Building and Grounds – Semi-annual Meeting Report - 2025

This committee maintains the church property; arranges for cleaning services, snow removal and yard care; supervises purchase of supplies; receives estimates for repair and renovation projects.

Chair: Mary Beth Gapinski; board Liaison; Aaron Arnold: Members; Aaron Arnold, Michael Drew, Alan Starkey, Joe Conover

Although 2024 was mostly a year of maintenance, there was a major and much anticipated installation of a new Wayside Pulpit (please see Memorial Report) This also meant that the ground had to be torn up, leveled and reseeded, which was done by Bergman’s Nursery. Bergman’s also was retained to redo the garden strip on the 16th street church entrance which was addressed in the B&G’s June annual report. Bi-weekly watering by Sierra Williams and Mary Beth Gapinski ensured the garden strip has flourished.

Maintenance work done was annual pest control, A/C check, basement boiler and sump pump check, and the fire alarm system during the year up to date.

In October B&G was charged to replace an overhead chandelier bulb that had been burned out for many months in the sanctuary. These are bulbs that past chairperson Ted Morrison had purchased through Heintz Electric (now Springfield Electric)

The 3 overhead bulbs are 1000 wattage of 750 hour run time, originally priced at $21 each and installed in 2007. I purchased three at the 2024 price of $36 each because if one burns out, chances are great that another and another are going to burn out also and Marold Electric was retained to install all 3 at the same time rather than one at a time.

It was also pointed out that there are 4 flush lightbulbs in the foyer at the 16th street entrance that are burned out and Marold Electric have examined them to and will install new bulbs before the Feb. 14th Candlelight Dinner.

In November, Rupp Masonry had to be called out to address a consistent leakage coming in through the ceiling of the minister’s office from the eastern chimney. A manlift was needed to examine and remedy the problem. There is no metal flashing fitted around the base of the chimney as the others have because of the way the stonework juts out to meet the shingles which caused several small holes to develop around the base. Because November was the end of outside work, Justin Rupp informed me he was unfortunately only able to do a patch job with a more permanent fix in the spring. The bill came to $850 (mostly for the man lift and labor) but the leak has been stopped.

I also asked Justin to check the other 3 chimneys and the front steps and send me individual estimates which he has and which we would probably have to do piece meal as the cost together is in the 5-figure range.

Also, in November I asked arborist Larry Brumbaugh to come out and give me his professional opinion on the memorial weeping cherry tree in the east yard of the church. Larry contacted me and said that 90% of the tree was dead and should be torn out. He informed me that for $725, he would dispose of the tree, grind out the stump and prune back the two dogwood trees in the spring. While I realize the weeping cherry was in memory of our beloved organist Carol Mathieson’s son Andrew who passed many, many years ago, now Carol and her husband have passed also. The congregation may want to think on dedicating another living memorial somewhere on our property which can be discussed.

In December, a new range, refrigerator and dishwasher were purchased for the garden room kitchen and installed by Lowe’s. The total cost came to $2083.36 and was paid out of the Memorial Committee.

I would like to thank the B&G committee, the Board and the congregation for their faith in me these past five years. It is time for me to step down so at the end of our fiscal year, June 30th, 2025, I would hope there is a person who would like to take the reins of chairperson over. If anyone is so interested, please let me know and I will gladly give you any and all information I have accrued, and you will always have my ear and willing hands as I am able.

Thank you.

End of report

Mary Beth Gapinski, B&G chairperson