

BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS FALL 2025 REPORT

We've resurrected the old nursery by making it the NEW nursery with fresh carpet, fun paint, and faux wood blinds. It's quite the change from the contractor storage room it was 6 months ago! Moving from the second floor to the main floor also provides families with a more central location that is easier to access and find for the newest members of our growing congregation.

Speaking of carpet, the Chapel had the old dingy tile and berber removed and replaced with the same blue broadloom carpet we installed years ago in the sanctuary. The conversation now pivots to outfitting the space with new, more flexible seating so that it can be both a place of worship and a functional venue for other gathering needs.

Haynes has been preparing for the upcoming school year with newly painted walls and a shuffling of rooms to better suit their needs. We've moved Rachel's office to the first floor to facilitate better collaboration, and this has allowed Haynes to take full advantage of having the entire second floor wing dedicated to the preschool. There will be an eating space for the kiddos in addition to a newly dedicated storage room. Pair that with reinventing the faith formation rooms in the basement and there's hardly a space that won't be improved to better accommodate our needs.

We've repaired a pair of complicated water leaks in the boiler room and behind the water heater in the clothes washer room in hopes that our water consumption can be diminished. As I am sure everyone is aware, utility costs have seen a steady rise of late, and our aging building is contending with the same issues we battle at home. When we budgeted for this past year, we anticipated an 11% increase, but we didn't foresee the rise in operating expenses we currently contest. The new air mover in the social hall is an expense we haven't had for decades so it has presented us with an unexpected bump in our electrical bill, and we are looking in to how we can mitigate that going forward.

Overall, the building and grounds are going through exciting changes, and we hope that you excuse our dust for a little while longer. Change is good!

- David Spahr