

Furnace Replacement x2

As some of you are aware, the Church's gas furnaces are in the neighborhood of 50 years old. They were initially oil-fired but were converted to natural gas. Over the past 20 years, various members were called upon to re-light the pilot, as it tended to blow out during the winter months. As time passed, the SCG Company would make repairs as needed. We were warned by the gas company that parts would eventually become unavailable. Over the last few years, we have been fortunate to have had a heating-cooling person, who could keep the furnaces going albeit with expensive annual repairs. He again warned us about eventual failure. During the summer, he mentioned that new gas furnaces are much more efficient to run. He said the cost of a new furnace would be recovered in a few years by the saving in gas usage. The church's annual budget for the last couple of years has been included some money for the eventual replacement of furnaces.

As you know, on November 30, 2014, we had no heat in church. A new furnace was installed the following week so that we would have heat for December 7. Prior to choir practice on Thursday December 11, it was discovered that the furnace that heated the rest of the building and Sanderson Hall was not working either. Again our heating-cooling person was alerted. He arrived Friday morning to re-light the old furnace. In his attempt to re-light, he said he received a "blow back" and the furnace would not ignite. He immediately placed a call to see how we would like to proceed. After discussions with Pastor and council members, we decided to proceed with replacement of the second furnace. This was something we were not expecting, but necessary after all these years.

In addition, it was suggested that if we wanted to have the church air conditioned sometime in the future, we should install an "air conditioning coil" in the plenum now to avoid higher costs later to retrofit for air conditioning. This was done with the first new furnace for the Sanctuary. Little did we expect that the second furnace would expire so soon thereafter! Never-the-less, we were faced with the same question with the second new furnace. It was decided that the same type of air conditioning coil be included in the second new furnace. Since we have groups using Sanderson Hall during the summer and since we have older air-conditioner window units in each room, being able to add central air conditioning for the rest of the church makes sense.

To cover the cost, \$18,000 was transferred from the church's savings / checking account to accomplish all of the above. At our last Council meeting, it was decided that a request for financial assistance be made at this time. A special "Furnace Fund Account" is being established so that anyone who would like to contribute may do so. We would like to be able to replenish the monies transferred out of our reserves.