

Friday, August 20, 2010

Dear People of St. James,

The clergy found out about the decision of the Bishop and the Diocesan Board of Directors on Thursday morning. We had a meeting the Vestry and the Clergy on Friday afternoon.

This decision hit us hard.

Of course our first thoughts were for you. We know that the decision to vacate our facility until we have the results of a more thorough engineering evaluation will raise many emotions. Please know that these are normal and understandable. We encourage you to be patient with yourselves and with one another as you experience and express the shock of this challenging situation.

We are very proud of the congregation's resolve and effort to repair the outside of the facility. We also respect the values of the Bishop and the Board in making this difficult decision. We trust that they do so out of love for the people of St. James.

Our last worship at our facility, for the time being, will be on August 22nd.

We are working to provide an alternate worship location beginning August, 29th of 2010. We thank our sisters and brothers at several local churches for being willing to host us for a month or so until we can figure out a more mid-term solution. We will endeavor to keep you informed via email, the website, and written correspondence.

We will work to support the Altar Guild, Worship Team, and others to make this transition as easy as possible.

The Vestry and the Clergy will be working diligently with the Bill Goodenough from the Diocese to coordinate a more in-depth study of the safety of the building as soon as humanly possible. We will also be working the coming weeks to make a plan to care for the many beautiful objects, historical records, etc. that are dear and important to us.

However much we love our facility, it is the people who have and continue to occupy it that we love more. While we hope to be able to return, we look forward to seeing you at worship tomorrow, and the next weekend.

All of the staff will be present on this Sunday, August 22nd. After our worship, we will meet downstairs to listen to you and pray with you.

In the Peace of Christ,

The Clergy of St. James

The Rev. Terry Kylo

The Rev. Vicki Wesen

The Rev. Rilla Barrett

The Rev. Dennis Taylor

The Vestry of St. James

Bev Holden, Judy Smith, Jim Smith, Jolene Sloniker, Gloria Mapes, Paul Chaplin