

August 4, 2023

Dear Friends



Our building is important to us!

It's not a surprise to anyone that Mount Zion's ministries are tied to our building. Today our building is home to Open Sesame, the Mount Zion Café and the Mount Zion Kitchen. Our original building is a busy spot almost every day of the week. It has hosted weddings, receptions, funerals, Vacation Bible Schools and day camps. Rentals to many public groups have made our building an essential part of the broader community while providing an income stream that supports our programs.

With this history in mind, Church Council recently voted to replace our aging boilers with three heat pumps that will heat and cool the Glebe Community Room, meeting rooms, office, and classrooms on the upper level.

Why? We are currently operating with our last remaining boiler.

It was late this spring that our property committee alerted us to the fact that our second to last boiler had failed. Our remaining boiler is of the same vintage as the two that have already failed, and we know it is nearing its life expectancy. We are also aware that if it were to fail during the heating season, we would be forced to make decisions during an emergency.

We were faced with the decision to muddle through with the remaining boiler and pray that it makes it through one more heating season, **or** replace the boiler with a new one, **or** choose the more environmentally conscious alternative, a Heat Pump System.

In considering replacing the boiler, we were concerned about the system's aging piping. (The pipes are original to the building and run from the boiler throughout the church to provide hot water heating.) A significant leak in Open Sesame this summer and a previous leak in the auditorium told us we were right to worry.

Heat Pumps will reduce our carbon footprint.

We also considered that reducing our reliance on fossil fuels is in line with one of our newly adopted core values which speaks to being good stewards of Creation and providing equitable access to resources.

Another practicality is that the areas covered by the heat pumps will be air-conditioned. This will make the building more comfortable for us and our community renters. It will benefit our Open Sesame Head Start Preschool, which has recently expanded its months of operation.

We are convinced we made the right decision for those reasons, but both options come with a significant price tag. The total cost of the project will be just under \$50,000. The installation will

significantly diminish funds in our Capital Account, leaving us vulnerable in the case of emergencies.

We need your financial support!

In 2020 we installed a new, much-needed roof on the building with your generous financial support. Your church council believes that, once again, Mount Zion is up to the task of ensuring that Mount Zion continues to be a warm and inviting space for everyone.

We ask that you give this your prayerful consideration and give as you are able. Feel free to talk to any of your council, finance or property committee members.

Please help keep our building warm this winter by making a special donation today if you are able!

Thank you!

Your Church Council



Ross Schlegel a member of Mount Zion installed our three boilers in 1991. He is pictured here in the boiler room, just outside of the Open Sesame space.

He tells us that the Viessmann Boilers were the Cadillac model of the day.

A few years ago, Kirk Swanson and the property committee worked with a local contractor to rebuild one boiler using parts from one that had failed.