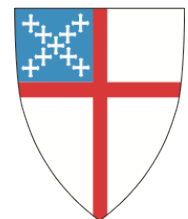


# St. James Episcopal Church

810 Puget Street  
Sedro-Woolley, WA 98284  
[www.stjamessw.org](http://www.stjamessw.org)



St. James Episcopal Church is a part Diocese of Olympia within Episcopal Church in the USA with over 2.1 million members which is a leader in advocacy for peace and justice in the world and whose vision grows from reason, tradition and scripture.



Thursday, September 29, 2011

Dear People of St. James,

The Vestry of St. James has received a bid from Fisher Construction to repair the structure of the church. Basically the bid is for tying the floor joists and the ceiling trusses to the walls so that in a seismic event the building would be more stable.

The estimate for the repair is \$85,000 including tax. We thought this a very fair price.

In considering this proposal we realized that it was not responsible to look only at the cost of this structural repair. We feel it is necessary to also take into account other repairs that we would reasonably expect to make in the next years. These include

- repair of the sewer line
- repair of the downstairs floor
- mold assessment and removal
- evaluation and possible repair of our electrical, mechanical, and plumbing systems

We also feel that to use St. James facility over the next decades we would need to make some renovations. These include

- a bathroom upstairs
- a ramp or an elevator for accessibility

We are working on getting some estimates on the possible repairs and renovations. .

As we considered these factors we were forced to wonder two things: 1) if making these investments is good stewardship and 2) if we have the financial capacity as a congregation to pay for them. While none of us wanted to say it first, we realized that we had each come to the same conclusion.

With much sadness, our current thinking is not to proceed with the structural repair of the facility and repairs and renovations that would need to follow.

However, we want to talk this over with you at a meeting on October 16 after worship.

We remain committed to being an Episcopal congregation in Sedro-Woolley. It has been wonderful to realize that while we have grieved our building and wrestled with our feelings that the people of St. James have been faithful in worship, activities, and in financial support of our congregation. We are proud of the Godly Play ministry that has begun, our member's work in the food bank, the

Friendship House Dinner, Seafarer's Ministry support, and the loving care our members show one another and the world.

We also want to honor our congregation's work to repair and maintain our facility over the last 107 years. St. James' church building has provided a place for our baptisms, funerals, weddings, and worship services. Our children have played there and we have grieved our loved ones there. Our care for our facility was one way that we cared for one another and trusted God's promises to our community and world.

After we have received your feedback at this meeting and have time to prayerfully reflect on the conversation we will vote on what to do as a Vestry.

If we vote to not return to the St. James building a few things would happen then:

- a. We would work with the congregation to secure the windows and other valuable articles and find proper storage for them.
- b. We would work with the Diocese of Olympia who would bear the financial responsibility to demolish the building.
- c. We would explore with the congregation the possibility of putting up a new facility, perhaps in partnership with another organization, on the Parker House property.
- d. We would explore what it would be like to continue in rented facilities and what we would need to do to make this feasible in the long run.

We are holding each of you in our prayers. We ask that you hold us in yours. May we all all prayerfully consider together what to do and entrust ourselves to our gracious and loving Lord.

In Peace Beyond Understanding,

St. James Vestry,

Bev Holden, Judy Smith, Bob Abrams, Pat Horn, Joleen Sloniker, Gloria Mapes, and Jim Smith

St. James Clergy

The Rev. Terry Kylo, Missioner  
The Rev. Vicki Wesen, Associate Missioner  
The Rev. Gretchen Cohan, Associate Missioner