

October 2, 2017

Dear Fellow Church Members and Friends,

Good autumn wishes to you and your families. It is with mixed feelings that we enjoy the blue skies and “turning” of New England foliage when so many are continuing to experience the wrath of hurricanes, floods, and earthquakes. Thanks to so many of you, the Hills Church has been able to offer prayers and financial assistance to many in need. We know the needs will continue, and we are confident that you will continue to offer prayers and whatever else might be needed. We offer a special thank you to our superb Christian Service Support Board ministry teams for leading this effort.

Closer to home, we are happy to report that the FCAP (Facilities Condition Assessment Plan) process is in full swing. Three consulting groups responded to the church’s Request for Proposals. The Hills Church FCAP review team evaluated all of the proposals, interviewed two excellent firms, and selected one. The focus of this work will be assessment and documentation of existing infrastructure conditions in the church and parish house. The firm will work closely with the FCAP review team (Judy Nitsch, Betty Ule, Herb Ule, Janeen Hansen, Linda Thomas, Cynthia Gordan, and Matt Wooster) and others, as appropriate. We anticipate receiving the FCAP report soon after the first of the year.

The next step will be preparation of a Master Plan for the church. The Master Plan will build upon recommendations from the FCAP report and will include significant stakeholder involvement as we convene user groups to get YOUR ideas about what the church buildings need going forward. We look forward to meeting with ministry teams to learn more about your hopes and dreams for the church in the coming years.

In parallel with the FCAP and Master Plan studies, we are happy to report that the lighting subcommittee of the Property Maintenance Ministry Team received financial approval from our church Stewards to commence an important upgrade to sanctuary lighting. The lighting project, expected to be completed by the beginning of Advent, will provide substantially improved lighting throughout the sanctuary – including both narthices, over the pews, and in the chancel area – with particular attention to the effectiveness of the lighting over the choir, organ pipes, communion table, and lectern/pulpit areas. In addition, this work will also result in our use of more energy efficient and sustainable lighting (both fixtures and lamps/bulbs) going forward, reducing our maintenance costs in the years ahead.

This past Sunday’s Time, Talents and Tacos event was great fun – and we extend our sincere appreciation to the entire Parish Life team for helping to ensure its success. This month, we are looking forward to Stewardship Sunday on the 22nd and the arrival of this year’s pumpkins on October 13. Mark your calendars!

Faithfully,

Janeen S. Hansen, Moderator  
Linda Thomas, Moderator Emerita  
Gintas Vildzius, Rising Moderator