

Building in Faith Key Events

January 15th - Building in Faith Banner unveiled - vision tour and refreshments in the fellowship hall

January 22nd - 1st Sunday of Building in Faith Public Phase

January 27th - Advance Commitment Dinner at the home of Rob and Jennifer Polimeno

January 29th - 2nd Sunday of Building in Faith Public Phase

February 5th - 3rd Sunday of Building in Faith Public Phase

February 12th - Building in Faith - Special Event Brunch during Sunday worship

February 26th - Celebration Sunday - Building in Faith pledge totals announced

Please call the Church office for more events and times 914-631-6372 or visit <http://www.fbctarrytown.com>

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Winter 2006

Goals Set for Building in Faith Campaign

by Pastor Torrey Robinson

Our new stewardship program has a very appropriate name. We're calling it Building in Faith. I suppose just about every capital stewardship campaign involves stepping out in faith. We trust God to help us raise money we don't currently have to accomplish something we firmly believe that He wants us to do. That is at the heart of our Building in Faith campaign.

Professional fund raisers use various formulas to project what a congregation can be expected to give over the course of a multi-year capital stewardship campaign. Perhaps the simplest way to predict what a congregation can give is to look at the past. Since we have conducted previous capital stewardship campaigns it can be very instructive to look back to what we've been able to raise in the past to anticipate what we might be able to raise in the future.

While this gauge can be very helpful, it can also be misleading. Congregations change. People come and people go. This transience is especially true for our church. Over time, in every church, some generous supporters move away or die. At the same time people come to faith in Jesus or move to the area and become new members in the church family. When it comes to projecting what the church family may give, new believers and newcomers to a church don't usually give as readily as do long-time church members. So a changing congregation makes past history an unreliable measure of future giving potential.

Another factor that complicates looking at our past success to determine our future stewardship goals is the fluctuating economy. When the economy is booming we may

expect pledges to be greater. In lean years when the job market is tight and some people are unemployed or underemployed it is less likely for them to be able to make large financial commitments. Consequently, past commitments don't always add up to future commitments.

One of the most common indices fund raising experts use to determine what a church will pledge during a campaign is the annual church budget. In other words, there is

a somewhat predictable relationship between what people give to the annual budget of the church and what they may be expected to give to a well run stewardship program. I'm sure a professional fund raiser could look at the annual budget of our church and suggest a goal that would be reasonable for us to shoot for in a three year stewardship program.

Here's where faith comes in. We don't have

a professional fund raiser leading this campaign. We have a committed team of church members working together to make our church family aware of the opportunities before us and the goals of our campaign. But we don't have anyone involved who has had special training or considerable expertise in fundraising.

At the same time, we're not stupid. Many of us in leadership have been involved in previous stewardship campaigns and we've learned a great deal



This banner, which is displayed in our church, reflects the goals of this stewardship campaign.

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as a result. We are aware that it is easy to set campaign goals that are too high. Goals that are unachievable will only serve to demoralize the church when they are not reached. At the same time, we know that it is important to stretch our faith. Without our past faith-stretching campaigns we might still be meeting in rented facilities as the church family had to do after the fire 16 years ago. We're aware that there is a difference between faith and foolishness. The challenge for us as we have set our Building in Faith goals is determining which is which.

We believe the goals established for our new campaign involve faith, not foolishness. We have set two goals for this campaign. First is our faith goal of \$300,000. This goal is the projected cost of finishing the fellowship hall space, including heating. This goal will stretch us, but based on what God has enabled us to accomplish in past campaigns we believe that with sacrifice, this goal is achievable.

The second goal is set at \$400,000. We're calling this our miracle goal because we simply cannot accomplish this without God's provision. If we reach this goal with our giving, it will be an amazing success. The goal represents our best estimate of what it will cost us today to rebuild the fellowship hall AND to add a new kitchen. While we still have a vision for future expansion within the walls of the church, this work will essentially complete the restoration of the back of the church.

While setting the goals for our campaign has involved deliberate thought, achieving these goals is where our faith will be tested. As in our previous two campaigns we want each person in our church family to evaluate these goals personally before God. Ask Him, "What do you want to do through me to accomplish Your will in this campaign."

The title of our campaign reflects how we want to approach the next phase of construction. We are truly building in faith. I am convinced that if all of us approach our Building in Faith program open to what God can do through our sacrificial giving, He will work through the goals we set and will supply us with the funds we need.★

Then What?

by **Steve Armstrong, Youth Pastor**

One day the fellowship hall of the church will be finished. This is hard to imagine – as the rebuilding process has been happening for the last fifteen plus years. But one day, maybe within the next couple of years, the building – at least in the fellowship hall portion -- will be done.

Then what? We need to think about what happens next as a church, even as we venture into Building in Faith. One day soon we will be able to use the new space that is available. What will we do?

Church buildings are a funny thing. You can have a church without having a building and you can have a building but not have a church. It is easy to find structures with steeples that no longer house congregations, and sit vacant, haunted by rats and pigeons, or have been converted into recreation departments, and in some instances, Jewish synagogues or even condominiums.

Churches will always be a spiritual reality and the physical building must be the sum total of its inhabitants. It is the Spirit who breathes life into space through the people who comprise His home, spreading love and shining a beacon of hope. Without that gathering, and the work of the Spirit through the work of the people, the building will lie an uninhabitable basement. It is Spirit that stirs up vision, creating the dream, opportunity and power for ministry that transforms the physical building into a contact point for the divine.

So what life will inhabit the new fellowship hall? What occasions will love and hope invade this coming space? There are already ministries that will instantly find relief there. VBS will be able to draw more students, as currently we have to limit the number we can allow due to lack of space. Senior's Luncheons, which draw about 70 – 90 Seniors every two months will be greatly facilitated through having a working kitchen. Youth Ministry and Sunday School will both flourish given more room and means to work with. I'm already planning to use the nearly finished class room as a student center. Others have expressed interest in adult education, or ESL programs. We will also have the flexibility of reaching out to the community by providing meeting space for Boy Scouts, Dance Groups, or some of the other numerous groups that have requested space from us in the past, but we ultimately turned away.

But the ministry that takes place in the opened space will never exceed the ministry of the Holy Spirit in our hearts. Without that internal, personal work, the back might as well remain unfinished and unoccupied. As God builds us as a church body and allows the back to be finished, the possibilities for divine moments become too numerous to count.

Our vision is to share God's love and hope to transform hearts, homes, Westchester and the world. What is your role in your vision? How can you work to see this accomplished? As the new space nears completion, we need to examine our commitment to God's vision for our church and our involvement in it. Without the active engagement of the congregation this vision statement is a waste of breath. But when we give ourselves to God's work the Spirit will flow through us and show us things we never thought we could have seen.★

The Building Finance Study Committee

by **Dan Rizzi**

At our semi annual Business Meeting, the congregation voted to establish a committee to study the feasibility of borrowing money to expedite the completion of the main floor of our Fellowship Hall.

The Building Finance Study Committee was formed. Each member the Lord called to this group possesses unique expertise and background and the strong opinions expressed reflect the wide range of opinions found within our congregation at large. The group determined and Pastor Torrey concurred, that our role and focus would be to collect and study data and present it to the Elders. The Elders will, in turn, make a recommendation to the congregation for their consideration and vote.

We have reviewed the history of the reconstruction efforts, stewardship programs, the Master Plan and made budget comparisons for the years 2000 to 2005. It was estimated we would need between \$350,000 and \$400,000 to complete the main floor of the hall including the kitchen if we were to do it now. It was also estimated that at the current rate of giving in our stewardship program, it would take approximately 6 years to provide the needed funds.

Looking at the past and thinking about the future we are investigating and considering all avenues to acquire the money (i.e.: stewardship programs, grants, large sum gifts and borrowing.) It appears we would have little difficulty qualifying for a loan 3.5 to 4 times our annual income up to \$700,000 to \$800,000.

Concerns that have been raised to this point relate to: The economy in general, the rising individual debt, high cost of living in Westchester, rising energy costs, increases in property and possible income taxes, and the rising interest rates and construction costs. Each can have an impact

on the ability of the future congregation to repay a loan and maintain ministries.

Some remaining questions are:

- Do we need to borrow?
- Do we want to borrow?
- Is there Biblical support to borrow?
- If we borrow, how much should we borrow?
- If we borrow, when should we borrow?
- Can our current ability to pay be projected with certainty into the future?

We must also be concerned about consequences of loan default, loss of contributors and other unforeseen expenses and costs such as we have experienced in the past. Along with this, we must also keep in mind the rising consumer price index and inflationary pressures that seem to be currently mounting. These lead to increased future building costs.

Regardless if we receive grants, large sum gifts, or borrow, our individual commitment to sacrificial giving is essential to the success of our long range building efforts.

We've only been at this awesome task for a short period of time, but with the Grace of God we expect to make a recommendation to the Elders early in the New Year.

If anyone has an idea or suggestion they feel needs to be expressed or may be of help to us, we would greatly appreciate your needed input.

Please feel free to contact Chris Herman, Dick Kirby, Mike Ward, John Bulicek, Doug Morton or myself, Dan Rizzi and let us know whatever it is you feel the Lord is leading you to say. Thank for your trust and faith in us. We are grateful.★

This newsletter is published by The First Baptist Church of Tarrytown • **Dr. Torrey Robinson**, Pastor; Stephen Armstrong, Youth Pastor • 56 South Broadway, Tarrytown, NY 10591 (914) 631-6372 • Sunday School 9:30 a.m. • Worship service Sunday 10:30 a.m.

The Bright and Morning Star is seeking contributions for the next issue on any topics of interest which glorify the Lord Jesus Christ. Please send articles to: The Bright and Morning Star Newsletter at the address above.



Your contemporary Christian music station

fellowship hall.

Regina Mignona

When Regina saw the church engulfed in flames in 1989, she ran from her home on Archer Place to the church rectory with children Stephen, Paul and Leah to comfort long-time friends Rev. Bruce and Cindy Boria. As the firefighters worked, the water froze on the trees and the electrical wires around the church and down Regina's street, turning the neighborhood into a crystal palace. The Mignona family is one of the few that can still remember what the church looked like before the fire.

Regina, a teacher for special needs children in the White Plains School District and founder of Tarrytown Foundation for the Schools, went on to become one of the leaders of the FBC Christian Education ministry. Organizing Sunday School, Adventures in Growing and Vacation Bible School, Regina built bonds with many of the church and community children.

Regina serves as spokesperson for the campaign, and through organizational skills and encouraging words is keeping the Building in Faith team on task and motivated. She is anxious to see how the new space will breathe new life into church ministries.

Steve Mignona

No detail is too small for Steve. He could spend hours discussing the color of a pamphlet, the font type of a scripture verse, the logo on a letterhead. As a member of the print communication team, Steve presents the important messages in the Building in Faith campaign in ways we hope will delight you, inform you and encourage you to participate.

Steve, an avid tennis player and owner of Sequel Studios in Manhattan, has been generous with his time over the years, as have many of his employees.

When he's not designing logos for church events, he might be playing tennis, helping out in the nursery quieting crying babies, painting murals for VBS, or building an art project with wife Regina's Sunday School class.

Jennifer Polimeno

Jennifer Polimeno and her family first attended a Sunday service at FBC in August, 2003. Shortly after that, Jennifer, a mother of three children under the age of four years, volunteered in the nursery. She saw first hand the potential new classrooms, bathrooms, a kitchen and large room for fellowshiping could have for the church. When she became a member in May, 2005, she sought out ways to use her baking and entertaining talents in serving the Lord through the Women's Ministry.

Pastor Torrey, noticing Jennifer's talents in the kitchen and as a gracious host, asked her if she might join the Hospitality Committee of Building in Faith. She will be organizing informational events in the church and at member's homes, and if you're lucky you'll be invited to dessert at her home one evening to learn about the Building in Faith campaign. She suggests that others with baking skills seek her out, since she'll need plenty of desserts to sweeten contributors to the campaign.

Dan Rizzi

As a 66-year veteran of FBC, Dan has finally earned the right to be called "The Enforcer." Dr. Dan will be in charge of talking to congregants and ensuring that they understand the importance of pledging their time and money to the Lord's house. He successfully served in the same role in previous campaigns.

Dan, who has served on numerous church boards including as an elder, deacon and on the building committee, attends with his wife Joan. He says the need for new space is obvious. He doesn't mind encouraging others to make a sacrifice in their spending in order to further the Lord's work.

Rev. Torrey Robinson

While Pastor Torrey loves preaching God's word, he doesn't particularly like the fundraising aspect of his job. But he remembers Jesus' promise: "Where your treasure is, there will your heart be also," and the blessings he's seen steeped on people who have given sacrificially of their finances to the Lord.

Torrey came to FBC about nine years ago to preach on occasion while the church was without a pastor. With wife Sue and sons Carey and Carl, he quickly fell in love with the church family and accepted the senior pastor position, embracing the rebuilding process as well. As spokesperson for the Building in Faith campaign, Torrey is convinced that even greater than finishing the fellowship hall is the potential spiritual benefit that will result as people at FBC surrender themselves to God. ★

A Choice That Will Change History

by Pastor Torrey Robinson

On February 12th First Baptist Church will host a brunch that could mark a turning point in our church's history. That Sunday morning is Commitment Sunday in our Building in Faith Campaign. Everything in our stewardship campaign is focused on that

day and the commitments we will make. And the commitments we make that day could mark the end of one era and the beginning of something new.

Before us lies the opportunity to complete the construction of the main floor of the fellowship hall. If we step out in faith and make the sacrificial commitments needed we will once again be able to use the entire main floor of the church. If we step out in faith through this

campaign we can reclaim most all of the basic space that still remains unusable following the 1989 fire.

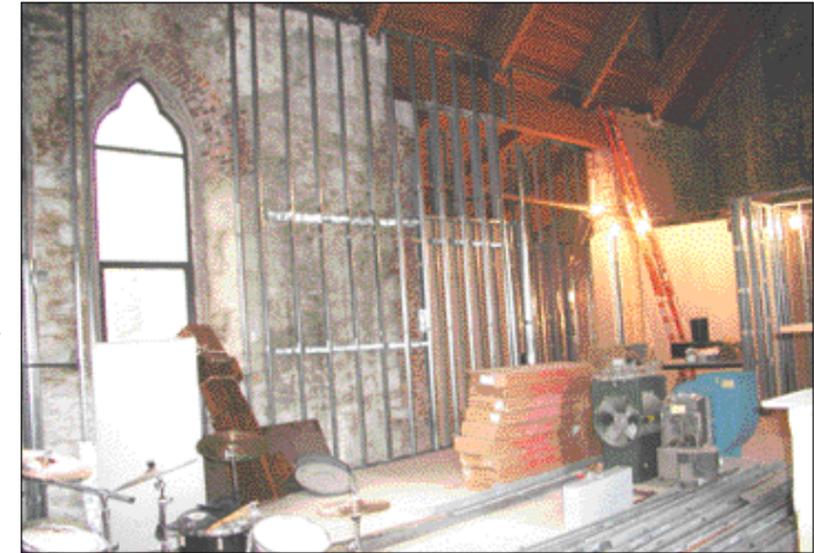
If we achieve our miracle goal in this campaign we will finally have a building that truly facilitates most of our current ministry needs. We will have a hall for receptions and large group gatherings. The fellowship hall will provide extra worship space and space for youth group events. It will be ideal for men's breakfasts, seniors' luncheons and women's teas. It will be a great facility to enable us to accommodate community events.

A complete kitchen adjacent to the fellowship hall will further enhance the fellowship hall space. Events that involve food will be even more practical. Being able to prepare food at the church will facilitate fellowship by making food preparation for church events less of a chore.

It will be much easier to host wedding receptions or all day seminars at the church. The kitchen will be a great accompaniment to the fellowship hall space for any and all groups that wish to combine food with fellowship. Commitment Sunday could be the day that we make the commitments needed to make this possible.

But even if we accomplish all this, there will still be more construction ahead.

There will still be more space that we may one day choose to finish – a mezzanine above the new kitchen and the basement below the kitchen and fellowship hall. These will provide room for future growth. But it is possible, if God supplies through the sacrificial commitments we make, our Building in Faith Brunch could mark the last Sunday we ever ask people to pledge to rebuild the church. Commitment Sunday just might be the date when we stop talking about rebuilding and begin to dream about expanding.★



This photo shows an unfinished area in the back of the church.

Turning All or Nothing into Something

Rick Zaccaria Changes the Course of the Rebuilding Process

by Kim Gaudin Gonzalez

When Rick Zaccaria and his family started at First Baptist Church two years ago, he heard mumblyings around the church about building projects and leaking roofs, and unused space left over from a devastating fire over a decade earlier.

Curious, he did what any president of an architectural and design firm would do, he started asking questions. The more he asked, the more questions he himself was being

asked. The church elders called him into a meeting to pick his brain, the building committee asked him to join.

"An 'all or nothing at all' building plan developed 12 years ago had stalled," Rick said. A leaky slate roof and other infrastructure problems caused by the 1989 fire and faulty construction had siphoned off a lot of funds that had been raised to rebuild classrooms, bathrooms, a kitchen, a

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fellowship hall and a basement.

People were disheartened. They wanted to see progress, and progress was becoming more and more expensive.

“My input was to forget about ‘all or nothing’ and start building in phases, as the church could afford it,” Rick explained. Build a bathroom or two now, a kitchen later. After hearing him out, the building committee agreed. With Rev. Torrey Robinson, Rick headed over to Tarrytown Village Hall to close out permits that required all the work be done at once, and reopened permits that let parts of the work be done as the church could afford it. The village building inspector was thankful, saying it was easier on the church budget, and easier for inspectors to monitor progress.

The building committee sought out three contractors to bid on the current phase of work in the back of the church.

Rick’s company, Remodeling Consultants of Westchester in Mamaroneck was one of those three. RCW and one of the other contractors came in with very competitive bids. After Rick excused himself from the bidding process, the other members of the church building committee were most impressed with the staff and the organization of Remodeling Consultants.

Rick’s company has been overseeing the project ever since. His firm took over this summer, and the church will reap the benefits of Rick’s ideas when two bathrooms and two classrooms are available for use in February. The next phase is raising money to build a fellowship hall and kitchen.

“It is a more realistic way to tackle this project,” said Rick.

Remodeling Consultants has also worked on Catholic churches, Baptist Churches including Faith Baptist Church in Mt. Vernon and the Pelham Jewish Center.★

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Chris Herrmann

Chris is a Crime Analyst with the New York City Police Department, Adjunct Professor at John Jay College of Criminal Justice and part-time PhD. candidate/slave at the CUNY Graduate Center. He is the leader of the Doorkeepers (Greeters) Ministry and is also a part of the Missions Committee, Senior's Ministry, and Bright & MorningStar. He is eagerly looking forward to the added classroom(s), fellowship hall, and kitchen!! This VITAL NEW space will give our church opportunities to host, educate, entertain, and welcome the many people that cross our church's path along their road(s) of life, those that live in/around our communities in Westchester, and all of us who call FBC “home”.

Maria Herrmann

Maria and husband Chris have been active participants and volunteers in the youth group, the missions team, the seniors luncheon and Adventures in Growing for the past five years. They have gone on many of the recent overseas missions trips at FBC. Maria is an occupational therapist working with the NYC Board of Education. She works with children from K-5th grade who suffer from cerebral palsy, Down Syndrome, ADHD, and a variety of learning disabilities and developmental delays.

Maria will encourage and coordinate care for the campaign and ongoing church redevelopment. She’ll be looking for prayer warriors, people willing to pray constantly and consistently. "He wants to bless us," Maria says of the Lord. "All we have to do is surrender at his feet and ask."

Yolanda Johnson

Before arriving at FBC last year, Yolanda served on three other capital stewardship campaigns for church renovation projects. She realizes the rebuilding campaign has been a long time in the works, but she trusts God’s plan to minister to his people through a fellowship hall and kitchen.

She relies on Psalms 37:5 for her resolve: "Commit thy way to the Lord and he will bring it to pass." Yolanda will serve as follow-up coordinator over the duration of the campaign. Donors can help her out by maintaining their pledge promises in a timely fashion.

Daniel Kang

Daniel, with wife Jennifer, have been coming to FBC since January 01, shortly after their marriage. Daniel currently works at Purchase College, Film Department as manager and instructor, and in his spare time enjoys tractor repair and rock collecting.

Daniel is making a video presentation that deals with

the 1989 fire that destroyed most of our church. He is interviewing several people that were present at the fire as well as researching how the church looked prior to being destroyed. All this will be included in this video. If you have pictures that might help, please contact him immediately. His video will be shown in February.

Richard Kirby

With the exception of the Ladies Ministry, Dick has held a position on almost every FBC committee during his more than 20 years as a church member. He left the Ladies Ministry to his wife Lois.

Generously offering skills honed in his career as an Information Technology expert with a strong emphasis in personnel and complex projects, Dick was the Follow-up Director of the last campaign, First Things First. He is still busy charting donations and maintaining project expense information.

Dick will work as a consultant on the Building in Faith campaign—and the team is very appreciative of his time and expertise in guiding us. He has been involved with the rebuilding process since the early 1990’s, and is anxious for the church to reclaim the remaining unoccupied space.

Rebecca Nelson Mcgovern

Becky knows what it is like to juggle 125 kids for three hours in the sanctuary on a rainy day during summer Vacation Bible School. She knows about serving food to almost 100 seniors from a cramped kitchen with just one sink and two refrigerators and no appliance for cooking.

Becky and her family - husband Skip, children Emma, Molly and Mac - have been an essential part of most church functions since they joined ten years ago. Besides organizing VBS and other programs, Becky works five days a week as the church secretary. As campaign coordinator of Building in Faith, Becky will organize the team, handle the paperwork and set the schedules. Anyone willing to stuff envelopes or make phone calls should call Becky at the church office.

Raymond E. Mcgovern

Skip, as he is known around Tarrytown where he has lived for over 45 years, has been involved in civic and church boards for much of his adult life. When he’s not working after hours as Sr. Vice President at BBDO in New York City, he’s busy rooting for the Red Sox, shuttling his kids around town or supporting wife Becky in one of her church programs.

Incapable of refusing a request from Torrey, the big-hearted Skip has teamed up with Dan Rizzi on the Stewardship Police Posse. His job is to encourage every member of the congregation to at least consider making a financial commitment to the building of the kitchen and

Dream Team

by **Kim Gaudin Gonzalez**

A group of folk from FBC have been meeting since November to plan the Building in Faith campaign.

They’ve had great fun brainstorming together, and have a lot of faith in God’s directives. This team is working hard to raise funds for God’s glory. Here are the members:

Steve Armstrong

Steve is our youth pastor and the person who will motivate FBC students to take a role in rebuilding the space God has given us. Steve and wife Elaine have been with the church for almost five years.

Creative, energetic and possessing a sincere passion for youth, Steve envisions the new space being utilized as a student center and meeting space for teens. He hopes to provide our youth with their first experience in financial sacrifice as a service to God.

Sue Bulicek

Behind the scenes at most events that involve decoration and food at FBC, you’ll find the quiet but elegant influence of Sue. On the hot summer days of VBS, Sue is outside directing children to make fun and gooey desserts. At the annual Christmas dinner, Sue coordinates the food and decorations.

So it seems apropos that Sue, who attends FBC with her husband John and their children Sarah, Andrew, Matthew and Luke, should coordinate the special event brunch that takes place in February in celebration of the Building in Faith campaign. "We’ve been blessed as a church family," says Sue. "A fellowship hall will allow us to reach out in the community and share those blessings."

Kim Gaudin de Gonzalez

Kim first attended FBC in the fall 1991, walking in on a congregation celebrating their return to the building almost two years after the devastating fire of 1989. She remembers the prayers of thanks God’s people offered up that day after a long wait and much uncertainty. She met her husband Ricardo at First Baptist in the early 90s. After leaving the church due to a move, Kim, Ricardo and daughter Camila returned in the late 90s.

A writer, Kim was eager to be part of the effort to fundraise for a new fellowship hall and kitchen. Having attended weddings, funerals, concerts, children’s events, birthday parties, and the September 11th prayer meeting in the sanctuary, she visualizes future gatherings in a warm hall with a pot of tea nearby or the scent of fresh food baking in a nearby oven. Kim will be working with the print communication team.

Todd Harris

Todd, a new member of our church family, was inspired by The Lord and his new friends to contribute to the growth of our ministry. Drawing on his 15 years of experience in the marketing and advertising industry, Todd has used God’s gifts to craft materials designed to communicate the Church’s history and financial needs to Grant Foundations.

He has graciously offered his time and services to the Building in Faith campaign on the print communication team. He’s been busy making sure that the many questions people will have about the campaign are answered, and that the objectives of the campaign are clearly outlined.

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