

Good morning,

I have been asked to share updates for our Building and Grounds Committee this year.

We had another busy year in 2025. We were able to complete several projects last year – (just over 25) which included everything from trimming the holly hedge in the north parking lot to installing new speakers in the sanctuary, and everything in between. As we shared in the update in your booklet the new speakers in the sanctuary were probably the most visible and ‘obvious’ project we completed. Many people shared with us that they can now finally hear the sermon!!

After serving on this committee for a few years now, I am still surprised by some of the things that come up. The signage we installed last year over the portico has stopped the delivery trucks from running into it (which is good) and it turns out that if the sprinkler system in the ELC is not working, someone has to be on ‘Fire Watch’ around the clock. Kevin got to spend over 24 hours onsite in December because of this issue, starting at 2 in the morning!

Fortunately, we’ve been able to complete many of the ‘deferred maintenance’ expenses that were on our list originally and are now moving into more of a maintenance mode to avoid future issues. However, just like our own homes, things happen....and now that the Ebsworth Life Center is over 10 years old, we are starting to see some end-of-life situations that require attention.

A few of the projects we’ve identified for this year include:

- Addressing an HVAC leak discovered in December in the ELC
 - Improving our streaming services by re-positioning some microphones over the choir area
 - Purchasing storage racks and containers for the boxes of storage previously housed offsite – and now moved back to the ELC
 - Broken floor tiles under your feet were replaced and/or repaired just this week
 - Updating the IT equipment that supports Audio/Visual in this room and if we can, adding Zoom functionality to support conferences or meetings held in this room.
- This meeting is a perfect example of why that would be helpful.

We are also looking at ways to reduce costs. We are meeting with a company called Power Take Off to look at how we might reduce our utility costs by adjusting our HVAC programming. Ideally by performing annual maintenance on the roof, storm drains, plumbing and other systems we avoid large ticket items in the future.

We are always grateful to our parishioners who come forward to fund specific projects – and can't thank them enough. Please reach out to us if you have an interest in doing so.

Thank you also to those on the Building and Grounds Committee that identify, fix and resolve the issues that are identified. The list of members is in your booklet – please tell them thank you next time you see them! A special thanks is owed to Kevin and Velvet who take such good care of our facilities.

Thanks!