

Rector's Note

8.27.26

Two brief but fierce rain storms have happened since my last Field Notes column. We continue to have water, dampness, and a musty smell in the basement of the Parish House.

I have made the decision that until we can get a better handle on these conditions and improve them, groups will not be down in that space. This affects our music program the most -- children's choir, handbell choir, and adult choir robing and music folders. We are getting all the supplies for these groups upstairs to be stored elsewhere, and cleaning the robes for the start of the new season. We are taking out items that got wet from water coming in and throwing them out.

Buildings and Grounds committee continues to work on solutions to keep water out of the basement. Our roofer is looking at the whole building -- gutters, drains, the chimney -- and will work on getting any problems fixed. As I mentioned last week, we will work on the window well covers. We are putting in some simple fixes like sandbags to areas where the grading is off.

Longtime St Martin's members know that there have been water problems around the buildings for years. And some will remember that about two years ago there was a bad mold problem in the undercroft (church basement). The problem we're having now is not at that level. The undercroft problem was severe because the space had been vacant and unattended during COVID. While we can't be sure if the Parish House basement will get worse before it gets better, we have been following the issue all summer and are doing our best to get on top of it.

As we go into the new program year, we will have to be patient with each other as some of us share space on the main floor of the Parish House. With everyone pitching in, we can get the basement into a space that is safer and more comfortable for the many folks who use it.

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