



January 17, 2018

IF THESE WALLS COULD SPEAK

In 1947 and 1997, the Assembly Room of the church was filled with church members for the celebrations of the congregation's 100th and 150th anniversaries. Recently, I joined longtime church members to look at the photographs from those events. They pointed to faces, remembered names, and told me the stories of what each person had meant to them. If the walls of this church building could speak, we would hear about the lives of so many beloved people who have made a profound impact on the world around them.

The walls of this church have witnessed worship, learning, hospitality, and service. The walls of this church have seen the good done by mentors, friends, and companions on the journey of faith. Of course, having this beloved church building is not the mission of our congregation. Our purpose is to be the body of Christ, a faithful community who follow the way of Jesus and share God's love with the world. Our church building is a great asset to realize our holy mission.

At the Annual Meeting of the congregation on Sunday, January 28, we will be discussing what we have learned about the condition of our building in the past year through a professional Facilities Conditions Assessment (FCAP). The good news is that we have learned that the building is generally in good shape. For this, we are thankful for all who have helped to be good stewards of this property!

The report has also given us a good understanding of how we can ensure that this great building continues to provide for our church's ministry as we upgrade systems, become more energy efficient, and update areas for modern usage: a roadmap for the next years that will benefit this church's mission for a generation ahead. As we continue to be good stewards of the church, we will follow the example of those who came before us; our 200th anniversary is only twenty-nine years away!

I hope you will be able to attend the Annual Meeting at 11:00 a.m. on Sunday, January 28, immediately following worship. In preparation for that meeting, a forum will be held this Sunday, January 21, to provide a preview of the FCAP report and the proposed 2018 Budget and opportunity for discussion.

With the leading of God's Spirit, we will continue to be a faithful community that tells the story of love and grace.

Peace,

Rev. Dr. Matthew Wooster
Senior Minister