

***FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK – Fall 2011 Grace Church News***  
*“Unless The Lord Builds The House”*

When I first met him the Very Reverend Charles H. Buck, Jr. was the Dean of St. Paul's Cathedral in Boston. A year and a half later he was seriously thinking about retirement. One of his projects was the building of a house. He found that friends were eager to share their wisdom.

“What, you haven't got your land?” said one. “You should have bought land ten years ago. Land is out of sight.” “Be sure to have a full cellar,” said another. Another advocated a concrete slab. And, another said “Use posts. You can save money using posts.” “Solar is the future,” said one, and then another said “Solar will be great in the future, but now, because of rainy weather, you will have to install a conventional heating system anyway!” At some point along the way Dean Buck began to appreciate the magnitude of his chosen project. He began to give himself a home study course in house building.

Meanwhile, he still had to preach. So, one Sunday when his congregation arrived at the Cathedral they saw that the title of his sermon was “Unless The Lord Builds The House.” It is from the 127<sup>th</sup> Psalm. The full text for the sermon was “Unless the Lord builds the house, those that build it labor in vain.”

That verse does not refer only to ordinary houses. Originally, it referred to the Temple in Jerusalem. It was to be a house of prayer for all people. The people and their prayers were more important than the details of the building process. The verse means: Beware as you go about building (or rebuilding) your church lest you forget that churches that are not of God's making do not endure.

We are in the process of rebuilding our church. We must make it a house of prayer for all people. People and their prayers must come first. First and foremost we must build on the foundation of the love of Christ for all people. Amen

Your friend in Christ,  
*Rev. David E. Massey*