

## ***Board of Trustees – it's been a busy year!***

*Trustees have lots on our plate! Maintaining our beautiful, large, aging building guarantees an ongoing to-do list, and 2025 has presented its challenges! Here's a quick synopsis of the year so far. We strive to be efficient stewards of the church's money by providing timely, impactful solutions to building and grounds issues. SUMC is a safe, welcoming place to serve our members and our community!*

- ✓ **Roof replacement.** The roof is complete! Downspouts have been repaired, replaced, and cleaned out as needed. This was handled through an insurance claim; our deductible is \$50,000. We used emergency funds and reallocated unused funds to cover the cost without burdening everyday operations. Donations are always welcome toward special projects!
- ✓ **Sidewalk repair.** The sidewalk repair on the north (parking lot) side of the church is complete! No more crumbling concrete causing hazardous conditions. A very generous member contribution was made to cover the cost.
- ✓ **New cleaning service.** We successfully transitioned to Stratus Building Solutions to keep our building clean. They're currently on a twice weekly cleaning schedule. The cost of this service is roughly 50% greater than our previous service, and we hope the results are reflected accordingly! Anticipating a change, we increased our 2025 budget for cleaning, and will end the year under budget.
- ✓ **Fire alarm panel.** Not so noticeable is the replacement of our fire alarm panel. Our former panel ceased to communicate properly and could no longer be repaired. This was completed quickly to keep our church and church members safe. Again, a couple church members donated funds to cover part of the cost, thus reducing the burden on the Trustees repairs & maintenance budget line item.
- ✓ **Boxing in the truss above the portico sanctuary entrance.** Next time you enter the church under the portico into the narthex, look up just before you walk in! For years we've had an issue with birds perching and nesting on the truss causing a mess on the truss and to people walking below. Now the truss is beautifully boxed in and there's nowhere left to perch! Thanks to the Trustees and labor donated by church members, this project was completed with minimal cost.

***Maintenance is an everyday, ongoing collection of projects!*** *The recent extreme rain caused some leaking and flooding, primarily in the basement; this was cleaned up promptly and completely, averting severe damage. Electrical issues, specifically with exit lights and a few seemingly random outlets, were meticulously tracked down and promptly fixed. Weed, weeds, weeds – getting under control! Drippy toilets, water heater glitches, yard maintenance, playground upkeep, HVAC hiccups – all have to be addressed regularly!*

★★★ **One remaining BIG project for 2025 ... THE PARKING LOT.** Trustees came to a consensus that resurfacing our parking lot is necessary at this time. Finance Committee concurred. Four bids were received, and Trustees selected Asphaltic Surfaces for the job; their quote is just over \$61,500. As this is a major unbudgeted expense, Church Council voted to accept the recommendation and move forward with resurfacing the lot. Donations will be welcomed for this project, but no major campaign will be conducted. We currently have pledges exceeding \$20,000 toward parking lot resurfacing. Please touch base with Connie if you want to contribute! We'll let you know as soon as the schedule is set. We're likely looking at September and will schedule to minimize interruption in church worship services and activities.

Don't hesitate to reach out to me or any member of the Board of Trustees with questions, comments, or concerns!

***Thank you for your continued spiritual and financial support! TOGETHER WE ARE THE CHURCH!***

*Marianne D'Amato, SUMC Board of Trustees Chair*