

Where We Are – Week of June 28, 2009

1. First things first – We have not received the final report from Ryan Biggs Engineers, so there isn't any updated news on the building. However, Allegrone's steel beams are shoring up the wall, so Phase 1 work has begun. This is the first step in getting into the Parish Hall.
2. The sobering news given two weeks ago in the draft report did bring forward from many of you concerns and feelings; that sharing has helped the Executive and Vestry groups problem-solve and address some of them:

“What if someone in my family wants to plan a wedding?”

“What if I die – I always thought I'd be buried from St. James.”

Unfortunately, we cannot control whether these things will happen at St. James, but we can accomplish weddings and funerals from a church. Both Christ Church in Sheffield and St. Paul's in Stockbridge are available to Francie and us at St. James for either of those events.

Some of you have expressed real sadness at the inability to visit a loved one buried in the Columbarium. We recognize that we cannot just open the red doors to let everyone in, but if there is a special date or anniversary, or you especially need that connection because it has been a long time, please call Doug Happ and he will arrange a date and time with you for that visit.

3. Francie, the Executive Team and the Vestry are very mindful of how difficult this time out of our building has been for everyone. Please keep talking with us and sharing your concerns and questions. The best thing we can do right now is stick together and lean on each other and God.