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Dear Church Family,

I met with my small group Monday night, and it was a great time. There was laughter and conversation, a shared meal, and kids playing together in the living room. And I had a dawning realization—I was standing in a room of people who hadn't been part of our church a year ago! It was a special moment, realizing how these people had found community and connection and friendship through our church!

Consistently, one of the most powerful experiences for me in life is the idea that new friendships and relationships are right around the corner. Here's what I mean by that:

- When we were about to get our second dog, we were worried how that might change our relationship with our first dog. It was a silly worry, because today we can't imagine life without her. She is part of our lives. She is completely and wholly part of our family.
- When we were expecting our first child, we weren't sure what he would be like. Today, he's completely and wholly part of our family. I can't imagine life without him.
- We have another child coming in December. We can't imagine what she's going to be like, but I can guess: She will be completely and wholly part of our family.
- And, God willing, we will have new friends and connections at church a year from now—and they will be (you guessed it) completely and wholly part of our church family.

That's why our renovation campaign matters so much. It's not just about improving our building; it's about creating a welcoming space for that future friend who hasn't found us yet—a place where they might find a home. And why care about these people? Well, because Jesus cared about them. While he loved his community and his disciples, Jesus understood that *right around the corner was someone who was one decision away from being part of his kingdom, too*. He never stopped caring for the people who hadn't arrived yet. And we shouldn't stop caring, either. One day, we won't be able to imagine our church without them. And just like Beth and I are preparing a room for our little girl, we as a church are preparing a church for the possibilities ahead of us.

Enclosed in this letter is a trifold highlighting some of the improvements we're planning. These updates aren't just about physical changes; they're investments in the lives of the people we have yet to meet. We have an incredible opportunity to create a space that reflects the love and hospitality we already experience in our small groups, in worship, and throughout our church family. But these renovations are more than just bricks and mortar; they're about making room for the people God is preparing to send our way—the family who moves into town, the young couple searching for a place to belong, the individual seeking connection after feeling alone for too long.

Your support in this campaign, through prayer, involvement, and financial contribution, is vital. Together, we can move mountains. Together, we can ensure that this church is not just a place we love but a place others will come to love as well!

Enclosed is a commitment card. We ask that you prayerfully consider how you might contribute to this campaign, whether with a one-time gift or a pledge for this year and/or next year. Every contribution brings us closer to making our vision a reality.

Thank you for your faithfulness, generosity, and commitment to making our church a welcoming home for everyone.

With gratitude and hope,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Chris". The signature is fluid and elegant, with a large initial "C" and a trailing flourish.

Chris Abel