

# Update on the Building Project

*“Plans are nothing; planning is everything.” – Dwight Eisenhower*

After our last building project (completed in 2008) we recapped the process and results in book form, beginning each chapter with a quote. As we plan our proposed project, we are reminded just how much effort it takes to go from concept to completion. Over the summer Building Task Force members and our building professionals continued planning for the project – a renovation/addition that would replace the existing Religious Education wing with an expanded office and programming space. A quick recap...



**Design improvements:** Late summer conversations with our staff and the Religious Education committee led to some layout changes within the footprint of the office suite and second floor classrooms. Their suggestions, now in the revised design plans, create more flexibility and efficiency for the anticipated use of those spaces. The architect is now beginning construction drawings that will be reviewed and soon turned over to our contractor for final pricing.

**Engineering:** Test pits were dug on the playground and alongside the old foundation to provide engineers with the necessary information about drainage and existing structure. Our property line (look for stakes with pink flags along the back garden) and wetlands across Great Pond Road have been flagged. Topographical survey results by the civil engineer have confirmed that a re-contour of the back slope will allow us to install a sloped walkway from the Academy Road cul-de-sac to the back entrance of the new wing, making our upper gardens accessible to all.

**HVAC** (heating, ventilations, and air conditioning): We continue to explore the available choices for our HVAC system. Meeting with our contractor, product vendors, installers, and our architect, we are working to identify the appropriate product that will best match our needs and provide an efficient and cost-effective solution. Keep your fingers crossed that the current system heating the RE wing can make it through the year!

**Approvals and logistics plans:** Zoning, historic commission approvals, and site logistics plans are well underway.

All in all, we are on target for both our timeline and budget for this stage of the project. Floor plans showing the revised layout will be on display in the parlor and on our website, as well as in the Capital Campaign literature that will be distributed.

*Is this new news to you? For more information, contact any member of the Building Task Force – Debb Putnam, Peter Calkins, Don Schemack, Michele Sherry; Ron Zelle and Dan Gobeil (advisors); or check previous updates posted on our church website (under the tab Support Us: Capital Campaign).*