



Restoring Saint Elizabeth to Norwood



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Restoring Saint Elizabeth to Norwood

We are an urban-centered, long-term, slow-fizz, relationally-based, faith-motivated experiment in both neighborhood revitalization and life transformation. We think it's working! Yet we have not had the resources to tackle restoring St. Elizabeth, the dear old lady we call our church building. Her restoration is simply beyond our means. To make her "roadworthy" for the next 100 years will require the participation and help of many generous people who agree with our modus operandi and want to help us accelerate the change. Our goal is to make her dry, functional, beautiful, and accessible to our neighborhood.

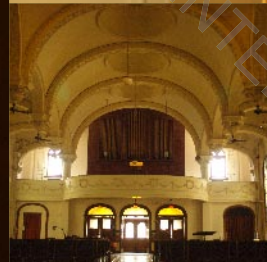
This is just a small part of our story...

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Restoring Saint Elizabeth to Norwood







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Vineyard Central,
Saint Elizabeth's Caretaker

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Vineyard Central, Saint Elizabeth's Caretaker

Vineyard Central, a community of faith located principally on the west side of Norwood, began in January 1993. At that time West Norwood was a neighborhood spiraling downward, showing all the typical signs of urban decline: littered streets, emerging gangs, drugs, domestic violence, shootings, etc. Our corner, in particular — the intersection of Carter and Mills — was often referred to as the drug corner, and daily police visits were a fixture. Quite frankly, we weren't sure at that point that we ourselves would stay long. But in 1995, when we had the opportunity to buy the former St. Elizabeth parish property, we were forced to make a decision. Would we literally buy into the neighborhood and stay or would we remain "renters" and keep our exit options open?

We stayed. Now sixteen years later that same corner is vastly different. A depressing and demoralizing intersection has become a vibrant corner of social life and the hub of an expanding and exciting influence over the neighborhood.

What happened? How did this come about?





Restoring Saint Elizabeth to Norwood

The answer to these two questions is very simple. Since 1995 we, as a faith community, have committed to one another and to our neighborhood. We believe that a sustained presence of love can turn around the bleakest of situations. This may not happen quickly, but it will happen eventually. People, not dollars, are the fundamental agents of change, and change happens best when people say: "We will stay. We will be engaged. We will love and serve."

What began as a small nucleus of committed people has grown to a group of nearly 100 people, many of whom have made long-term or life-time commitments to live and serve in West Norwood. Those commitments have resulted in the acquisition of nearly 40 homes by people who work from the inside out. (Our neighborhood is slowly becoming a place to which people want to come, not one from which people long to flee.) The presence of Vineyard Central has catalyzed the emergence of the Speckled Bird Café, the St. Elizabeth's Arts Foundation, The Convent, Sustainable Faith, 25th Hour Associates, 1801 Mills LLC, community gardens, participation in local schools and agencies, and many other worthwhile endeavors.

We are an urban-centered, long-term, slow-fizz, relationally-based, faith-motivated experiment in both neighborhood revitalization and life transformation. We think it's working! Yet we have not had the resources to tackle the St. Elizabeth's, the dear old lady we call our church building. Her restoration is simply beyond our means. To make her "roadworthy" for the next 100 years will require the participation and help of many generous people who agree with our modus operandi and want to help us accelerate the change. Our goal is to make her dry, functional, beautiful, and accessible to our neighborhood.

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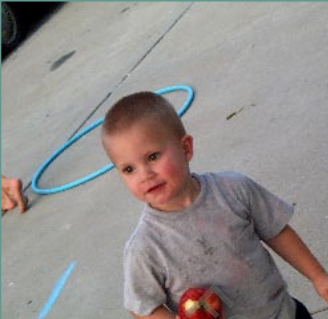
a sustained presence of love



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children bring life









families establish foundations







St. Elizabeth: a place for gatherings and celebrations









Saint Elizabeth Repairs

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What has been done

- damaged joists beneath the main floor (from old termite damage) have been repaired and braced;
- areas where the floor had sunk because of damaged joists have been leveled;
- new downspouts have been installed
- box gutters and flashing on the main roof are currently being relined with copper
- marble on porch façade has been cleaned and relaid
- front steps have been retiled
- front concrete apron (our piazza) has been beautified with the addition of:
 - plants, flowers and trees
 - café tables
 - decorative concrete

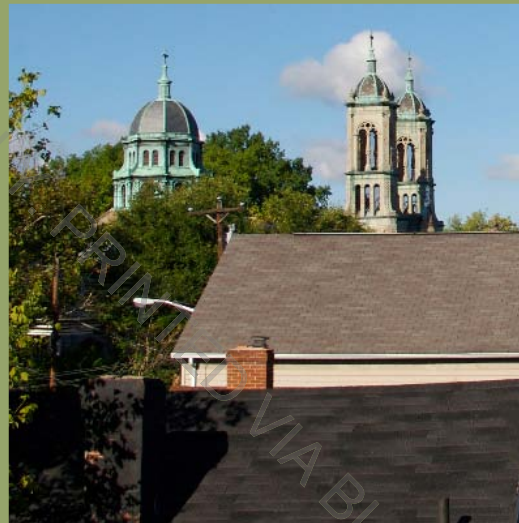




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Saint Elizabeth Repairs Needed

The following list of repairs is organized into meaningful phases. Critical issues that will arrest additional damage are addressed first, then the rest in descending order of importance.



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YEAR ONE

Roof, Flashings, Gutters on the Main Pitches

Issue:

As with the bell towers, St. E's roofing system needs work to become water-tight. Since these spaces are relatively inaccessible, ongoing maintenance is difficult. Recent storms necessitate repairs that will protect the structure of the church and interior features such as plaster and stained glass.

Proposed Solution:

EDM Slate has drawn up a plan to repair the roofing system.

Proposed Expense:

\$88,670





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Bell Tower Cupolas and Dome

Issue:

The St. Elizabeth towers have been badly damaged by weather. Still partially covered by the original slate tiles, St. E's bell towers and dome have faced over 100 years of storms. Missing tiles expose the wooden structure to further deterioration. These pinnacles are a common landmark throughout West Norwood.

Proposed Solution:

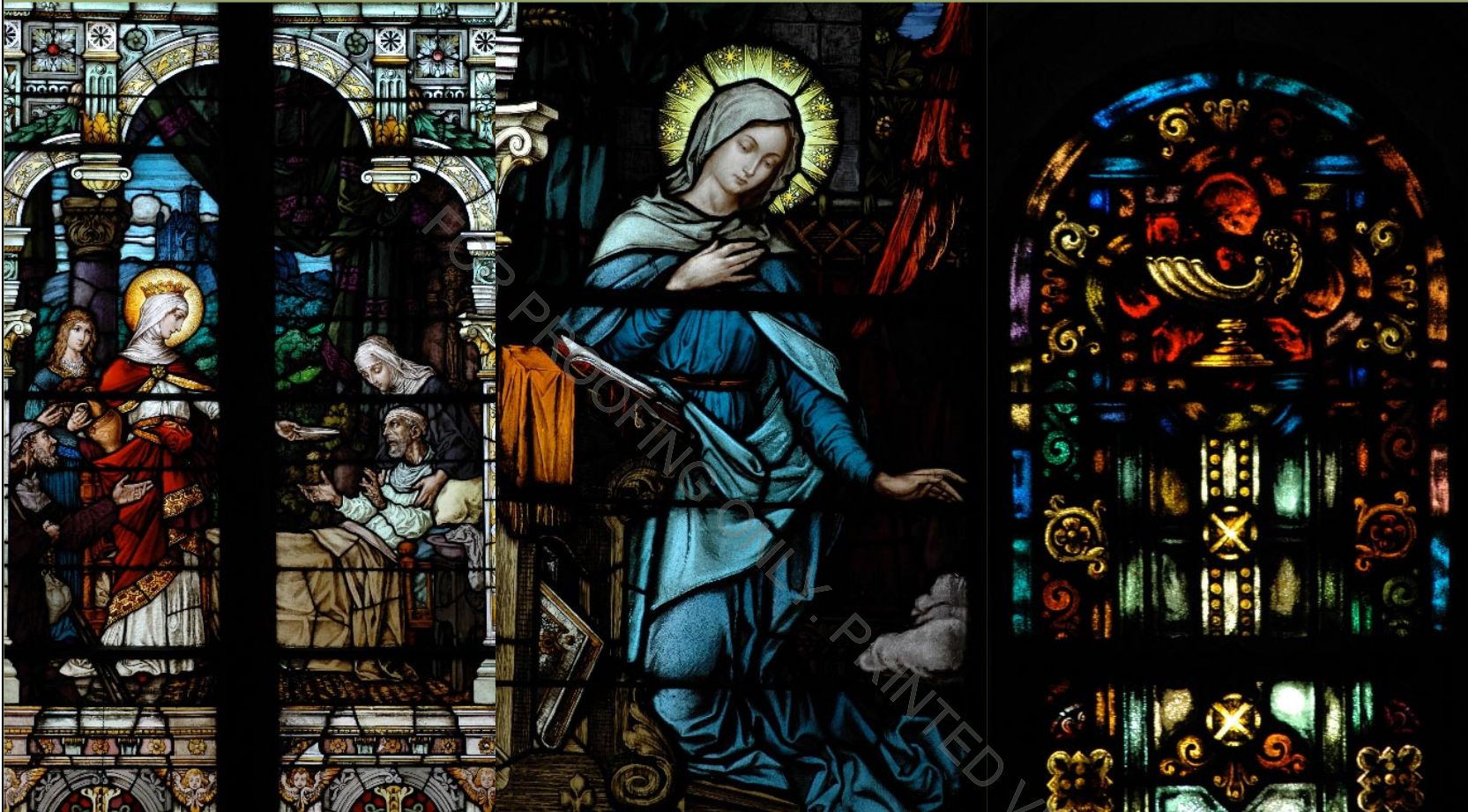
St. E's Restoration Society is working with EDM Slate, a reputable local company with direct experience with buildings of St. E's age and needs. EDM Slate, which has completed insurance-related gutter work for St. E's, proposes to fix the stuff that needs fixin'.

Proposed Expense:

Repaired bell tower cupolas and dome would beautify the church edifice and prevent any further decay. Estimated slate and copper work is \$88,200 for each tower and \$84,200 for the dome roof.







Heating System

Issue:

The heating system currently in place frequently fails, rendering the space unusable. During the winter of 2008-2009, the boiler which delivers heat to the sanctuary, classrooms and studios broke down. St. Elizabeth had to close its doors for several months, shuttering activities from Sunday morning services to art classes. Because of the heating system's antiquated and fatigued state, it is currently not dependable.

Proposed Solution:

St. E's Restoration Society has chosen a hot water system to meet the heating needs for the building. There's one thing we'd like to mention regarding this: no cooling system is proposed for the building at this time. We're okay with that.

Proposed Expense:

A dependable heating system will allow St. E's to schedule events throughout the year without fear of canceling because of boiler issues. Cost, \$200,000.



YEAR TWO

Sanctuary Restrooms

Issue:

There are no restrooms in the sanctuary area of the church. This is one of the great challenges of hosting any event in the St. Elizabeth facility. For current church visitors to visit the restroom, they must walk up the stairs and across the altar area, through the back hallways and into the rear of the church. Many visitors don't feel comfortable walking past the congregation to get to the facilities.

Proposed Solution:

The St. E's Restoration Society proposes the addition of a men's and women's restroom accessible from the North entrance of the church. This addition would require running new sewer and water lines, WiFi signals for the men and automated shoe buffers for the women. Just kidding!

Proposed Expense:

The completed project would yield two stalls in each restroom, sinks and a changing table. Estimated cost, \$24,000 plus shipping.

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Studio Restrooms

Issue:

Existing bathrooms are outdated, and cobbled together from other restrooms. They make poor use of the space, and have overly small stalls, and no exhaust system.

Proposed Solution:

Needs complete overhaul.

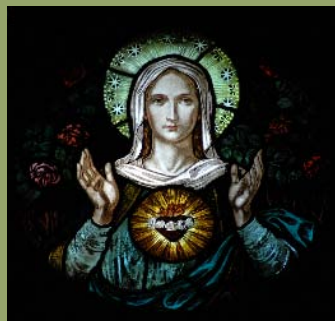
Proposed Expense:

To be determined.



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Refurbish Kitchen

Issue:

St. Elizabeth's only kitchen is essentially non-functioning. Inadequate electrical service and a multi-purposed space preclude using the kitchen for food preparation, which is a significant difficulty at large events.

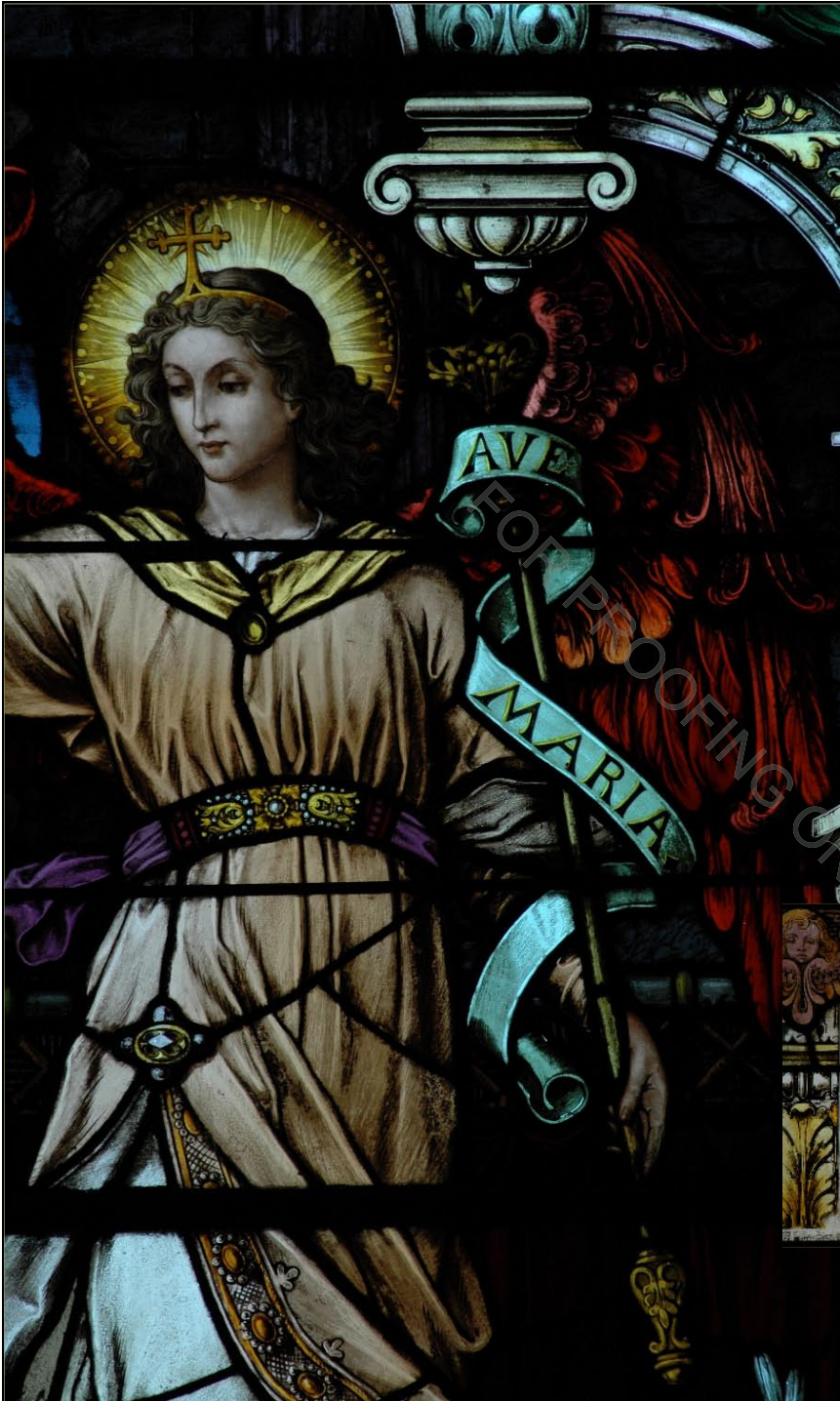
Proposed Solution:

By remodeling the kitchen to a semi-commercial-grade state, St. E's will be able to accommodate needs as varied as wedding receptions and coffee brewing.

Proposed Expense:

To be determined.





Restoring Saint Elizabeth to Norwood

Window Restoration

Issue:

The stained glass windows in St. E's are in need of repair. Crafted in the early 1900's by the Zettler Guild, a highly-respected group of artisans from Germany, the windows display story scenes of church history and of the history of the church's namesake, Saint Elizabeth. Although they are partially protected from the elements by plexiglass, time and weather have taken their toll. These windows, one of the most visually arresting aspects of the church and valued at approximately \$500,000, need to be restored.

Proposed Solution:

The St. E's Restoration Society made contact with an artisan's group from Pittsburgh skilled in working with stained glass. Artisans will dismantle the windows, numbering each piece for reconstruction. Individual panes would be cleaned and color-restored as needed. Restored panes would be leaded and set in restored frames in their original place and order.

Proposed Expense:

At the end of the restoration, the windows will look as they first did. Estimate cost is \$11,000 per window (eight total).



Restoring Saint Elizabeth to Norwood

YEAR THREE

Sanctuary Floors

Issue:

Old carpeting wore out long ago, exposing unfinished wood floors. Although some few spaces retain their original flooring in good condition, most public spaces have floors damaged by many years of use and by water that has leaked in during periods when the church was closed. Carpeting has since been stripped from these areas, and floors have been painted or otherwise protected to prevent further damage, but more work needs to be done.

Proposed Solution:

Main sanctuary areas will be re-carpeted with space-age polymers. Wood sections will be refinished.

Proposed Expense:

To be determined.



Sanctuary Lighting

Issue:

The current sanctuary lighting is inadequate, energy inefficient, and expensive to maintain. Current wiring provides few options for lighting. Evening events are often poorly lit more because of the lighting system than by choice, communicating a feeling of gloom and disrepair. The system uses light bulbs that cost approximately \$100 each, require high wattage, and generate little light in the expansiveness of the sanctuary.

Proposed Solution:

In order to increase the amount and quality of lighting, The St. E's Restoration Society will install high-output CFLs in existing sockets and increase the number of light sources as needed. The goal is to have lighting that is easy to maintain, configurable to any event, and that invites visitors into a vibrant space.

Proposed Expense:

To be determined.



Restoring Saint Elizabeth to Norwood

Plaster on Sanctuary Walls

Issue:

Leaking water has caused enough damage to the plaster that sections of it have fallen. Once the roofing/gutter repairs have been completed, plaster can be restored. Broken cherubs and state of plaster communicates disrepair.

Proposed Solution:

Repaired plaster contributes to the positive presentation of the space. This will cover up structural elements that falling plaster has left exposed and bring the walls to a finished state. Plaster work is relatively inexpensive compared to other finishing work.

Proposed Expense:

To be determined.





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Gathering in St. Elizabeth
and the west Norwood community



Ask, with the thief, that Christ remember you in His Kingdom by symbolically washing the coin in His blood (ketchup).

Accept His love and promises as you kiss your hands in the water. Then kiss the penny with you as have received His grace.





St. Elizabeth: Via Crucis, community art and music events





Restoring Saint Elizabeth to Norwood



the community of west Norwood



Restoring Saint Elizabeth to Norwood



gatherings in St. Elizabeth and the church community



Restoring Saint Elizabeth to Norwood





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