

## Trustee report

The Trustees have decided to make a substantial investment in the refurbishment of Salem UMC and address some projects that have been on the wait list. We are trying to coordinate seasonal activity of available contractors and the seasonal aspect of remaining in the tent for worship service until some of these projects can be completed. We will now be catching up on maintenance, restoration, preservation, and dramatic improvements to our beautiful existing building, but staying within its current square footage instead of expanding.

Relative to funding, we have initiated funding based on the Building Fund that is existing. As other projects will likely need to be addressed, we will need to replenish the Building Fund so please keep that in mind. Meanwhile, progress will be going forward to refurbish Salem UMC.

The first large investment that you will notice will be the legal procedure of bat removal, cleanup, and decontamination. At the same time, another company will replace and upgrade all exterior siding, sheathing, building wrap, soffits, corbels, gutters, doors, new front concrete porch and steps, roof repairs at a minimum with possible replacement, and repainting every exterior surface that is not replaced. During the project we will be adding insulation to the building everywhere feasible.

The bat remediation will be done by *Lady Bug*. They will start on Monday, August 17. They will be working closely with *Hoosier Exteriors*, who will be doing the roof repair, the new siding, gutters, painting and the concrete steps.

We are also bringing in specialists in November to restore and properly protect every stained-glass window in the building. And are also likely to perform a complete remodel and improvement of the bathrooms.

As we pay for these restorations, we will certainly need to shore the Building Fund back up, as this will never be a “cheap” building to maintain! But it is also very important that the General Fund donations do not suffer at the expense of the Building Fund. The need to pay regular salaries, insurance, and utilities will never stop, despite paying for the major building projects.

Most importantly, prayers for a rapid, safe, high quality, and successful renovation are requested and appreciated. Expect some considerable action and exciting physical changes and improvements around Salem Church over the coming months! If anyone has questions, please reach out to any of the trustees:

Marshall, Bob, Kathy, Eric, Larry, Chalmer