

April, 2010

Christos Anesti!

Holy Week and our worship together celebrating the Resurrection represent the essence of what our Orthodox community is and what it provides in return to all of us. With the unveiling of the design of our new St. Demetrios church on Palm Sunday, many parishioners have received now their first look at the successful design selected by the Building Committee. Comments have been universally enthusiastic and as the design becomes developed more, the Committee shall be sharing updates with the parish and listening carefully to feedback.

Readers of this column in the Vine know that the Building Committee wants very much to do so by reaching out to you. Already the Philoptochos has invited Fr. Nick, our architect, and representatives of the Committee to make a presentation so that it can become keenly aware of the design and timing as well as other matters such as temporary alternative worship space and progress of the fund raising campaign. In doing so, Philoptochos may also seek out ways that they may be able to participate in this wonderful once-in-a-lifetime undertaking – a source of deep camaraderie, accomplishment, and rich memories.

Your organization is encouraged to contact John Morakis through the church office (781-237-5561) and set up similar sessions. It is the hope of all the many dedicated volunteers on the Committee to meet literally with every single parishioner at St. Demetrios to review this progress. Whether as a member of a church organization, or at a gathering you may choose to host in your own home or attend at a friend's home, or some other format, we will come to you.

Those who have taken advantage of this invitation, issued in each of the past Vine articles, have enjoyed detailed reports, updates, review of plans and draft specifications in the intimacy, for example, their own homes or as invitees at the home of a friend who took the initiative to contact Fr. Nick (781-237-5561) or myself (617-266-9200 or pjb@stdemetriosweston.org) to establish a convenient date.

You will not regret it. The wealth of project knowledge that can be gained in the intimate, respectful setting of small groups is astounding. Here are some highlights: 47% of the project budget has been received in the form of pledges, some over a three year period – that's almost \$2.9 million; the construction manager has been selected; dialogue between the parties has commenced in earnest to advance the design and determine construction methods; subcommittees are being formed to work on specific matters; and so much more. This is all being done with people just like you - volunteer parishioners. We look forward to hearing from you!

Peter Bassett