

Building and Capital Campaign Updates

Excavation has begun. If you've been in the parking lot recently, you have no doubt seen a bulldozer, a chain link fence, and now, a hole in the ground. We are making progress on the last phase of the Capital Campaign, the Accessibility project. Thank you to all who were able to come to the Q&A sessions after the two services last week for updates on our projects. Here's what we learned. While beginning work to expand electricity capacity for the elevator, the contractors discovered that the electrical panel (that resides in a locked room/serviced only by our electricity service provider) has corroded over time, likely because of water intrusion. This isn't something we can opt out of repairing or postpone. It must be addressed right away.

While it's not part of the Capital Campaign scope, it does affect the timing of the project, and we will need to figure out how to pay for it. We don't know the exact cost of the new panel yet – the electricians are working on scope of work and an estimate as we speak. It will, however, be significant; a *guess* puts it between \$25,000 and 35,000, maybe more. Members of the Capital Campaign team, the Maintenance Team, the Finance Committee, and the Vestry met last week to discuss the new development, and to begin thinking about the best strategies for paying for the electrical panel. The Finance Committee is making initial recommendations, and the Vestry will grapple with it and make decisions as we have more information.

Thank you for your questions on Sunday. We don't know exactly how much this new development will affect the timing of project, but we do know that the electrical panel must be custom designed and that it will extend the completion date. Will Wittig reported that we will continue with all the other aspects of the project, and the elevator will be the last thing to be installed, probably in the spring.

At some point, the power will need to be shut down for several days, and the church and all our programs closed, while the elevator is installed. We also don't know how exactly this will affect the opening of the New To You Shop, but a possible scenario is a February opening (depending on completion of the rest of the spaces), and then a temporary close during elevator installation, before re-opening. Our watchword will be 'flexibility.' Lots of things can and will likely change, and we will keep you informed as information comes. We will likely have frequent Q&As throughout the winter and spring to keep you all up to date.