

ELEVATOR AND PARKING PROJECT UPDATE-FEBRUARY, 2021

Construction of the parking lot and rear site development at the church is proceeding nicely, despite the intermittent cold, rain, and snow of a Waynesville winter. A grid of drainage pipes and grates for our property and the adjoining low area behind the courthouse has been completed and connected to the Walnut street storm sewer. The old retention pond next to the church is no longer needed. It is now filled in and the old chain link fence is gone. The current construction of the Shining Rock academy just up Russ Avenue is the source for the large quantity of clean landfill being used to bring our steep slope to a gentle grade for our new fifty-space parking lot. We will soon start work on the crucial retaining wall. Around the first of March, concrete blocks for this purpose will start to arrive and the crews will begin setting them in place. All of this extensive excavating and filling is being done with care. We are pleased that much of the existing landscaping, including our weeping cherry tree and shrubbery on the Walnut Street corner of the church, will not be disturbed by this project.

The architectural drawings received finishing touches around the first of this month, after final recommendations by the structural engineer and a change in the elevator shaft dimensions required by the manufacturer. We have been working with the architect to utilize and configure everything, even the mechanical space, to our best advantage. A copy of the most recent plans is on the desk in the library next to the church office for anyone who would like to look at them. The plans are currently out for bids, and once the subcontractors are selected in early March, we will know the true cost. Construction of the elevator and covered drive portion of the project should begin in mid to late April.

As discussed in the previous newsletter, a new committee has been formed whose plans are well underway for a church-wide fundraising campaign to start in mid-March. Nearly 80% of the projected cost is already funded, and we hope to reduce or eliminate the need for a bank loan through member contributions. As part of this campaign, we plan to meet with individuals, small groups, and various interest groups within the congregation either in person or virtually to answer questions and share ideas. As always, you are welcome to contact me or any member of the committee to hear more about this exciting project and its impact on the future of our church.

We are very blessed. God is good!

Rick Croskery, Chair, Elevator and Parking Project Team, richard.croskery@gmail.com 828-565-1396

P.S. Those of you who read *The Mountaineer* may have noticed a small article about the project in the February 10 edition. Here is a link: https://www.themountaineer.com/life/religion/church-adds-new-features-parking/article_d0c2d208-6a44-11eb-ace5-074f3b7618a2.html The paper has plans to share our good news with a more comprehensive article at the beginning of building construction, as well at its completion.

