



# *Imagine*

"BY GOD'S POWER ACCOMPLISHING FAR MORE THAN WE CAN IMAGINE"

EPHESIANS 3:20



THIS IS THE DAY THAT  
THE LORD HAS MADE.

LET US  
REJOICE AND BE  
GLAD IN IT!

# Imagine

"BY GOD'S POWER ACCOMPLISHING FAR MORE THAN WE CAN IMAGINE"  
EPHESIANS 3:20

Most Sundays, these are the first words we hear as we gather for worship – an affirmation that every new day is a gift from God and a reminder that all our days - past, present and future - are part of God's work and the good story God is crafting in this world.

It is a good day here at Rye Presbyterian Church. Our faithful God, who saw fit to establish this church many years ago, has brought us to this good day. There is excitement and passion about how God is moving in, through, and among all of us. This day is about more than simply celebrating where we have been and where we are today.

Looking to the future, the leadership of RPC begins to build on the foundation of the generations who have come before us and to pray, dream, and imagine what God wants to do in and through us now and in the coming days. Those dreams are shaped by the image from Ephesians 3:20 – that well beyond our faithfulness and our efforts as God's people, God is active bringing goodness and blessing to this world "far more than we can imagine."

**This booklet will outline some of the avenues we sense God imagining for us as we move boldly into the days ahead. It will also prompt us to think about how each of us can grow in faith and faithfulness by living in ways that reflect more fully God's goodness and generosity.**

We pray that as you read this, each of you will be as excited as we are about all that God imagines for Rye Presbyterian Church's coming days.

**Dan Love     John Miller**



# THE *Imagine* INITIATIVE



We are focusing on *Imagine* and *Imagination* because RPC's effort here is to see into a new future that is much more than simply an incremental strengthening and building on what we have. Instead we look toward a vision of our mission and ministry with a new level of engagement from within, deeper connection to one another, and extending beyond our own congregation and local community to include many surrounding communities and the varied people in them.

Our effort here goes far beyond the ease of "imagining" or "dreaming". RPC is also embarking on an *Initiative* to make those imaginings real.

An Initiative requires dedication, action, and work, along with resources—human, financial, and spiritual. This booklet will guide you through both the specific *Initiatives* and the resources required to turn them into realities. Following is a brief sample of the future God is calling RPC to realize.

**IMAGINE a new worship service** able to touch and enrich the lives of even more people.

**IMAGINE our stained glass windows restored** to their original clarity and brilliance.

**IMAGINE a third pastor** continuing the legacy of a spiritual foundation for our children and youth.

**IMAGINE new office space** allowing us to unite our staff team and to bring in a seminary intern.

**IMAGINE the chapel remodeled** to be creative space for worship.

**IMAGINE things we can't even imagine yet** for people we haven't even met yet.

**IMAGINE not just maintaining,** not just surviving, but stepping confidently into the future.

**IMAGINE what God can do.**

**IMAGINE it happening not just someday, on someone else's watch, but now.**

## *Imagine*

We believe it is not only the legacy we've been handed, but our God-given calling into the future so that here in this place a new generation might be touched by God's grace, welcomed into community and empowered to live with the joy and purpose that comes with the life of faith.

We believe this is the time, and together, we are the people to move it from imagination to reality.



**THIS IS THE DAY.**

## *Imagine*

# CHILDREN AND YOUTH



# Imagine

**Imagine provision for sustained, long-term support for a third full-time, ordained pastor who would be able to live in or near Rye and serve the children, youth, and younger families of our church.**

One element of fully funding a third minister is the provision of housing. The Initiative will establish a housing fund with investment income allocated to supplement our current budget for the position. This would enable us to retain the highest quality leadership for this critical ministry of RPC.

## IN ADDITION TO THIS FOUNDATIONAL STEP, WE IMAGINE THE FOLLOWING:

- **An additional evening worship opportunity** in a renovated and redesigned chapel allowing busy families to worship together.
- **Enhanced Sunday School/youth space** with updated furniture and audio/visual capabilities.
- **Expanded children's music ministry**, including a bell choir and other instruments.
- **Expanded opportunities for community engagement** and intergenerational ministry through local and distant mission trips.
- **Creation of additional programs for families** that enable parents and children to learn and grow together in faith.

# WORSHIP

# Imagine

**Imagine the stunning worship spaces of RPC fully refurbished and ready for year-round use.**

We have been blessed by the generosity and creativity of those who have come before us with extraordinarily beautiful worship spaces. Now it is our turn to be good stewards of these spaces and the way they connect us with God.

## TO DO SO, WE WILL:

- **Repay our endowment** for the beautiful work done painting the Sanctuary in 2014.
- Complete **restoration of our stained glass windows** to their original glory and brilliance.
- **Finish air conditioning** the Sanctuary to enable its year-round use.
- **Repair and restore the steeple entrance** to the Sanctuary.
- **Remodel Crawford Chapel** with a refurbished chancel to reflect our Reformed heritage and allow for flexibility of worship and music, new flexible seating for comfort and creative use of space, and a new piano to support new music offerings.
- **The purchase of the new Presbyterian hymnal** to expand the depth and breadth of our worship music.
- **Install a video system** to capture key events in the life of the church and its members.



# FUTURE MINISTRIES AND PROGRAMS



# Imagine

*Imagine not only strengthening and expanding the current ministry of the church, but also investing deeply in creative new programs to steer us boldly into the future.*

To do so, we will provide up to three years of seed money to establish new programs serving our congregation and reaching out in service to the world. This concept enabled the creation of Stephen Ministry and RPC's youth ministry.

We expect to invest \$650,000 over the next three years in these future ministries and programs.

## IDEAS CURRENTLY BEING CONSIDERED ARE:

- **A program** to support men and women transitioning from prison back to society.
- Continuing involvement with **"Stop Hunger Now."**
- Working closely with nearby, **under-resourced communities** to strengthen our ties with our neighbors.
- **A youth service camp** for homeless children staffed in part by our own youth.
- **High quality guest speakers** for worship, adult education, and youth programs.
- **Supporting a "nesting" congregation** that uses our worship space.
- **Funding a wide range of retreats** enabling members of the congregation to come together in deep and meaningful ways.
- A modest **\$250,000 addition** to our endowment.
- **Other ideas** yet to be imagined!

# STAFF

# Imagine

*Imagine having the finest staff team available to meet the many demands placed on RPC's professional and support staff as it leads and undergirds the work of its ministries and volunteers, and serves RPC's many community activities.*

## TO ATTRACT AND RETAIN SUCH A HIGH-CALIBER STAFF TEAM, WE ENVISION THE FOLLOWING:

- **Renovation of our two manses** to continue to offer quality living arrangements to our current and future pastors.
- **New upstairs office space** through a modest expansion above the Assembly Room uniting the professional staff, and allowing further growth of the staff team supporting RPC's ministry.  
  
This consolidation would also allow for additional space on the first floor of the church to accommodate meetings of the many ministries of the church and other organizations utilizing our facility.
- **Seminary intern position** to enhance the staff team and establish RPC as a teaching church.



# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

## WHY ARE WE CONDUCTING THE IMAGINE INITIATIVE?

We aim to provide the resources for the congregants and others to live a fuller life of faith and service in following God's call. The primary objective of this Initiative is not only increased financial giving, important though that is; rather the main objective is to build and enhance the spiritual foundation on which RPC rests. Thus a central aspect of the Initiative is the Personal Reflection Journal, encouraging each of us to deepen a connection with God.

## WHY ARE WE DOING IT NOW?

Currently, there is an extraordinary level of energy, excitement, and unity in RPC—due to new staff leadership and a wide range of new program ideas. This presents us a golden opportunity. Now.

## IS THERE ENOUGH SUPPORT IN THE CHURCH TO MEET THE GOALS?

The simple answer is yes. This Initiative is founded on Ephesians 3:20: "By God's power accomplishing far more than we can imagine." So we are trusting in God, in the same way that generations before us built and expanded this church while they faced their times of financial insecurity. We even *Imagine* exceeding our goals and thus providing more resources to do God's work in the world.

## HOW CAN WE BE FAITHFUL STEWARDS OF WHAT GOD HAS GIVEN RPC AND ITS MEMBERS?

By extending the reach of God's work to include not only our community, but also many of the under-resourced communities that surround us. This is how we, indeed, love our neighbor.

## MANY EXCITING PROGRAMS IN THIS INITIATIVE WILL BE FUNDED FOR THREE YEARS; THEN WHAT?

If they succeed and take root in the congregation, their funding will move to the regular budget.

## HOW CAN I GET ANSWERS TO MY QUESTIONS ABOUT HOW THIS INITIATIVE WILL BE IMPLEMENTED?

Ask the Co-Pastors, who are deeply committed to this effort, or anyone on the Steering Committee, who have developed the Initiative, with God's guidance, through prayer, reflection, and study. There will also be a series of meetings to enable everyone to learn more about the Initiative and what they can do to support it.

## HOW LONG WILL THE INITIATIVE LAST?

*Imagine* Pledges can be fulfilled over a three-year period, from December 1, 2015 through November 30, 2018.

## I AM EXCITED BY THIS, HOW CAN I GET INVOLVED IN THE IMAGINE INITIATIVE?

There are many ways to get involved immediately and over the coming months and years. Right now, encourage your friends and fellow congregants to understand the Initiative, attend events, and support this step toward the future. As we move forward, a key building block of the Initiative is to provide opportunities for us to grow and serve as a Christian community. Find your and your family's place and join in!

# WHAT DO YOU

# Imagine

As you pray about how you can most generously and effectively support the **Imagine** Initiative, it may be helpful to reflect on the legacy that generations before you have left that enables us to feel God's immeasurable love. As a relatively new member remarked recently:

**"I know I have always believed in God; but when I come to this church, I know that God believes in me."**

The details of the specific initiatives paint a vision of a congregation eager to grow spiritually and as a community of faith, and ready to love our neighbor not only in Rye, but also in surrounding, less resourced communities.

The details of new programs and ministries, described earlier, are strategically connected to one another as well as to our wealth of existing ministries. The Initiative also takes pains to provide sufficient staff and volunteer support to enable that growth to be implemented effectively.

As you look at those details, **imagine** how you connect with them and the breadth they will add generally to the life of our church and specifically to your own spiritual life and your own relationship with RPC.



## THE IMAGINE INITIATIVE

### Resource Requirements

Bearing in mind the specifics of the interconnected Initiatives we **Imagine** for the future of RPC, below is a summary of the resources we estimate will be required to realize that future. (Note that the intent is to provide three-year funding for the new program initiatives before continuing programs are folded into the regular church budget.)

#### INVESTMENT IN CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Third Pastor Housing Fund	1,000,000
Youth space	27,000
Additional Worship Service Programs and Mission	*30,000
	*120,000

#### INVESTMENT IN WORSHIP

Sanctuary and Stained Glass Windows	1,270,000
Chapel	150,000

#### INVESTMENT FOR THE FUTURE

Programs and Mission	*200,000
Endowment	*250,000

#### INVESTMENT IN STAFF

Manses	420,000
Office space and library	525,000
Seminary Intern	*50,000

#### CAMPAIGN EXPENSES

100,000

#### TOTAL INVESTMENT

**4,142,000**

\*Represents three-year investments in new initiatives.

# EXPANSIVE GENEROSITY

GENEROSITY IS THE  
TAPROOT OF OUR  
FAITH.

As Christians we believe  
that all that we are and  
have is a gift from God's  
infinite generosity.



In this place and time, we are also the beneficiaries of the expansive generosity of previous generations, who built and expanded our magnificent buildings and campus, created a dynamic church school and nursery school, developed programs to touch the hearts and souls of our congregation, and a myriad ways to reach out generously to those in need, near and far.

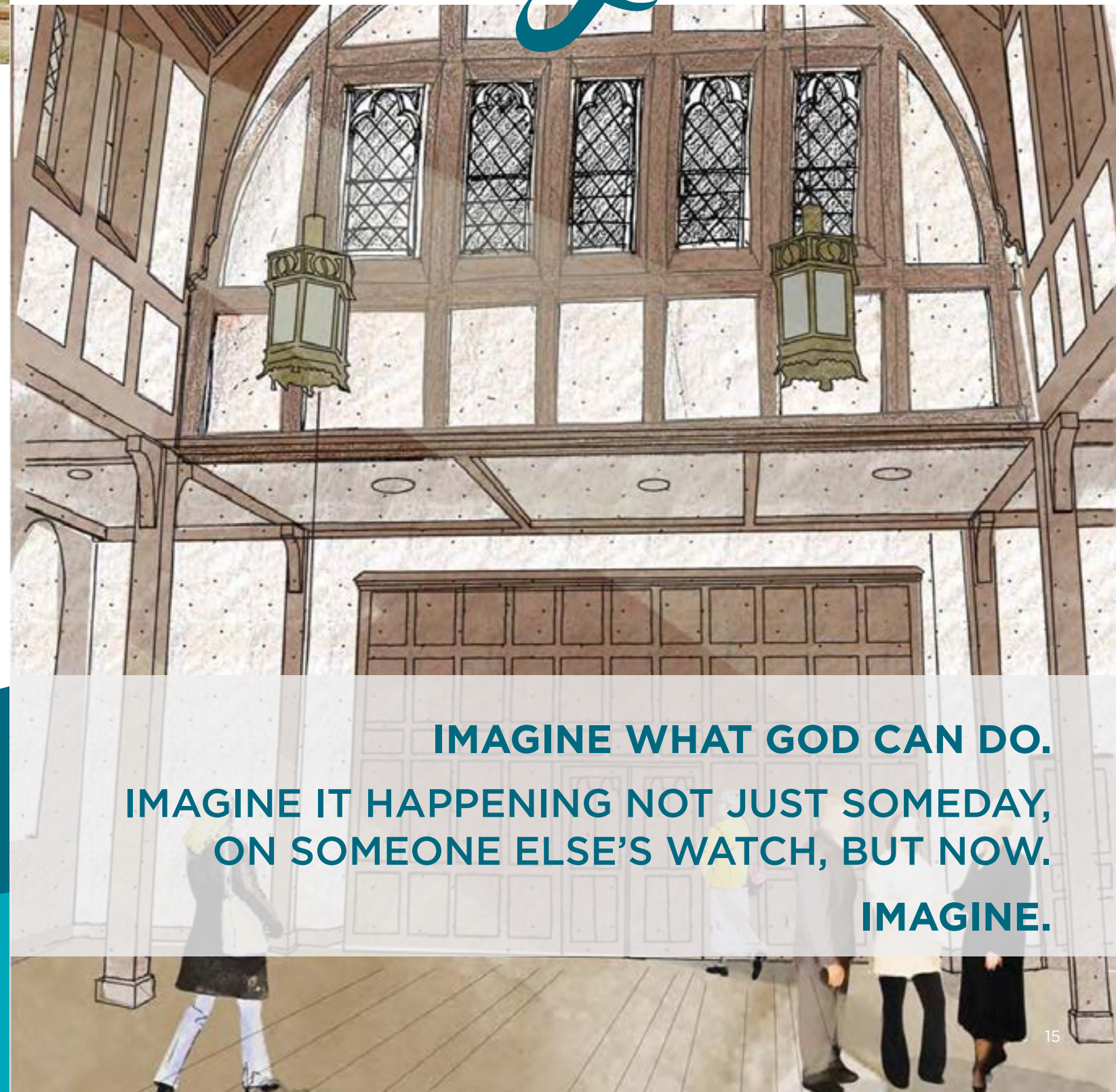
The resources required to implement the Imagine Initiative are simply re-investments of the many gifts God has generously given to us. They enable us to do God's work in the world with generosity of spirit and action.

Following in the way of generosity, we are called to live an expansively generous life, so that our gifts of time, talent, and treasure may build and expand on the legacy passed on to us and enable God's work to flourish in this time and place.

**NOW ITS OUR TURN**

# Imagine

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EPHESIANS 3:20



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IMAGINE IT HAPPENING NOT JUST SOMEDAY,  
ON SOMEONE ELSE'S WATCH, BUT NOW.  
IMAGINE.**





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