

Atascocita Presbyterian to build sanctuary

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On Sunday, March 27, Atascocita Presbyterian Church celebrated the beginning of construction on a new sanctuary. Despite somewhat cloudy weather, members of the congregation still participated in a simple outdoor ceremony to commemorate breaking ground on the new building.

Clad in shirts that said, "God's Workin' Here!" parishioners shared in food, praise, and fellowship to celebrate the new chapter in the church's ministry. Head pastor Jacqueline Hannan was sure to reiterate that the new building, though exciting and important, was secondary to the true mission of the church. In her sermon she said, "The sanctuary means nothing if the faith and spirit of the community are not grounded in Jesus Christ."

In addition to physical growth, the groundbreaking ceremony also symbolized a new beginning for the church, which suffered a devastating fire in May of 2001. The new worship center holds many physical and emotional ties to the building that was lost in the fire, as the new sanctuary will be topped by a metal cross that was salvaged from the ashes of the old building.

In the groundbreaking ceremony, the church was likened to a phoenix, a mythological creature that bursts into flames and is reborn out of the ashes. After ten years of continued ministry, the church finally saw its new beginning embodied in the new worship center.

The ceremony continuously paid homage to the past while looking forward to the future, as original charter members of the congregation stood shoulder to shoulder with young children to break ground for the new building. Reverend

Hannan said of the new addition, "We are already the church, and we're ready to have a physical presence in this community."

The new building should officially begin construction in the coming weeks, and it is hoped to be finished before Christmas. For service times, directions, or more information on the ministries at Atascocita Presbyterian Church, visit www.apchumble.com.



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