

As To Rebuilding

It is at this time of year that we often pause to review the year past and contemplate the year to come. As we transition into 2024, I would ask that we consider what we have accomplished in 2023 as we moved to leave the dormancy brought on by a pandemic and celebrate the rebuilding of First Pres guided by new leadership and a sense of renewed energy and hope. While the examples of our shared resilience are numerous, I would like to present a single but monumental sign of rebuilding.

Under new business in the September 2022 business affairs meeting report are notes about a discussion for a long-term plan to replace windows in the administration and preschool areas with hurricane rated protection. This was a first step.

After review by the property team of numerous proposals for the best fit and protection and by the finance group on risks, insurance and funding, a final decision was made to move forward. In June 2023, a deposit was issued against the total cost of \$217,640 for 131 hurricane rated windows. This decision was difficult to make for many reasons but a 24-week lead time on materials and knowledge of the impact of weather in our area, the group determined that our stewardship obligations required us to take the risk.

Here we are December 2023, and these long-awaited windows are being installed and hopefully, the preschool windows will be completed by the time you read this article, and the rest of the windows soon after. The windows are beautiful in themselves but also for the protection they offer, the preservation of our building and action of coming together to solve a problem and move forward.

When you have a moment check out the windows and see beyond to all that we can accomplish as the First Presbyterian Church family. Also consider jumping on the business affairs team to be a part of the next project and please remember to thank Rachel for her oversight of this project from beginning to end.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the business affairs committee,
Mary Willis

