

October, 2011



Last month we covered in some detail the status of our building project from the end of August through the end of September. You will recall the Building Committee seeking better bids for certain subcontracts. After two and one half years of selecting architects, engineers, construction managers and subcontractors, the building committee reached the final stages setting the final cost of our new church.

Mindful of the mandate of the May, 2009 Special General Assembly—and the comments from our parishioners during the September, 2009 Design Charette—that the Building Committee was charged with the prime responsibility to design and construct a traditional Orthodox Church suitable for Weston, including the required interior spaces and comprising a “100-year” structure, all the work through October of 2011 has been focused on these results. The final price for our new parish, thus designed, was \$7,050,000, a number higher than the nominal \$6,200,000 authorized by the May, 2009 assembly. Even though the original vote allowed for the modification of the total to adjust for inflation, the committee worked hard to keep this new total under that limit but still as low as possible without a sacrifice to quality.

The well attended October 9, 2011 General Assembly, among other business, voted unanimously for the record to endorse this new number, and with that blessing the Special General Assembly was announced for October 24th to consider this one matter—the authorization to expend the additional funds. No additional bank borrowings will be required.

The “remarkable spirit” we speak of is that wonderful feeling in the room last Monday evening during the very well-attended Special General Assembly. With another huge show of support, the gathering voted to endorse the final budget with a carefully crafted provision for an additional contingency ... and then another significant thing happened—a heartfelt spontaneous round of applause! How wonderful we all felt. And this vote of confidence was all the reward the committee could possibly dream of for all the hard work of the over 70 dedicated members. Thank you Saint Demetrios!

With these votes, work commenced immediately and, as you can see from the attached image, foundation work is underway. Our greatest hope is to complete the structural steel frame before we “bed down” the project for the cold winter months. Progress will resume full speed again in the spring with completion within the original estimate of eighteen months.

We are delighted to report continuing good news on the fundraising side. The Finance Committee reported at the assembly that we are at almost \$4,500,000 pledged and over \$2,600,000 received in cash. It was estimated that by the holidays, we will be approaching \$5,000,000 pledged and just under \$3,000,000 in cash received. If you have not yet pledged, please contact Fr. Nick or Peter Bassett in person in church or by calling the church (781-237-5561) or business office (617-266-9200). Our goal is to have 100% participation and we are on our way. Great institutions like our new sanctuary are not successfully built by the few. Future generations will wonder who undertook constructing this marvelous place of worship, and all our parishioners should be able to say, “I did.”

Peter Bassett