



“Project Rainwater”

Work in May has focused on inspecting the cause of plaster damage related to water and moisture entering the interior east wall of the church. This is the current top priority before many other areas of the church are addressed.



1. **Gutter Blockage:** Complete blockage of the east gutter directly above the windows with plaster damage was found due to large collection of tree debris and pine needles with a minor amount of roof tile debris from loss or shedding of slate pieces. Blockage has now been cleared and gutter cleaned from debris.
2. **Slate Roof Inspection at East Wall Eave:** The condition of what is the original slate roof tiles at the roof edge just above where the plaster damage is located appears to be in a greatly “aged” but acceptable condition. No roof leakage is believed to be present in this area. This is additionally supported by interior attic inspection which shows no visible signs of water damage from inside the church attic.
3. **Gutter and Upper Exterior Wall Inspection:** Visual inspection shows a marked difference between the north (no plaster damage) and south area (plaster damage) of this exterior brick wall. The south area presents signs of discoloration resembling darker green/brown/black which is likely caused by organic growth of mold and mildew due to the pine needles and tree debris being carried from a leaking gutter down along the wall face with some water entering the interior of the church causing plaster damage. This approximate 24’ length of box gutter is lined with a rubber membrane and appears to have failed, likely due to both age and additional damage likely caused by freezing of the blockage debris due to seasonal winter temps.
4. **Repair Activity:** Further close up/hands on inspection of the box gutter is needed which is at a height of 28’ above ground. Scaffolding has been purchased to allow this inspection to occur. It is quite likely that the entire approximate 48’ (2 x 24” sections) of box gutter on this east side wall will need to be rebuilt and repaired with a new liner.
5. **Reducing Risk from Future and Repeat Damage:** 9 Pine trees (*source of gutter blockage*) and 1 Maple tree have been identified on the north and east side of church which are extremely high risk to either the Church or Parsonage structures. These trees measure 80 plus feet tall and removal is highly recommended.
6. **Surrounding Church Landscape on East Side of Church:** Landscape vegetation has been removed from the east side of church to clear the way for construction and repair activity.
7. **Grade Improvements:** At some time in the future once repair activity on this area is complete, gutter improvements will take place a certain amount of dirt will be removed from the east side of the church to improve the slope and natural drainage away from the building to better prevent rainwater leakage into the church basement. It is recommended that only natural stone landscaping be replaced without vegetation to create a more maintenance free space on this side of the church.
8. **Questions or Comments:** Contact Glenn Lutz at **989-948-1512** or **glennlutz@msn.com**.

“Unless the Lord builds the house, the builders labor in vain.” Psalm 127:1