

Vestry Come and See

September 2022

Did you ever wonder why it took so long for us to plan for and construct our new Parish Hall? Well, there are many things that transpired over the past 19 years.

The first acknowledgement that there was a need for a new Parish Hall was the recognition at the completion of the 2003 Sanctuary. Planning committee reports in 2007, 2010, 2011, 2013, 2014 and 2017 supported this critical need in addition at the same time recruiting an Assistant Rector and paying off our then current mortgage. During this period, we made our first real step when we negotiated the sale and move of the Parkhill House, we needed space. We started our Capital Campaign and were making significant progress and the “along came Florence,”

Well as most of you know we sustained extensive damage to our Sanctuary, the Chapel of the Cross, and the Carr Jorgenson house, that had to be demolished. Repairs on these buildings took almost 2 years at a cost of over \$700,000. As soon as the reconstruction work was completed, we re-energized our capital campaign and started the long process of architect selection, building design and contracting with the Mission Investment Fund as our lender.

Finally, we broke ground in October 2020 and started construction, but wait and then “Covid” made its appearance. The original plan called for us to be in the new facility by November of 2021 but now we had to deal with supply chain issues, labor dislocations and a general slowdown in all construction activity. All of these factors caused a construction delay of almost 10 months before we were able to occupy our new facility in August 2022.

It does take time with all of the research and planning required to design a building that will meet our needs for the foreseeable future. Appreciating the patience shown by our Congregation, our construction company and our building committee we are “finished” and I think pleased with the end result, I hope you agree.

Bill Bittenbender