



## Why You Should NOT Support the Building Program

I'm sure by now you have heard all the reasons that you should support the Building Program. Let me explain some of the reasons you should not support it.

**You should not support the Building Program if:**

**You believe St. Chad's does not have a responsibility to spread the good news of Jesus Christ. The current congregation already knows about Jesus Christ, so why make room for more people?**

*Mmmmm, somewhere in the back of my mind I recall reading St. Chad's Mission Statement in the weekly Bulletin. Something about Proclaiming the Good News, Enabling God's people, Worship, and Showing forth God's love to one another and to the world. I'll have to think about that. I really like a small church and don't want us to grow. Okay – so if we don't let anyone else in, through natural attrition our numbers will dwindle. Maybe our attitudes will become stale without the influx of new people and new ideas, and this would cause others to leave for more exciting, uplifting church life somewhere else.*

*Maybe soon we will find that the few left will have to take on a larger financial burden just to keep the doors open. Does my promotion of "small church" create a stagnant, cloistered, inward looking atmosphere that will eventually keep even the brave and curious newcomer from visiting more than once? Does it set the stage for our St. Chad community to die a slow death?*

**You don't have a problem finding a seat on Sunday mornings (many of us sit in the same place every Sunday) so why should you worry about newcomers and visitors? After all, the Sanctuary is only 80% full; there is plenty of room for other people.**

*I'll close my eyes and visualize our worship area with 20% of its seats unoccupied. Are those open seats together or scattered with only one or two here and there? Is there a place for a new family of four to sit together? How comfortable am I when every seat is occupied and Don Smiset sets up chairs in the aisles? How comfortable would the Fire Inspector be if he were here?*

**You believe somebody should create a third service, although you won't go because you like the service you now attend and don't want to change.**

*Let me think this through. What other effect might a third service have? Father Brian or another Officiant must be available to lead the service, plan for it, and prepare for it. A third service adds to the task of the Altar Guild and may require the purchase of additional linens to accommodate another regularly occurring service. A third service adds to the tasks for the staff, preparing bulletins, arranging for readers, ushers, and chalice bearers. Will we have volunteers for these roles? What type of service would attract parishioners? What need is out there now that is not being addressed and would be remedied by having an additional service? Who would attend this new service? What kind of music would be included? Who would lead the music? I can't just assume our current Music Director would fill in. Would we pay someone else to lead the music? What would we do for Christian Education during the third service?*

*I have been told that it is a proven fact that adding services doesn't really work unless there is a core group that has the desire to address a particular and requested need for a different type of service. It is difficult to get folks to change their attendance patterns unless they have the desire for something different. Since I don't want to change my service time and if we don't have other parishioners who want to revise their church attendance time, why plan for a service no one wants to attend?*

**You don't attend Christian education classes, so why should you be concerned whether there are enough classrooms. That's their problem.**

*Maybe we could make each room multi-purpose. For example, use the Commons for several Sunday School classes. Then when everyone is coming out of the church service, they could take down the Sunday School dividers and set up the dining tables before getting in line for breakfast. Mmmmmmm, that seems awkward at the least, and it probably means I won't get to eat breakfast for a long time after church.*

*We do have a growing population of young people. Should we feed that new growth with lively curriculum and sufficient space to present the teaching of Jesus? Perhaps we should keep our new children and their parents happy that they chose St. Chad's for their church home. I sure do enjoy seeing all the children come into the service at the end of Offertory.*

**You believe we are not a missionary people, contrary to what the Diocese of the Rio Grande proclaims.**

*What does it mean to be a “missionary people” Well, let’s see. I think that to be a missionary means to administer to others, especially those who are aching for comfort and the healing of wounds that cannot be mended by the world. It seems that it then translates to looking beyond ourselves to enfold others in the love and community we can provide. Well, there I go, looking outward and holding more new neighbors in St. Chad’s arms. Whoops.*

*What was it I just read recently? ... “Community is first of all a quality of the heart. It grows from the spiritual knowledge that we are alive not for ourselves, but for one another.” [Bread for the Journey]*

**The last thing you want is for St. Chad’s to take a risk with another mortgage. We just burned our last mortgage a few years ago. Things are very comfortable without debt. Besides, I always paid cash when I purchased a house. Why can’t St. Chad’s do the same? Mortgages are just too darn risky.**

*Let me do some calculating. If St. Chad’s saved up at the rate we were putting money aside prior to 2008, it would only take 50 years to accumulate enough money to build a church at 2008 prices! Wonder how much that would actually build in 2058?*

*I remember having seen some really inspirational churches in my travels. Some of them took years to build and they probably did not have all the funds to build up front. Our society is better for having these spiritual structures. Certainly, St. Chad’s is not in the league with the huge cathedrals, and I think most of us do not wish to be. And yet I know the future parishioners, whom now I cannot imagine, will be thankful we took on the challenge of building our final phases of the St. Chad’s church for them. It’s like it is our ministry to them! Glory! What am I saying?!!*

**The facilities we have now suit you just fine. Why mess with a good thing?**

*Maybe I should ask Father Brian if he has the space needed for private conferences, meetings, robing for services, quiet meditation, research, and all the other things he does. I don’t even want to contemplate the lack of bathroom space.*

*Do we have an inviting and efficient space for the secretary to receive appointments during the week? Do the Treasurer, Sunday School teachers, Senior Warden, or others have a place to work? Does the Building and Grounds crew have enough storage for tools and supplies?*

*Maybe I should ask a member of the Altar Guild if there is sufficient room in the Sacristy to prepare for and clean up the altar and store supplies. It sure seems like a tiny, narrow space back behind the altar.*


*I have heard that there are plans to add a Christian Education Director and Associate Rector in the future. Where are they to work? Could I perform the duties of these folks in the confined space that is now available day after day, week after week, and not feel cramped?*

**You would be comfortable worshipping in a Butler building or a tent. We don’t need an elaborate building that costs a lot of money just to worship God.**

*That sounds good, but let me reason this out. The Episcopal Church is liturgy-based. Our corporate worship does not emphasize meeting God in the preached word as in Protestant Christian Churches, but on the continuing presence of God. We keep the reserved sacrament in the Tabernacle and a special lamp burns before it to remind us of the presence of God. The architecture and furnishings contribute to a feeling of reverence and an awareness of the presence of holiness. This is best demonstrated by the use of fine materials, uplifting design, and surroundings that speak loudly of the spiritual. Don’t we want to present our best to our Lord?*

**You can’t give a million dollars to the Building Fund. The Building Campaign is only asking for large donations. The amount I can give is insignificant.**

*Let’s see, earlier I considered the thought that doing this building project would be a ministry to the future parishioners of St. Chad’s. Maybe it follows that giving to the Building Fund is also a ministry. From Bible readings I know that the total amount is less important than the spirit in which money is given. Recently I read words of Henri Nouwen, “God’s love can multiply the effects of our generosity. God’s Kingdom is the place of abundance where every generous act overflows its original bounds and becomes part of the unbounded grace of God at work in the world.” Whoa! Where is this kind of thinking taking me?*



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**You believe the act of giving is not spiritual. Giving money to the church is crass and has nothing to do with being a Christian.**

*I'm OK with thinking that doing good works is a spiritual ministry. So, is giving money to the church good works? It must be since money keeps the church open, pays for our priest, secretary, organist, and cleaning man, and provides resources for outreach. Giving money must be a ministry too. It allows me to be part of a community that shares a larger vision of the possibilities when we join our resources to share the gifts that our Lord has bestowed on us. I also know that everything we have belongs to God. That must include money too. Therefore, if I use my money for God, I honor Him and express my appreciation for His blessings!*

**They don't need my support because they are going to do what they want anyway.**

*OK, brain. Just try to squirm out of this one! We are a community, a community of varied and diverse people. I know we will not always agree 100% probably on most topics. But based on our culture's attitudes, we tend to go with majority rule. Who are "they"? I'll bet if I don't like something going on, I should say so. I could get involved (Jeepers, what am I saying?!!) and help us go in a better direction, especially if there are a majority of us that believe that. If someone else agrees with the direction being taken by the current leadership, they should speak up and talk about their support to let everyone else know they back up the leadership's endeavors and ideas.*

*I go along with the concept that we must work together and share ideas and opinions. Our end result should be that we move to a common goal that pleases God. As Pogo has said, 'They is us.' There you have it. Although I'm sure there are other reasons for not supporting the Building Program, I hope the few listed above will help. If you have a thought or two, just send a note to Father Brian Winter, Merri Jean Jones (Senior Warden), or Bob Gough (Building Committee Chair).*

Rich and Eileen Simpson  
Members, Building Committee