

## *A Special Note from the Rector*

Our foundation of faith is built upon Jesus Christ. And the faith at Calvary is firmly rooted and grounded in the Word made Flesh. Our living of the gospel, in word and deed, puts flesh on our faith, gives hands to our intentions, vision to our souls, and muscle to our prayers.

The Church is the Body of Christ; it is not a building made with hands. This part of the Body that we call Calvary Episcopal Church does, however, gather in a building. *And while our foundation of faith is firm, the foundation of our building is not.*

Termites have ravaged joist work under the nave, both recently and in the past. Damage from years past was not soundly repaired; make-shift, make-do. [The *nave* is the long part of the 'sanctuary' where the pews are located].

While examining underneath the nave, it was discovered that the (ancient) duct work for the heating and cooling system is in terrible shape. Many of the ducts are from the 1938 coal-fired heating system, some have been crushed, dented, or punctured (during the make-do, make-shift repairs done decades earlier). Ever notice you cough while in church, and it's not just the sermons?

Also, as has been known, the 1859 brick work of the west wall, including the bell tower, is in bad repair. And all of these things must be fixed.

Junior Warden Gene Piver and property committee members have been hard at work examining all these things, hiring an engineer for plans, getting bids from contractors. Though all the final figures are not in, it appears the repairs will cost somewhere between \$70,000 to \$80,000, *or more*.

This is frightening and challenging. (Well, maybe more frightening). And, the Vestry finance committee is working on how to pay for this.

A major "Save the Nave" campaign has been considered. But difficult in economic times this seems the less prudent approach. While gifts are welcome (and encouraged!), refinancing of existing loans seems best.

You may know that we own the land on which the Ingles grocery store sits, and they pay us a large sum each month. Most of that money goes to pay off the construction loan on the 1999 expansion of Parish House and the building of the Old Well Hall. Some left-over is used to pay our property-liability insurance and for building repairs. There is precious little left for reserves. These funds do **not** fund other parts of the parish budget, which itself is running a significant deficit. *Your pledges for the day-to-day operations of the parish are vitally important.*

The Vestry is looking into re-negotiating our loan for both a lower rate and additional monies for the repairs. This will extend the time it takes to pay off the note. While we would like to be out of debt sooner rather than later, we do not wish to lose our place of worship, made sacred through the presence and prayers of generations.

As I write this, I do not have all the figures which would make this letter more instructive. These will be published subsequently. If our foundation of faith is firm in the grace, love, and forgiveness of God, not even termites will stand against us.

It is an honor and a privilege to be your rector.

For no one can lay any foundation other than the one that has been laid; that foundation is Jesus Christ.

Now if anyone builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw—the work of each builder will become visible, for the Day will disclose it, because it will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test what sort of work each has done. If what has been built on the foundation survives, the builder will receive a reward. If the work is burned, the builder will suffer loss; the builder will be saved, but only as through fire.

I Corinthians 3:11-15

*Fr. Victor Mansfield*