

## **Preserving St. James' Heritage: Keeping our Church Building Sound and Strong**

St. James Westminster is a beautiful historic church which serves a variety of needs for the worship community and beyond. For the most part, our church structure remains strong.

At the same time, following completion of engineering and architectural studies commissioned by the Wardens and Parish Council over the past five years to analyze and investigate thoroughly the condition of the physical infrastructure of St. James, it is both vital and important for St. James to move forward with necessary repairs, reconstruction and restoration to preserve and protect the structural and historical integrity of St. James.

These improvements are necessary for St. James to continue to serve as a place of worship and community for current parishioners and future generations, as those before us have ensured for us.

Identified areas include structural upgrades and ensuring the church building meets regulatory code, as regards mechanical and electrical functionality, walls, transepts, ceilings and roofs, as well as repointing and masonry. These upgrades are necessary to ensure structural integrity and quality in the church nave, narthex and chancel, the parish hall, and the administrative/meeting wing.

Additional improvements include painting of the church interior, last completed over 30 years ago; replacement of ceiling fans in the church with silent, more energy-efficient units; exterior signage to promote and build awareness of St. James in the community; and installation of suitable lighting to illuminate the west rose window of the church from the inside.

Costs for the above are estimated to be \$1-million to \$1.5-million, and would be financed by a capital campaign supplemented by bequests received to date by the church and directed for this purpose.

The following motion was passed by the Vestry of St. James Westminster at its January 29, 2017 annual meeting.

"That St. James Westminster Church Vestry authorize the Wardens and Parish Council to develop recommendations for reconstruction, restoration and repairs of the church's infrastructure to preserve and protect the structural and historical integrity of St. James, based on requirements identified in completed engineering and historical architecture studies, and to develop a financial campaign to fund these requirements, with recommendations to be presented at a town hall meeting and for approval at a special meeting of vestry."

Respectfully Submitted by Ken Andrews: Warden