



THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE
HOLY COMMUNION

July 10, 2019

Dear Members of Holy Communion,

In recent days the work envisioned in our Next 150 Capital Campaign got underway. In late May the vestry signed a contract with Robert Dial Organ Builders. In the last days of June the pipes from our historic organ, which will be refurbished and preserved, were removed. You will notice the organ console is also no longer in the sanctuary; it will also be entirely reworked as the organ is rebuilt. The work we dreamed about has started.

Unfortunately there are also setbacks to communicate. We received initial construction bids for our proposed renovations and, unfortunately, all three bids exceed our estimated construction budget by a significant amount. While we are told this is not an unusual setback, the disconnect between the current construction bids and our estimated construction budget will delay the start of renovations.

On Sunday June 23, your vestry and building committee met with our architect Dan Stauder to begin the work of right-sizing the project by identifying cost-saving options that will allow us to accomplish the renovations prioritized by the congregation via the feasibility study while keeping construction costs as close to the estimated construction budget as possible.

We learned, for instance, that we can save money by keeping the lighting controls where they currently reside, rather than relocating the switches nearer the altar. Another option being evaluated is deferring standalone projects, such as a proposed upgrade for more energy efficient windows in Mitchell Hall. While no one decision alone will bring us within the estimated construction budget, we hope the cumulative effect of many such decisions will take us over the finish line.

Although this setback is frustrating, our Capital Campaign remains a resounding success, and any delay resulting from our attempt to identify cost-saving construction options will only make us better stewards of the resources you have entrusted to us.

We anticipate inviting you to a meeting later this summer with our architect, Dan Stauder, to discuss the changes we have needed to make and the effect on our timeline. We will set that time up when the details have been more firmly worked out.

We remain grateful for the generosity of Holy Communion, and excited for more of the project to begin.

Faithfully,

The Rev. Mike Angell, Rector
Shirley Mensah, Senior Warden
Susan Norris, Junior Warden
Brian Barnhart, Treasurer