



## St Hilda's - St Patrick's Episcopal Church 2023 Capital Campaign

Join us in creating "New Wineskins"!



July 23, 2023

Dear Friends,

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be always with you! I am excited to write to you on behalf of the Bishop's Committee about the launch of a mini-capital campaign that the Bishop's Committee has decided to undertake over the next six weeks and the next three years at St. Hilda St. Patrick – "New Wineskins Capital Campaign."

In all three synoptic gospels (Matthew 9:17, Mark 2:22, and Luke 5:37-39), Jesus says, "And no one puts new wine into old wineskins; otherwise, the wine will burst the skins, and the wine is lost, and so are the skins; but one puts new wine into fresh wineskins." Wineskins were used for a secondary fermentation in first century viticulture, thus, they needed to be flexible and supple as wine continued to release gas and undergo changes. Putting new wine in a dry old wineskin would crack the old wineskin and lose the win.

The elected and appointed leadership of our congregation see this time of recovery from COVID as a time of new wine, a period of evolving who we are and growing into something new and better. In order for this to proceed with all joy and fullness, we need new wineskins. We need some capital improvements to our facilities to build upon the momentum that exists as we see new faces in the congregation and continue to experience new ways of being a viable, robust Episcopal church.

By the time you receive this message, we will have had a celebratory launch cookout and Evening Prayer and Potluck. For the following six weeks – **until August 27** – we will be collecting pledges for **three-year planned, restricted gifts**. We will celebrate a Capital Campaign Pledge Ingathering on August 27. A pledge form is enclosed, and you can complete it online.

The Bishop's Committee set our pledge goal at \$35,000. Over \$27,000 from donors and Bishop's Committee members has already been pledged. The New Wineskins Capital Campaign pledges will not be part of your annual pledge, rather, they are restricted donations you will make for the next three years to be expressly used for various improvements at St. Hilda St. Patrick. The Bishop's Committee prepared the following list of facility improvements to be covered by these Capital Campaign donations:

- Our first project is testing and, possibly, replacing the fire suppression system. After 20 years, the system may need some updating and we must be up to code to continue meeting in our building.
- Several trees need to be evaluated by an arborist and perhaps removed because they are a hazard to our neighbors.
- Some work needs to be completed on our building rain gutters.
- We hope to have the parking lot graded and regraded.

- We'd like to replace the frequently used play structure that burned two years ago because a new one will be enjoyed by our children and attract families with children which will, hopefully, increase the size of our congregation.
- Earlier this year, the church was painted, which was very much needed. We had hoped to launch this New Wineskins campaign sooner so that half the cost of painting would be a part of this Campaign. Instead, we spent funds from our savings account because the painting had to happen and we were able to find a reputable, reasonably priced painting company that had time to perform the work.
- Our final goal for this capital campaign is to rebuild our savings – for half of the cost of the painting (or more). This will keep us in a solid financial position should future emergencies arise. Rebuilding savings is a way to steward the resources of those who have come before us and prepare for those who will follow us. Without previous generosity we would not have been able to meet this immediate need.

I'm sure you have questions, and members of the Bishop's Committee and I are happy to answer them. Don't hesitate to contact us.

Please prayerfully consider the amount you might be able to donate over the next three years for upkeep and repair of the St. Hilda St. Patrick facility, and return your pledge form — in paper or online — **no later than August 27**.

With gratitude for new wine in new wineskins,

The Rev. Joseph Peters-Mathews  
Vicar