

An Update on Progress at St. George's Church from Eb LeMaster, Junior Warden June 9, 2010

For those who have been by the Church in the past week, things seem relatively quiet. The ServPro trucks, fans, and staff are gone. The work of contractor Johnny Phipps and his team is nearing an end in this initial phase after his team jumped into the fray full-force immediately after the flood, helping with the clean up, getting the Sanctuary back in action, and removing drywall and other affected parts of our Church. Also, the daily volunteer work "parties" have ended for now. So many folks are asking, "What's next?"

Well, I can assure you that behind the scenes things are moving faster than ever. After more than a dozen meetings with various stakeholders at St. George's since being brought on board, The Parent Company, under Bob Sarratt's leadership, has worked with us to develop a very thorough-and very abbreviated-rebuild and repair schedule. In fact, bid packages for the first phase for construction were sent out to sub-contractors on May 24, and construction related to this first phase will begin in mid-June, a mere few weeks from now. Here are a few other highlights:

- David Johnson and his architectural firm, which has have been heavily involved in multiple projects at our Church in the past, have been engaged to help with needed design work, and his group is already working on drawings related to the second phase of construction.
- A leading civil engineering firm, along with members of our very experienced Buildings and Grounds Committee, has been studying options in terms of ways to reduce future flooding risk. Many parishioners have asked how we can prevent future flooding issues, and I can assure you we are researching all practical solutions.
- We continue to pursue all paths in terms of insurance proceeds and FEMA-related support.
- We have obtained a line of credit to fund the full gamut of costs involved until longer term decisions are made on funding.

I have talked about two phases. But we are really completing the initial phase this week-the clean -up and the sanctuary. The Sanctuary is in the final stages of being completely put back together, and the rest of the Church has been stripped of damaged materials, cleaned thoroughly, and readied for construction. Now we can start on what I have referred to as "Phase One," which includes the reconstruction of the kindergarten, the first floor administrative area and other parts of the first floor. We are also moving as quickly as possible to get Hampton Hall ready for the fall schedule and to be able to facilitate big group meetings as part of what we are calling "Phase One A." We will then turn to the remaining areas, including Johnson Hall, in "Phase Two." Phase Two also will include a consideration of changing the layout of some areas, which we will preview later.

Again, construction for Phase One will begin mid-June and is expected to be completed by early August in time for Zee Pendleton and her crew to get ready for the upcoming kindergarten school year. The remainder of the schedule and Phase Two are moving forward as well.

So don't be fooled-things may look quiet at the Church at the moment, but behind the scenes there is a slew of activity and St. George's is moving at hyper speed! And we need to remember that we are a mere 30 days after what was described as a 1,000-year flood, with rainfalls over a two-day period that more than doubled the prior Nashville two-day record!

We will keep you posted on other information as we move forward, but please let us know if you have any questions along the way.