

Rector's Column

*"I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?
I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.
Isaiah 43:19*

Dear Friends,

I hope this month's column can provide an update on the planned renovations at Trinity which include replacing our current boiler system with a modern heating/cooling system as well as improvements to Rogers Hall and existing bathrooms. .

A brief overview of the history of the renovations planning could be helpful here.

The Trinity Vestry of 2016 engaged in a vision and mission process that included parish surveys. This process identified needed changes in our physical plant in order to align parish priorities to better serve the public, stimulate new community partnerships, and emphasize a culture of welcome and hospitality. The Vestry entered into a contract with Driftmier architects, who conducted their own parish survey in 2017 that focused on detailing the desired physical attributes in order to inform the redesign of existing spaces and community discussions continued at Trinity throughout the year. In the fall of 2018, the Diocesan Architectural Committee approved Driftmier's design, and we prepared to launch a capital campaign to support the work. Unfortunately, a week after the plan was approved, Everett experienced a once in a century catastrophic flood that affected our entire lower level of classrooms and offices, resulting in a pause in our capital campaign and renovation plans that lasted for a year. Once the restorations of the lower level were completed in the fall of 2019, we made plans to launch the capital campaign for the spring of 2020. Sadly, once again all efforts were thwarted by the onset of the COVID-19 global pandemic. However, in the following year of 2021, Trinity undertook the Refresh, Renew and Rejoice Capital Campaign to encourage contributions for the purpose of funding the implementation of a variety of the proposed renovations.

The Capital Campaign was completed in January 2022, and the Trinity Vestry approved a revised plan that the concept of replacing the church's boiler system with a ventilation and air-conditioning system (HVAC). This request necessitated several months of evaluation by engineers and a redesign of Trinity's electrical system along with permit applications. The Vestry approved the redesign proposal in April of 2023. The permit application was submitted to the City of Everett on January 26, 2024, and the City of Everett approved the permit in March of 2024.

Once the final bids were submitted for the work, however, the Vestry recognized that funds collected during the capital campaign were insufficient to cover the expenses of the project which was then subsequently downsized and sorted into phases of development, with the first phase including: 1) Creating a separate heating/cooling system for Rogers Hall/kitchen, 2) Updating Rogers Hall for greater energy efficiency and enhancing its use as community space, and 3) Renovating the two principle bathrooms in the entry level hallway.

Even including endowment funds dedicated for improvement efforts, we may not have all the funds needed for the proposed first phase. Not all the capital campaign pledges have been fulfilled, and the no or low interest loans once provided by the diocese were phased out several years ago, so any loans we would consider would be at current bank rates. The Vestry expects to have new bids soon and will keep all of us apprised. We would all like to realize the hopes that began eight years ago, and may the Holy Spirit continue to keep the embers burning and bring our plans to life.

*In Christ's Peace,
Pastor Rachel+*

