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The Rev. Gary Parker, Priest-in-Charge

## St. Stephen's Church - Capital Campaign 2017

June 2017

Dear Parish Family –

There is wonderful momentum in our Church these days: terrific outreach, exciting youth programming, and new families who have been attracted by our worship, fellowship and Sunday School! As we approach the end of the school year, it feels as though we are ending on a high note!

However we have put off a number of critical capital projects as long as we can, and it is now time to undertake them. We do not have a budget surplus to invest in these projects, and we would dearly love to preserve our modest endowment. We are therefore launching a Capital Campaign 2017, and are diving right in to the crucial projects.

### The Projects:

1. Our Rectory roof needs to be replaced: it is leaking, the soffits are rotting, the gutters aren't functional and we are now at a point where new damage will only make the repair bill larger. The porch and balcony railings are a hazard, and the chimney is crumbling.
2. The Parish Hall has water leaks, in its foundation and in the casement around the big window above the wall where we hang our beloved quilt. The right long term solution for the foundation leakage is to pull out shrubbery, dig out, seal the foundations, lay down drainage pipes and re-grade the soil for better drainage. The contractors who do this work will also spruce up the grounds in a much-needed refresh.

The Wardens have solicited multiple bids for the projects and have checked references; the Vestry has considered the alternative bids and has selected contractors for the Rectory work and for the ground work around the Parish Hall. Since it is the season to tackle these major projects we have authorized the Rectory contractor to begin work at the start of June; it should take several weeks.

**Our Need:** to avoid depleting our endowment we need to target a **capital campaign of \$60,000**, and we need to pursue this urgently as we will be starting to pay the contractors imminently. This is, of course, separate from the Stewardship drive that will begin at the start of the school year, and on which we rely for the day-to-day operation of the Church and for our outreach, fellowship and worship.

We recognize this is a big “ask” of our congregation, and we request that you prayerfully reflect on the commitment you are able to make to position our Church, and our physical plant, for our next generation of growth and Christian mission. To help the parish understand the rationale for these projects and this expenditure, we will offer a session during Coffee Hour on Sunday, June 4<sup>th</sup>, where we can show photos of the damage that needs to be remedied and share details of the planned work, and of our finances. We need your donations this month as the work will start imminently!



In Corinthians we read that “whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully”. Please consider making an investment in our Church, to make it stronger and more beautiful; a place that will attract those seeking to worship and give back to their community for decades to come.

Our preference would be to receive a check made out to St. Stephen’s Church, with the note Capital Campaign 2017 in the memo line, mailed to (or dropped off at) the Church Office (9 Carlton Ave, PW 11050). If you have any questions please feel free to reach out to your Stewardship team at: [stewardship@ststephenspw.org](mailto:stewardship@ststephenspw.org), and we’ll get back to you as soon as we can. Your quarterly donation statements will identify this deductible contribution for tax purposes.

With gratitude,

Rachel Golder

On behalf of your Vestry

