

Post Fire Clean up and Restoration

Lots of work is going on at the church and now that the initial period of intense activity is over, the vestry is happy to share an update of some of the highlights. We'll try to do this periodically. We also encourage all of you to attend the vestry meetings to hear details of work. Also attached are some recent photos of the inside of the church. It's pretty bare - all the way down to the stone. Please don't feel discouraged by the photos. As we've been reminded by our general contractor and even by our insurance adjuster, our policy provides for the restoration of the church to "pre-loss condition". That means when we get back into church, it will be restored to its historic beauty. We all wish we could give you a solid estimate of when the work will be done. However, a timeline depends on how long it will take the timber company to make a new cross-beam. It's probably going to be another six months or more. When we know more, we will let you know.

Our general contractor, Bobby Nichols, is overseeing the demolition and rebuilding. It's a complex process that will involve coordination with a lot of different companies.

Last week:

- The demo of plaster (walls & ceilings) and insulation removal was half way done. Working from scaffolding and ladders in the heat, using protective gear - not a fast process.
- Two dry ice blasting companies were invited to assist in cleaning the framing and stone (possibly). Bobby is optimistic about using that process to rid this building of smoke odor, but dry sponging and encapsulation processes may be enough to get rid of all the smoke smell.
- The Timber companies and Timber Engineer have talked and a plan is being formulated for the ceiling beams to replace the burned timber beams.
- The plastering company came out and is putting together a bid on the plastering work.
- The architect drew up a preliminary floor plan based on "loose" measurements which will be used for basic locating of basic structural items. More detailed drawings will come after demo and our meeting with the City. They may only require simple drawings for this project as it's considered a remodel.
- The electrician, John, worked on his bid.

This week:

- Bob from Town and Country and the electrician will look at the possibility of installing AC.
- The first Insulation Company will also visit next week.
- Demo work will continue.
- Rigali Studios will visit to start their bid estimate for painting/matching of new plaster to old walls.

In the previous weeks:

- Windows have been removed and are stored safe and sound at Rigali Studios.
- The organ & air chambers, which weren't damaged in the fire, were protected with a strong "wall" of plastic sheeting and positive air pressure is being maintained so no dust gets into the area.
- Scaffolding was built.
- All linens were sent to cleaners.
- Almost all the church contents, including pews and basement items were sent for storage and eventual cleaning
- Carpeting removed.
- Large old chimney was removed from the attic area (one of the first tasks after the fire, because it was dangerous.)
- All the wainscoting is down.