



CHRIST CHURCH

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The Rev. Matthew Hoxsie Mead, Rector

July 3, 2019

Dear Friends in Christ,

Summer has begun. Before I leave on vacation I want to update you all on the roof, organ, and budget.

THE RANCK BUILDING ROOF

The Vestry met on Wednesday, June 19, to make a final decision on the Ranck Building roof and decided to move ahead with the original proposal to replace the entire Ranck Building with Vermont Slate which is rated at about 100 or more years. We carefully explored the possibility of incorporating solar panels – I wrote in some depth about this at the beginning of June – and determined that 100+ years of relatively maintenance-free slate will be fully paid for by grants was the more prudent path to take than 25+ years of solar (with many open questions not least of which was how to pay for it). The roof is scheduled to be replaced this summer and work is scheduled to commence in early July. If you have any questions about the roof project, please speak to me or Kari Black our building committee co-chair.

The resolution to proceed with slate and forgo solar also included a decision to proceed with an energy audit on our campus. A energy audit provides important information about how a building (or in our case numerous buildings) can be made more energy and cost efficient. We hope to get the audit done at some point this summer. As part of our commitment to environmental sustainability we are updating incandescent lights around the building to LED's. Also, as the technology improves, a future vestry is likely to look again into the viability of solar energy at Christ Church.

I am proud to be rector of a parish that takes such care discerning important decisions that affect future generations, and I am thrilled that we are the beneficiaries of a new Vermont slate roof on the Ranck building. Thank you to the Diocese of New York and the Saint Matthew's Bedell Fund for their grants totally \$175,000 and for making this possible.

THE REMOVAL OF OUR CURRENT CASAVANT FRÈRES PIPE ORGAN

I wrote to the parish several weeks ago that we had found a buyer for the organ. Unfortunately, the buyer backed out at the last minute. Thankfully, we were prepared with a backup plan. The pipes will be removed by a pipe organ builder/restorer in New York for use in future organ projects at other churches. The remaining parts of the organ that cannot be reused will be

disposed. Removal of the pipe organ will begin on July 8 and should be completed by July 12. It is a great blessing and relief that the pipe work will be saved and used again. I am grateful to Margaret Young, Jeffrey Hoffman, and members of our Organ Committee and Vestry for their work and for this fruitful outcome.

DECREASING THE DEFICIT

We began 2019 with a deficit of about \$50,000, and we had a special meeting and several communications from the Vestry and Stewardship Committee to address that shortfall. I am pleased to announce that we have cut the deficit in half through a combination of increased and new pledges and targeted cuts to expenses, primarily deferring some less urgent maintenance issues. We will have a clearer picture of our finances in the autumn, but in the meantime I want to once again extend the invitation to you to make or increase your pledge for 2019. Every dollar helps, and even “small” increases add up quite a bit.

CONFIRMATION

Bishop Dan Daniel who currently serves as Dean of the Cathedral of Saint John the Divine was with us for Confirmation on June 23. The service included a recognition of our Sunday School teachers and children and a very moving thanksgiving prayer by the Bishop of our pipe organ. Congratulations to our Confirmation Class!

SUMMER PLANS

I am on vacation for the second part of July, and for bits here and there in August. I plan to use my vacation to work on my mediocre golf game, get to the beach, and read several novels by Charles Dickens. Canon Susan is on vacation for the first week of July and in late August. At least one of us will be with you every week, and as usual we will continue to offer worship each Sunday at 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. The only major event this summer (beyond all of the building projects) will be Vacation Bible School which is August 19-22. We have over 20 children registered which is more than double last year.

Have a great summer and God bless you all.

In Christ,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Matthew Hoxsie Mead". The signature is written in dark ink and is enclosed within a large, loopy oval flourish.

The Reverend Matthew Hoxsie Mead, Rector