

December 2016

There is a lot to think about this month. Last month's election, of course, and the changes it will bring and what it will mean for people we care about. Our just completed capital campaign. A new year with all its promise (and peril).

As we barrel toward Christmas, I'd like to first say a heartfelt thank you to everyone who contributed to the Bowerbird Campaign, which has raised \$945,000. The funds will be used to replace our multiple rooftop heating and air conditioning units and to replace much of the roof area on our entire building.

We're still a little short of our goal of \$1.2 million, but we're close enough to allow us to do most of the necessary work. And contributions, which can be spread over three years, are still absolutely being accepted. Contact Treasurer Randy Burdge at randallburdge@yahoo.com. The work is expected to begin as soon as the weather warms in late winter. Already we are in planning stages.

The campaign has come none too soon. Many of our heating and cooling units, also known as RTUs (rooftop units), have required significant repairs recently and are limping along. They are near the end of their useful lives. Just this past week the two units that heat Fellowship Hall were pronounced dead. Repairing these two units would cost thousands and we have decided to not spend that money and see if we can get along until spring without those units. Coffee hour this past Sunday was cool, but actually doable, even as cold as it was outside. We'll take this week by week. Dress warmly and prepare for adventure!

It's good that we're getting our building in shape, because we're going to need it. It's going to be not only our shelter but our base of operations from which we will confront whatever social justice issues are coming our way at the state and national levels. And there will be many. That seems clear. The door has been opened wider to greed, hate, and violence and it will be up to us to respond to it.

Our first event in that regard, as Rev. Rose said Sunday, is a rally day at Topeka on Wednesday Jan. 11, when we will let the legislature know that we are watching. Watch our website for details. Folks, our time is here. New minister, new roof, new administration. There's going to be lots to do and we are the people to do it. I'm looking forward to doing it with you.

Have a happy holiday period, hug those you love, and stay safe!

Marjorie Rice