construction interest, building contingency, and operations.

How do I get involved?

Prayerfully consider a gift to the "Building for Generations" capital campaign. Reflect upon the opportunities you have to make a commitment of time, talent and treasure to the future of St. Nektarios parish and the generations of Orthodox Christians to come.

God has called us in worship, service, witness and fellowship, and we seek to answer His call every day in our walk toward communion with His Spirit.



Scan to pledge

Who may I call if I have questions?

Please contact the church office or member of the Building for Generations team.

Our Capital Campaign Committee

Steering Committee

Fr. Andreas Houpos, Peter B. Pappas (Chair), Despina Gallis, Peter Harakas, Evelyn Klund, Theodora Sexstone

Fundraising Team

Peter B. Pappas (Chair), Michelle Anderson,
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