

## We are moving into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century

The pieces of the puzzle are coming together. In September we met to approve a vision for energy efficient and mission specific renovations to our parish hall section of our church. These were to be concluded in multiple phases. Phase one was the replacement of our aging boiler. For this component to be effective as an energy saving project, we needed to renovate the parish hall to realize the energy savings. This is the basis of the second phase. We met in October and again in January to approve the vision and the funding for these renovations.

Phase one of the project, the East wing heating system, is installed and paying dividends already. We have seen reduction in our gas costs over last year's costs in the first few months of the boiler's installation. Phase two is about to move into the construction stage as we have submitted the building plans to contractors for bids on performing the work. We plan on having the renovations done this spring and early summer. When it is done we will have a parish hall that will meet the challenges of 21<sup>st</sup> century energy efficiency and 21<sup>st</sup> century mission. We also will be equipped to meet the challenges of a growing Feast of Justice social ministry. With the current economic climate, this ministry will only continue to grow.

In the original presentation to the congregation we mentioned the possibility of installing solar panels on the roof of the parish hall. This is still a very viable option in the future. We made a promise to the congregation that we were not going to rush to action in any phase of this project. This is especially true in this area and we take that promise very seriously. Solar energy is a very fluid science at the current time and it changes very frequently. We have empowered the Green Team to research this area and report to us their findings. Solar energy is still a very viable option for us, but at this time we have not found the right formula to make it financially soluble. But it is still a very important part of our vision.

With any vision for improvement, there is a price tag and this is true for this one as well. At the congregational meeting, we approved seeking a loan for the renovations. By the grace of our lord, this loan has been approved by the Mission Investment Fund. We plan on repaying this loan through grants, energy savings and your donations. We have a challenge of raising \$150,000 in congregational donations. Response to this challenge has been very good. But the puzzle is not yet complete. There is much left to do. We thank the members and friends of the church that have pledged and given so generously. For those of you who have not yet responded, we ask that you prayerfully consider a level of giving you can afford. As a church we are stepping out of its "comfort zone" in taking this loan and as members we ask that you consider what your piece will be. We are all a part of God's team. We all play a part in spreading his word through our mission's to the community. What will your part be?

We are moving into the 21<sup>st</sup> century here at St John's. Come with us!!!

Your Capital Campaign Team