

# Chelmsford Church of Christ

*A Bible-believing church, Serving Jesus Christ*

205 North Road  
Chelmsford, MA 01824  
978.256.8901

[www.chelmsfordcofc.org](http://www.chelmsfordcofc.org)

September 30, 2007

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The Chelmsford Church of Christ in Chelmsford, Massachusetts has truly been blessed with the ongoing construction of our new facilities, located on the perfect site – twenty five feet away from the building we've been meeting in for over 30 years now. The building we've been meeting in was an old house and it more than served its purpose over the years. But we have grown out of the building and it also was not in the healthiest state for continued meetings. Construction on the new building started in early June and got off to a great start. Even though we had dug some pre-construction test holes and found good soil, we encountered a little bit of soft soil and a lot more bedrock than we ever thought we'd find. I guess the good news is that our new house is built upon the rock – literally! Three weeks later, we found some more rock where the new drainage piping had to go, so once again we were breaking out rock where we hoped to find good soil.

We finally moved out of the existing building so that the new parking lot could be constructed and guess what we found? First, we found that our old building was so full of mold that we had to throw away library books, educational resources, and the chairs from our worship area. We also found a little more rock and the biggest surprise of all – oil contaminated soil. It seems that our old house used to have oil heat with an in-basement oil tank that had leaked at some point in time. So, we had no alternative but to hire an environmental contractor and properly remove and dispose of the contaminated soil to an asphalt recycling facility. While we had over \$500,000 in cash saved, secured \$200,000 in loans and gifts from members and friends, and received a \$600,000 loan from a local bank, we have found ourselves running out of cash and will be struggling to make up the shortfall.

|                                  |          |
|----------------------------------|----------|
| Soft soil replacement            | \$2,804  |
| Rock removal under new building  | \$7,578  |
| Rock removal in new piping areas | \$10,238 |
| New chairs for new Worship Area  | \$10,000 |
| Remove & Dispose Hazardous Soil  | \$14,000 |
| Remove rock under old building   | \$2,000  |
| Total Budget Shortfall           | 46,620   |

We know that the Lord has great plans for northeast Massachusetts and that we at the Chelmsford church can be an active part in His work. We also know that we will have lots of stories to tell about our new construction adventure for years to come. And, while we are sure the Lord will provide for us, and that we will somehow find a way to make ends meet, we also know that we will be in a strained financial condition for a while unless we are able to offset some of these unplanned costs with support from outside sources. That is why I am sending this letter to you. We are asking for a one-time contribution to the Lord's work in northeastern Massachusetts in an amount of \$10, \$20, \$50, \$100, or whatever your heart tells you to share. We are asking for support from individuals and from churches of Christ across the USA. If you can help us to offset these budget shortfalls, we would be most

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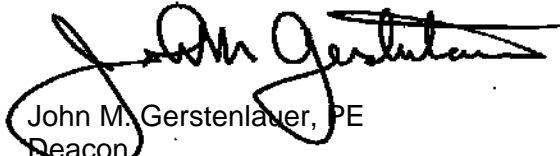
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appreciative of your support. In any case, please include the Chelmsford church of Christ in your prayers in worship and at home.

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you,



John M. Gerstenlauer, PE  
Deacon  
Construction Manager for the church

