

East Side Stair Case Roofing Project Is Underway

Many parishioners may not be aware that there are 3 exits from the lower level of our church building. Everyone has probably used the southern exit to the lower parking lot at one time or another. However, there are also 2 exits at the ends of the hallways which access the meeting, nursery and Little Lambs rooms. These exits empty to outside staircases on the east side of the building and are designated emergency fire exits.

After occupying our new church for a couple of years, it became apparent that we had a significant safety problem to deal with. Winter snowfall sliding from the expansive sanctuary roof fills the 2 fire exit stairwells, preventing the doors from being opened. The snow depth in the stairwells, even for a modest snowfall, can exceed several feet. While our snow removal contractor is tasked with clearing the stairs, it is a difficult and time consuming job given the depth of packed snow and height of the stairwells. Until the job is completed, the emergency exits remain blocked.

The Finance Committee and the Facilities and Grounds Committee have been working to develop and fund a permanent solution to this problem. To that end, an architect was hired to develop conceptual designs for roof structures to cover both stairwells. The selected design is illustrated in the computer generated rendering below. The design incorporates columns and other features which match the architectural features of the existing building. The roof surface will be copper sheeting to deflect sliding snow to the ground and away from the exit stairs. Final design, permitting and construction is currently planned for completion by this coming summer.

Many thanks to all of our parishioners whose generous contributions to our parish have made it possible to complete this critical project! If you have any questions, please contact Jack O'Hara, at 410-821-7663 or at johara522@comcast.net. This computer rendering and description will be posted in the Facilities and Grounds Committee section of the parish website.

