

The Rev. Aimée Eyer-Delevett

**Sanctuary Preservation and Readiness
Town Hall Meeting – Introductory Comments**

June 7, 2015

Our Whole Lives:

In the few months I've been here, I have grown to love this Sanctuary. Here, in this place, we are surrounded by the story of our faith. Quite literally, the story of our faith encircles us through the story told in our stained glass windows.

They tell the story of the prophets who have spoken God's truth to us.
They tell of the life, death and resurrection of Jesus.
They witness to the apostles, and to the saints of old.

I find particularly interesting the mountain ranges, orange groves, and palm trees in these windows. Trust me, you don't see these images in all stained glass windows. We see them here because they remind us that the story of our faith is contextualized in time and space. For us, the story of our faith is lived out in Southern California—right here, right now...

Which reminds us that this Sanctuary houses OUR story, too. This is *our* spiritual home because we live out *our* stories here.

- We are washed in the waters of baptism and are marked as Christ's own forever.
- Here we are taught the story of our faith, in word and sacrament.
- We're fed at the altar each week with spiritual food, to give us hope for living and strength for serving as living members of Christ's body.
- Here we promise our devotion to our beloved in holy matrimony.
- We celebrate births and joyfully offer our children at the font, that they, too, might know the saving love of Christ and join us in Christ's ministry.
- And in this holy place we bring the fears and grief of our lives:
 - A new diagnosis
 - A deeply fractured relationship
 - The death of our beloved

- And we find *hope* and healing here through those very same sacred stories passed down through the ages and made real for us here, through this community of faith.

What a sacred treasure we have been given; what a sacred trust has been placed in our hands to nurture and share . . . and pass down through the generations.

My friends, this is what the Sanctuary Preservation and Readiness Project is all about, making Firm a Foundation for Christians to be made, and formed, and nurtured for generations to come. It is without a doubt that this Sanctuary, our sacred home, is

We're fed at the altar each week with spiritual food, to give us hope for living and strength for serving as living members of Christ's body.

crying out for us to tend to her. Her bell tower is unstable, her west end is not secured to a foundation, and, upon further analysis by engineers, it was determined that the lateral supports in our building are insufficient to ensure that

she'll survive a significant earthquake. (Fortunately, the architect is here to speak to these issues much more effectively than your priest can.)

But as your priest I can affirm that this building we love is telling us that she needs our TLC. And she needs it now, so that we can ensure that this sacred treasure is still here for generations to come to form the faithful so that we, in turn, can change the world through Christ's love.

Now, I'm going to turn the floor over to Chip Nichols and Bob Easton who will speak to the structural needs of the building and share with you the preliminary plans. We're going to have a time later in the presentation for Q&A; in order to manage time, we won't be answering questions as we go along. However, we have provided you with paper on which you

can write your questions as they come up. You can ask your question during the Q&A, or you can please turn in your questions to me or to a vestry member or to Stephanie Helper at the end of the Town Hall. We really

But as your priest I can affirm that this building we love is telling us that she needs our TLC.

And she needs it now

want to hear your questions and receive your feedback, so please do turn in any questions that don't get answered today. Thank you.