

**June 4th Meeting to discuss Facts and Concerns about the Elevator:
Accessibility and Ministry at St. Stephen's, Pittsfield**

Here are the facts:

- The Elevator we currently have has reached an age where things will continue to break or need repairing or replacing
- This is evidenced by the doors having broken last year, and then the Controller having broken while we waited for the new doors to be built and installed
- The company that built our elevator is no longer in business. Baystate can maintain it, to a point, but it is “a dinosaur”. There is no other comparable company willing or able to service this elevator.
- Our elevator is a “Residential” model, meaning it was designed for a home in which one or two elderly people would use it once or twice a day to move between floors of their home
- Our elevator gets much more traffic than it was designed for, including not only frequent use, but use by people who manoeuvre their way in and out in heavy motorized carts, in order to get to the Table for meals.

We can repair the Controller for \$24,700. This will fix the one thing that is currently broken. Nevertheless, there is no telling when something else will break. It could be a few weeks, or months, or years. There is no way of telling.

We can not “retrofit” a new car into it. Custom building that would cost as much as a whole new elevator and shaft, because it would need to be designed and hand built. Codes no longer support an elevator of this size in commercial buildings~ all are supposed to hold at least a stretcher, in case of emergency.

A new, larger, up to code elevator will cost \$250k, or more~ including architectural drawings, demolition and construction. We do not know at this point if a new elevator would fit in the current stairwell, but it would certainly need a larger shaft.

Questions for YOU to ponder and pray over:

Do we go ahead with the “quicker” fix, and replace the Controller immediately, knowing something else will break at some point?

Do we begin the work of planning for a new elevator? The current endowment is about one million dollars. Is using the money we have for this project wise?

Taking money from the endowment will lessen the amount we receive in interest, so there is a “snowball” effect.

How do you see us maintaining our presence in Pittsfield, our ministries, and our building for future generations?