

# Building On



...expanding spiritual horizons at FVUUF

Volume 1, Issue 2 — September 2006

## What's Building On?

*Building On* is the Fox Valley Unitarian Universalist Fellowship's newsletter about all aspects of our building expansion project. It will be published as needed throughout the project's span to keep members, friends and the wider UU community updated on our plans and progress.

If you would prefer to receive the newsletter via e-mail as a PDF file (saving printing and postage costs), please e-mail Administrator Diane Cochran at [fvuufoa@new.rr.com](mailto:fvuufoa@new.rr.com)

We'll also post the newsletters on the FVUUF Web site at <http://www.focol.org/fvuuf>. On page three of this newsletter is a list of project leaders, so please feel free to contact us whenever you have a question, concern or suggestion about our building addition.

our future, our ministry, our identity, our money. We will likely all have strong opinions about particular aspects of this project. Even more certain, none of us will get our way a hundred percent. The challenge of this project will be for 750 people to feel good about it in spite of this fact. This will also be the beauty of the project. We won't have an expansion determined by a bishop somewhere else or a minister or a handful of donors or just the board of directors. We will have a building that we all will have an opportunity to help create.

## The Weathervane: *Building On* Edition Keeping Our Eyes On The Chalice

By Rev. Roger Bertschhausen

Fasten your seatbelts everyone—with this newsletter we're about to dive deeply into the building process! A lot is going to happen, especially during the next few months. This newsletter will give you a wonderful preview of what's in store for us as this exciting project begins to unfold.

We have a very talented Building Design Team that is leading the way, helping our architect translate the hopes and dreams we expressed in last spring's dream phase into a compelling and visionary plan. Thankfully for all of us, my job isn't building design or construction management! My job is helping us make sure we don't lose sight of the Chalice—the symbol of our UU principles and our mission—as we dig into the work of designing, financing and constructing the expansion. Ultimately, this project isn't about architect's blueprints or hammers or bricks; it's about creating space that enables the Fellowship to remain an open and welcoming community. It's about our mission. The Chalice is the prize we must keep our eyes on.

For most congregations, building projects bring out both hopes and fears. I expect this will be true for us, too. We'll be talking about a lot of important things: our mission,

So what can you do to help make our building project a work of beauty? This fall you can actively engage in the process, learning all that you can about the proposed designs and giving voice to your questions and thoughts. You can listen well to others voicing their questions and thoughts. You can remember that even if we disagree about details, we all bring our best to the project. You can help keep our collective eye on the Chalice. ☉



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a building  
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## Congregation Approves First Steps Toward Expansion

By Nadine Miller, Building Steering Committee

By a unanimous vote of members at the Fellowship's annual meeting May 21, the congregation is taking the first steps toward expanding our existing building. Built in 1998, the current facility was designed as the first phase of a total building project which was to later include a permanent worship space and additional meeting/classrooms and offices to accommodate one of the fastest growing UU congregations in the country.

If you couldn't participate in the annual meeting, here are a few of the highlights from the Building Design Team's presentation:

- ❖ After an invitation to all members and friends, a Building Design Team was organized in the winter of 2006. The relationships among the Building Steering Committee, Finance Committee, Design Team and the design/construction company were outlined, with a flow chart published in the first issue of the building project newsletter.
- ❖ A "dream phase" was launched in the spring following a meeting with a UUA consultant, and the results were presented (see article *Come Dream A Dream With Me*, page 3).
- ❖ A design-build vs. design-bid-build process was discussed.
- ❖ The project timetable was outlined (see graphic below).
- ❖ The 2006-07 fiscal year expenses were presented: \$15,000-\$18,000 for preliminary design services and \$12,000 for the UUA consultant's feasibility study.

At the conclusion of the presentation, the congregation voted to approve the budget and contract with The Boldt Company for design-build services through the schematic design stage (see next article, *Design Terms 101*). At a congregational meeting Oct. 22, three design options with cost estimates will be presented to the congregation for a vote. ☺

## Design Terms 101

By Albert Park, Building Project Co-chair

In the architectural world, design is broken down into four phases: conceptual, schematic, design development and construction documents. The Fellowship has begun the process of conceptual design and now is moving toward schematic design.

Conceptual design is the earliest phase and includes:

1. Understanding constraints such as site issues, utilities, zoning requirements and existing structures.
2. Developing the functional space program that lists all of the different spaces required to support the building's many uses. This means understanding the schedules and group sizes of all those who use the building—plus incorporating growth projections.
3. Setting expectations for key building concepts in terms of aesthetics, circulation flow, adjacencies, environmental issues and lighting.
4. Creating a simplified floor plan with all the required spaces. Key considerations are location, size and adjacencies to all other rooms/areas.

Architect Doug Haas from The Boldt Company has been meeting with user groups throughout the summer and evaluating needs. We've just received the first schematic design for the Design Team's review.

We plan to present three floor plan variations for expansion to the congregation. The differences among the options may include alternate layouts, more program space or different arrangements. Of course, determining which design we wish to pursue will depend on many factors, including:

- ❖ Cost
- ❖ Schedule
- ❖ Site impact
- ❖ Neighborhood impact
- ❖ Future program growth potential
- ❖ Adherence to program requirements
- ❖ Aesthetics

During the Oct. 22 meeting, we hope you will voice your pleasures, concerns and insights into what you think will best meet our needs. Cost estimates for each proposal will be presented, and we will vote on which of the three design options will proceed to design development. Please come and join us in this most exciting opportunity! ☺

Mar-May 2006  
Dream Phase &  
Congregational  
Meeting Vote

Sept 30-Oct 1  
Conceptual  
Design  
Presentation

Oct 6  
Design  
Options  
Newsletter

Oct 15-16  
Congregation  
Listening  
Sessions

Oct 22  
Congregational  
Meeting Vote



Architect Doug Haas (with his back to the camera) from The Boldt Company meets with members of FVUUF's Building Steering Committee and Design Team to begin planning for the Fellowship's expansion. FVUUF is one of the fastest growing UU congregations in the U.S.

## Come Dream A Dream With Me

By Holly Park, Building Design Team

Did you come dream a dream with me? (That phrase may be familiar because it's from one of our hymns.) In March and April, the Design Team invited all members and friends to attend one of 17 neighborhood meetings to share our dreams for expanding our building. After reporting on the results of the dream phase at our annual meeting, we turned them over to project architect Doug Haas from The Boldt Company to begin the schematic design during the summer months. It is from your ideas that our dreams will begin to take shape.

Thank you to all who hosted and participated in the process!

*Building On* is published periodically to inform members, friends and the wider UU community about the Fellowship's building expansion project.

### Building Steering Committee

Albert Park  
& Terry Dawson,  
Co-chairs  
Miriam Douglass,  
Governing Board President  
Rev. Roger Bertschausen,  
Minister  
Diane Cochran,  
Administrator  
Marie Murton,  
Membership Coordinator  
Lisa Manske-Barnes,  
Finance Committee  
Nadine Miller,  
Communications Team

### Design Team

Albert Park  
& Terry Dawson,  
Co-chairs  
Gerry Andrews  
Sherry Gates  
Maryanne Marx  
Holly Park  
Dave Wallace

We asked questions to help us dream: What programs do we want to offer? What is unique about our building? What should be the capacity of the new worship space? We jotted our responses on Post-it notes, shared our answers, and placed the notes on flip charts. Then participants were given stickers to place on ideas they felt were most important to the concept of the new space. The process was designed to help us narrow down the scope of creative thought and to begin to visualize what is most important in designing new space.

Hundreds of ideas were shared, and as we compiled the results, it became clear that the dream phase participants held many ideas in common. Here's an overview of ideas with the most votes (dots):

#### Unique to the building

- ❖ Green design
- ❖ Connection to nature
- ❖ Natural landscaping

#### Inside the building

- ❖ Meditation room
- ❖ Professional sound/light/projection and acoustics
- ❖ Lots of natural light

#### Outside the building

- ❖ Grassy pavers
- ❖ Labyrinth
- ❖ Waterfall visible from new sanctuary
- ❖ Outside gathering space

#### Religious education

- ❖ Colorful
- ❖ Encourages hands-on activity
- ❖ Youth/teen area to decorate as they wish

#### Qualities of new space

- ❖ Natural light
- ❖ Good acoustics/sound/light
- ❖ Flexible seating

Capacity-500 seats  
Budget- estimated \$1.5 million

Other interesting ideas with fewer votes included: Aquarium, pellet stove, water slide, trampoline, movie theatre, recording studio, stream under glass floor, organ and valet parking. ☺



## Floor Plans Unveiled

Please join us for services the weekend of Sept. 30–Oct. 1 when three versions of our building addition floor plans will be unveiled. Each plan will be explained and a cost estimate given to help us think about our needs, wants and wishes. The weekend of Oct. 14–15, the Building Design Team will host listening sessions after each service to hear your questions, concerns and joys.

The goal is for members to make an informed selection of one of the plans to proceed to design development at a congregational meeting Oct. 22.

## Names They Are A Changin'

Some names involved in the building project are a changin'. Project co-chair Paul Reiser's responsibilities with The Boldt Company have him living and working in California part of the time. So Paul and his wife, Cheri Bricco, also a Design Team member, have resigned from the Design Team.

The project is in good hands, Reiser says, "The two committees are strong, with dedicated committee members working hard to help create a building that is welcoming, and one that aligns with the mission of the Fellowship. We are especially encouraged by Albert Park's leadership, experience and insight, and the dedication and commitment of all the members on the Steering Committee and Design Team. As members of the Fellowship, we will continue to stay connected to the expansion process as our schedule allows."

We wish Paul & Cheri success in this phase of their lives and careers and are glad they will continue to be Fellowship members as time and travel permit.

Terry Dawson from the Building Design Team has agreed to join Albert Park as Building Steering Committee and Design Team co-chair. ☺

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