

To my dear Parish Family,

It is with gratitude that I write to you about the wonderfully attended first presentation last Sunday focusing on the research and work that has been done regarding **the installation of an elevator and replacement of the administrative buildings**. The questions and comments by each and every one of you are highly valued and taken into account. The members of the committee (Ed Ellis, Mike Lacey, Denise Kolb, Mark Morris & myself) very much appreciate every contact, every comment, every thought and every opinion as we continue our work on this very important project. **It is my specific request of you at this time, to please let us know your thoughts about this project; this project belongs to every member of our congregation and we want to proceed with your opinions held in mind and heart.**

In addition, I have some good news to share. It was with great excitement that the (elevator) committee was able to report at the meeting last Sunday that we had received two anonymous pledges totaling \$50,000 to launch the "Elevator/Elevation Project." I am happy to further report that at the end of that meeting, another angel came forward and committed \$25,000. **Thankfully, we now have pledges totaling \$75,000 to launch this project.** On behalf of our entire congregation, I want to express our gratitude to these angels for their generosity, their commitment, their dedication to the future of St. Barnabas and the well-being of our loved ones in need of "a lift."

*We are well aware that not everyone was available to join us last Sunday.  
Subsequently, two more presentations have been scheduled:*

*Saturday, July 16th - 10am in the Parish Hall  
&  
Sunday, August 7th - at coffee hour following the 10am service*

It is our hope that everyone will have an opportunity to attend and weigh in on this project. As I have said many times and will continue to say, this project is a family endeavor that belongs to each and every one of us. Please come. Please listen thoughtfully. Please ask questions. Please comment. Please join us.

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As we proceed with the robust activity in the life of our beloved St. Barnabas, I have a few newsworthy items of note to share:

1. We have been blessed by the presence and input of **Steve Schmitz** on Vestry for the last year and a half. Steve's experience as an educator for many years (on every level - in the classroom as well as administration) and as a lifelong Episcopalian now devoted to our beloved St. Barnabas, Steve has been invaluable during his tenure on Vestry. As many of you may know, Steve and Helene are enjoying a fabulous retirement of extensive travel around the globe. Due to their extensive travel schedule, Steve has submitted his letter of resignation to the Vestry. Steve cares deeply about our parish and family and feels that his absence from meetings and decision making at this very important time precludes his ability to continue as a member of Vestry. It is with gratitude that we accept his resignation and thank him for his service and devotion.

2. As I am continually struck by the vast resources and talent available to us within our congregation, I am thrilled to report that Vestry has enthusiastically and unanimously voted that the seat vacated by Steve Schmitz be filled by **John Baker**. John was on Vestry when the search took place ten years ago that

successfully brought Dennis to us; he was on the 2006 Parish Profile committee and is very much responsible for creating and developing our Parish Profile at that time. John brings tremendous talent and experience and wisdom to Vestry and it is with gratitude that we are all blessed by his willingness to serve.

3. Please note that, as your Senior Warden, I am always happy to hear from anyone and everyone about any concerns or thoughts or questions. Don't be shy; I love hearing from you. Subsequently, to make things a little more streamlined and straightforward for me, **I now have a new email address for church business: [vwalker@stbbi.org](mailto:vwalker@stbbi.org)** Please feel free to email or call me at any time.

Thank you for taking the time to read the *Senior Warden Weekly*. It is my goal to be as inclusive and to keep everyone as informed as possible as we move through this time of transition.

I send my warmest regards to each of you,

Virginia