

To my dear Parish Family,

I am happy to share with all of you a few nuggets of information about the “elevator” project:

- Our beloved Rector, The Rev. Dr. Dennis Tierney (*who happens to be quite the history buff*) has encouraged the committee to come up with a meaningful and Biblical name for the “elevator” project. **I am happy to report that we now have officially named this project The Elijah Project.** I will let Dennis share this Biblical story with you (*he is the history buff, after all*) for your greater understanding, while I can direct you to **2 Kings 2.9** for the passage in the Bible.
- **It has been determined that the previously scheduled third presentation to the congregation about The Elijah Project will not take place.** This third presentation was scheduled for Sunday, August 7<sup>th</sup>, but we have made the decision to cancel it. In discussing this with as many people as possible, it seems that everyone feels sufficiently informed and included. However, if that is not the case – if you feel that you need or want more information, ***please let me know (or anyone on the committee or Vestry)***. We are happy to hold as many presentations as are necessary to bring everyone into the fold; this project belongs to all of us.
- **The design plans are on our website and available for all to take a look.** If you go to the homepage of the website and go to “News & Events,” a dropdown box appears and will take you to all of the information about the project. It will be updated as often as possible.
- **The Finance Committee has worked (and continues to work) to develop a recommendation to Vestry on how best to finance this project.** The recommendation has made it clear that (*unless someone generously writes a check for \$600,000 or more*) the sale of the two acres of land below the church is inherently key to **The Elijah Project** coming to fruition. **So progress is being made to pursue the sale of the land as a sub-project concurrently as we proceed with the larger body of work.**
- Vestry has discussed the financing piece at great length and continues to do so. **At the last Vestry meeting, on July 19<sup>th</sup>, Vestry voted to fund the next phase of The Elijah Project to continue the work of carrying it forward up to the point of permit submittal.** Please know that because we have chosen to do this work in the *Design/Build* process, we can stop at any time if we must. This process allows for us to tightly control costs and design work, as was explained in our presentations.
- **Plans are underway for some serious celebrating at the end of August,** so be sure to check your inbox as well as your junk mailbox that will give you some insight as to what’s coming. Just remember.....*ssshhhhhhh.....on the secret stuff!* We wouldn’t want to let the cat out of the bag, now would we?
- **Parish Administrator Kathy Irvin will be away on vacation August 3-12, so we will undoubtedly miss next week’s weekly,** but please don’t hesitate to contact me if you are ever so inclined. I love hearing from you.

As always, I send my warmest regards to each of you.

Virginia