



BLESSING
OF THE
GROUND

Liturgy and
Self-Guided Tour of the Grounds
September 23, 2012
6:00 p.m.

THE GROUND BLESSING

Opening Remarks on Theology of Blessing *The Rev. Stephen Elkins-Williams*

Litany for the Church *The Rev. Victoria Jamieson-Drake*

God the Father, Creator of heaven and earth,
Have mercy on us.

God the Son, Redeemer of the world,
Have mercy on us.

God the Holy Spirit, Sanctifier of the faithful,
Have mercy on us.

Holy, blessed, and glorious Trinity, one God,
Have mercy on us.

O Christ the Rock, on which your people, as living stones joined together, grow
into a spiritual house;
Defend your Church, we pray.

O Christ the Vine, of which your people are the branches;
Defend your Church, we pray.

O Christ the Head of the Body, of which your people are the members;
Defend your Church, we pray.

O Christ our Prophet, you teach the way of God in truth;
Defend your Church, we pray.

O Christ our Priest, you offered yourself upon the Cross, and now make
intercession for us to the Father;
Defend your Church, we pray.

O Christ our King, you reign over all the earth, and make us citizens of your
heavenly kingdom;
Defend your Church, we pray.

O Christ, you sent the Holy Spirit upon the Church, clothing it with power from
on high;
Defend your Church, we pray.

We pray to you, Lord Christ.

Lord, hear our prayer.

That we may be devoted to the Apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers,

Lord, hear our prayer.

That we may make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit,

Lord, hear our prayer.

That you will fulfill your promise to be with us always, even to the ages of ages,

Lord, hear our prayer.

That you will sustain all members of your holy Church, that in our vocation and ministry we may truly and devoutly serve you,

Lord, hear our prayer.

That you will bless the clergy of your Church, that they may diligently preach the Gospel and faithfully celebrate the holy Sacraments,

Lord, hear our prayer.

That you will heal the divisions in your Church, that all may be one, even as you and the Father are one,

Lord, hear our prayer.

Arise, O God, maintain your cause;

Do not forget the lives of the poor.

Look down from heaven, behold and tend this vine;

Preserve what your right hand has planted.

Let your priests be clothed with righteousness;

Let your faithful people sing with joy.

The Celebrant says

The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Celebrant Let us pray.

O Lord God of Israel, the heavens cannot contain you, yet you are pleased to dwell in the midst of your people, and have moved us to set apart a space on which to build and now enhance a house of prayer: Accept and bless the work we undertake, that it may be brought to completion, to the honor and glory of your holy Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

Genesis 28:10-17

Terry Eason, Chair, Master Plan Steering Committee

Jacob left Beer-sheba, and went toward Haran. And he came to a certain place, and stayed there that night, because the sun had set. Taking one of the stones of the place, he put it under his head and lay down in that place to sleep. And he dreamed that there was a ladder set up on the earth, and the top of it reached to heaven; and behold, the angels of God were ascending and descending on it! And behold, the LORD stood above it and said, "I am the LORD, the God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie I will give to you and to your descendants; and your descendants shall be like the dust of the earth, and you shall spread abroad to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south; and by you and your descendants shall all the families of the earth bless themselves. Behold, I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land; for I will not leave you until I have done that of which I have spoken to you." Then Jacob awoke from his sleep and said, "Surely the LORD is in this place; and I did not know it." And he was afraid, and said, "How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven."

Bishop's Comments

The Rt. Rev. Michael B. Curry

Hymn: "Workin' on a Building"

Chorus: I'm working on a building.
I'm working on a building.
I'm working on a building, for my Lord, for my Lord.
It's a Holy Ghost building
It's a Holy Ghost building
It's a Holy Ghost building, for my Lord, for my Lord

Words of Remembrance and Thanksgiving

The Rev. Tambria E. Lee

My friends, we who are gathered here know that parts of our building will no longer be used in God's service, but will be taken down to make way for what is to come. For many, these spaces have been hallowed by cherished memories, and we suffer a sense of loss. We grieve also for the loss of our trees, which have so richly witnessed to God's beauty and generosity. We are grateful for all the ways they will continue to bless us through the use of their wood. We pray that

we will be comforted by the knowledge that the presence of God is not tied to any building or gift of nature and that God continually makes all things new.

Collect

The Rev. David Frazelle

O God of unchangeable power and eternal light: Look favorably on your whole Church, that wonderful and sacred mystery; by the effectual working of your providence, carry out in tranquillity the plan of salvation; let the whole world see and know that things which were cast down are being raised up, and things which had grown old are being made new, and that all things are being brought to their perfection by him through whom all things were made, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

The Lord's Prayer

Blessing of the Water

O God you have created all things by the power of your Word, and you renew the earth by your Spirit: now bless this water in the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit that it may be a means for us of giving thanks for what has been and for asking your presence and blessing for what is to come. *Amen.*

Collect for A Light on the Hill: Building to Serve

All Assembled

Led by Reid and Margaret Conrad, Co-Chairs

O God, whose Son, Jesus Christ, calls us to be the light of the world and like a city set on a hill which cannot be hid, make us bold in your service. Enlighten our vision and enkindle our hearts that in all we do, we may fulfill your purpose. Increase our generosity that as individuals and as a parish we may be good and faithful stewards of your bounty; through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

A SELF-GUIDED TOUR TO HONOR THE OLD AND THE NEW

Station I

Begin at the doorways into the Church, the Chapel and the Cloister. Many generations have passed through these doors to worship, to celebrate, and to seek solace. Sprinkle the steps of the Chapel and Church with holy water to honor their beauty and the welcome they provide.

Look to your right for red balloons where the doorway into the new parish building will be. It, too, will welcome generations to a ministry of fellowship, service, and learning. Study the archway and drawings to see how the doorway will match the Chapel's windows and tower with brick and stone.

Station II

Move to the big oak tree beside the chapel marked by green balloons. This red oak must be cut down to make way for the new fellowship hall and children's playground. Dip a branch into the holy water and sprinkle its roots to honor it for the shade and shelter it has given.

The oak's strong and seasoned wood will be used for furniture, cut and delivered as firewood for needy families, and made into mulch to protect and nourish growing gardens and younger trees.

Station III

Walk to the old playground and sprinkle the sand with your holy water, remembering the children who played here, whose shoes filled with sand as they drove trucks and emptied buckets, climbed up and slid down, and gathered to process into Children's Chapel.

Turn around to look at blue balloons marking the place where a new playground will be built for generations of children not yet born. (And in the mystery of transformation, search on your tour for the temporary playground marked with purple balloons.)

Station IV

Find a yellow balloon marking an entry into the Arboretum. Turn left and wander a little way down the path, looking up at the Yates building with its small windows and solid brick. Sprinkle the old stone wall between the Chapel of the Cross and the University of North Carolina, both founded more than 150 years ago.

Now look up at yellow balloons marking where a new terrace will be built, where glass doors and tall windows will open the Church to the campus. The Chapel of the Cross is “called by tradition and mission to minister in the heart of the University.”

Station V

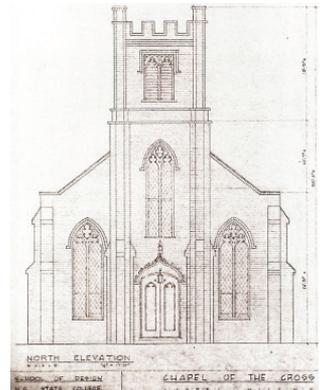
Walk along the path, looking at the upstairs windows where the clergy and the staff will have their new offices. Then turn on the sidewalk. Follow the noise to a white balloon to where the old HVAC system sits beside the church. Sprinkle water on its worn and rusty hulk to honor its intention to warm and cool our building and the people who worshiped and worked in it.

Imagine the quieter whirr of the new HVAC system that will reliably warm and cool the Church, the Chapel, and the entire old and new parts of the parish building where groups from the community and the parish gather every day and every night of every week. (And don’t forget the purple balloons which mark the place the children’s temporary playground will be.)

Station VI

Walk around the corner to the front of the Church where everyone is gathering for the Parish Barbecue. Orange balloons stake out the staging area for machines and building materials. Watch when the leaves fall for the orange plastic fence that will protect the Rose Garden, the Church and Chapel during construction. Sprinkle holy water on the ground to nourish the new grass and new life that will be planted here.

Pictured below: (left) Chapel circa 1890 (right) Measured Drawings by Lloyd G. Walter, Jr. and George B. Hudson, Jr.



BLESSING OF THE GROUND COMMITTEE

Chrys Bullard
Harriet Gaillard
Martha Dill
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Boykin Bell
Laura Benton
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PENTACOST PICKERS

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THE CHAPEL OF THE CROSS

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