

## **Pardon Our Outreach!**

We are reaching out again to our parish community. On Palm Sunday Father Jeff announced that we are extending our Outreach Program with the construction of a new Christ Church Outreach Building. As one of the instigators I have been tasked with filling in that brief message. I propose to answer the most likely questions you might have, but if you have want more information feel free to contact me.

### **Question 1 - Why?**

Simply put, our outreach has grown and we are out of room. As one who regularly picks up large items for the Christ Church Thrift shop I can tell you first hand that I have had to pass up several large donations simply because we had no room for them in the shop. When we do cram all the spaces full, the shop is less appealing for shoppers and items are harder to find. The proposed building will have a large space for storing large items and sorting donations. The Food Pantry has a similar problem. If we can take advantage of special large-lot opportunities at the food bank, and if we can buy for the holidays when items are available, we can serve more clients with the funds we have. The building will have space set aside where the food pantry can do these things.

### **Question 2 - Where?**

We are already clearing the space at the back of the parking lot just beside the preschool playground and in front of our current dumpster pad. We have space there for a 30' by 40' building, immediately adjacent to the power pole that once served a trailer. The vinyl exterior will include a large loading door, and an entry door, both opening onto the current parking lot. The site is just outside of the historic area, making permits and construction easier.

### **Question 3 - How will we pay for this?**

As you may well imagine, this plot has been brewing for some time, and part of the bubbling has involved selecting a funding plan. Fortunately, after bids we were able to work with a contractor to get the cost down to just over \$65,000. We also agreed to fund and build in three stages. The first stage will cost just about \$15,000 for site work and laying of a concrete pad. The second stage will cost about \$30,000 for erecting the building. The final stage will involve interior finishing, wiring and inspection fees for about \$20,000. We will use three sources for this amount. We have applied for grants totaling \$6,000. We are selling shares in the building to the congregation for \$500 each. Of a total of 125 shares, 23 have already been sold. Finally, any outstanding amount will come from our building fund so that we need not consider another small mortgage. The vestry has approved this plan.

### **Question 4 - Can I Help?**

If you feel able, you can buy a share in the building. Not everyone has free time during the day to donate to the Food Pantry or the Thrift Shop. This is a chance to own a part of our outreach program for a modest one-time gift. Donations to this building project will be treated just like donations to the SIM campaign we have been running for the past two years. To buy one or more shares, make your donation to Christ Church and indicate that it is for the Christ Church Outreach Building. You will receive a certificate of ownership in return.

Thank you for all the support each of you has given our outreach program. Again, feel free to contact me for more information.

Roy Smith, Outreach Commission Treasurer