

St. Thomas Building & Grounds Committee Report

Thank you for the honor of serving as your Junior Warden this year. It's been a privilege working alongside Mark, Tera, and the rest of this Building and Grounds team, as they've tirelessly worked to ensure that our facilities continue to offer a beautiful, welcoming space to all who visit. The Building & Grounds Committee had a very busy year in 2024. The primary goal at the beginning of the year was to have a warm sanctuary and dry basement. We are happy to report that both have been achieved.

We completed the replacement of the broken boiler for the Sanctuary and Chapel with the help of two generous parishioners. We figured out a solution to the water intrusion issue in the basement and are just finishing up the project by re-staining the concrete floor. We also were able to eradicate the odor in the basement with a much-needed cleaning of the grinder pump.

Over 30 projects were addressed in 2024 ranging from repairing the portico after it was damaged by a delivery truck to replacing the boiler, and everything in between. The good news is that we feel that we are starting get to the end of the list of issues which had been deferred and are now documenting (and scheduling) ongoing maintenance on a regular basis to avoid a future "deferred maintenance project list".

We are hopeful that 2025 will be a year when this committee is *less* busy. We already have a few projects on our list – (i.e. replacing the controller for the bell tower, patching some areas where the stucco has been damaged, and repairing and repainting the gates to the columbarium.) Depending on funding, we may also reseal and restripe the parking lot.

One carry-over project that is on our list for 2025 is to continue to address sound quality in the church. Morgan Sound was just here this past week to re-tune the microphones and speakers in the Sanctuary to produce better quality sound. Be sure to let us know if you notice a difference – and if you feel that the sound quality has improved (or not). In 2024 we fixed and/or replaced the hearing devices at the back of the sanctuary to help with this issue. We want to be sure that everyone can hear the sermons and the liturgy.

Every member of the committee is key to getting things done and brings their own expertise to every situation. In addition to Chair, Mark Nelson and Project Manager, Tera Soelter, the Building and Grounds committee includes:

- Fred McConkey
- Jerry Livingston
- Jerry Angelo
- Sheila Justus
- Haynes Lund
- Mike Allert
- Lisa Vierek
- Kevin Chrisinger
- Lisalynn Reed

Don't hesitate to reach out to anyone on the committee with questions, feedback or issues you feel should be addressed. We are here to make sure our campus is well maintained. To echo Mother Liz's remarks, "Unless the Lord builds the house, we labor in vain." Well, the same is true of boiler installation, hedge trimming, parking lot striping, and everything else we do to keep our facilities in good shape. With God's help, and your continued prayers and partnership, our St. Thomas Building and Grounds will continue to support our comeback story, as it continues to reflect the goodness and hospitality of God.