

## Build Our Future, Preserve Our Heritage A Follow-up

The time seems to fly by. The clock on the other hand sometimes seems to move at a snail's pace. It was late 2012, that St. Mark's began the discernment process for our capital campaign in earnest; The congregation replied to questionnaires asking what projects were thought to be most important and a list of seventeen projects was published. The boiler serving our sanctuary then failed and became the eighteenth item needing attention.

With those decisions made, fund raising began in mid 2014. Ninety individuals or families pledged funds to be donated over the following three years. We are now two years into the campaign and more than 95% of those pledged funds have been received. You all cannot be thanked enough.

Additional funds came from several sources, but the other folks that must be thanked are the Foundation for the Episcopal Diocese of Wyoming (EFDW) who has now granted us \$150,000 for the campaign, the Wyoming Cultural Trust and the Cheyenne Downtown Development Authority.

Ten of the proposed projects had been completed and had been reported in previous *Messenger* articles, when we received the last \$50,000 from the EFDW. Four more projects have now been completed or are in progress as this article is written. We have, thus far this year, completed all of the necessary pointing; installed the wheelchair lift to the Parish Hall; completed showers, dressing room and laundry meeting our commitment to Family Promise and homeless families (the unexpected difficulty accessing plumbing and the need for more space required our moving the Deacon's office from the basement to the third floor where remodel became a necessity); and we are currently undergoing the upgrade in lighting throughout the church.

Four very important projects remain: The proposed upgrade of the sound system for the Sanctuary has been expanded to include audio connection to the Parish Hall following events that filled the sanctuary and required that seating be expanded into that area. We will have the contract in hand soon and the work will begin.

Painting the exterior trim has become a challenge but remains a requirement. Much of the wood has become decayed and must be replaced before painting can be accomplished. This will require intricate carpentry, the milling of matching trim and then painting at significant heights. We have applied again to the DDA and are amongst finalists for a grant that might help with this expense.

Painting of the nave will require repair of some plaster and ceiling in order to correct injury that occurred during the replacement of our chimney. Estimates for this work and the painting are in process and may be available by the time you are reading this. The painting of Reed Hall is also still to be done.

The mounting and display of our Historic bell has become the subject of weekly meetings with the architects as work progresses. The intent is to see that bell is well protected from the weather and vandals, while also being prominently displayed and remains functional for special occasions. Our Church all but fills the land that we own. Being sure that the Bell achieves all of these requirements, but also fits into the future potential needs and uses of our property has become a priority concern.

Thank you for your interest, your gifts and for your patience.