

Church Family,

The church is a place of many memories; times of joy and laughter, times of sadness and pain, and everything in between. From the sanctuary, to the Sunday school rooms, fellowship hall, gym, Quilter's hut, and grounds, the memories are ours to treasure. Berea Friendship is a special place in each of our lives! It is special because it is here that we draw closer to God in community; it is special because of precious relationships with our brothers and sisters in Christ. Jesus Christ ties us together, and has given us a beautiful location and facility. So I would like to begin by sharing what has been happening at this location and facility while we have not been actively present.

If you haven't noticed yet, the pine trees between the church and trailer park have been removed. The pine trees were definitely accidents waiting to happen! Seven of the ten trees were already showing signs of decay within their trunks at ground level. We are blessed to have them down in a controlled manner! It was the right thing to do for our neighbors, and the church. Eastern Tree Service gave us an unbelievable price on cleaning along the whole property line. The trustees will begin spraying out brush and continue cleaning up this summer. We will see what direction we go when cleanup is complete.

We were having some plumbing issues in our restrooms downstairs. It's a serious issue when toilets will not flush properly! The problem was a sewer line that had come apart just outside the building, on the fellowship side. It was just wear and tear in older utilities. Again we were blessed to get a good price on difficult work. An assistant pastor and plumber by the name of Eric Talley solved the problem. He was a joy to work with!

Now we go to heating and air issues. The system for the fellowship hall was thirty years old and requiring frequent repairs and causing water damage to ceiling below. Thank God the Trustees wisely voted to replace the whole system! Now we can enjoy the fellowship hall without constant problems for years to come. Cross Mechanical gave us a good price on that work! There are still three heat and air systems in the church pushing thirty years of age. There will no doubt be more work necessary soon, but we have made real lasting progress.

And now we go to roofing concerns. I am delighted to report there are now none! Since my arrival at BFUMC there were two major leaks in upstairs Sunday school rooms. Just a couple of months ago a third leak began. During torrential rains water would be running down the walls, and carpets would be soaking wet. The Trustees voted to take bold action and do major repairs. Carlton Roofing examined the damaged areas, pin pointing each problem in detail, and made complete repairs. Carlton Roofing was recommended as a contractor worth waiting on because they get to the core of the problem. There is one earlier patch job at the base of the steeple we will need to watch carefully, and address fully when we can. There are also issues on the gym roof we will need to address in years ahead. I've walked all the roofs; we're in good shape for now.

You never know how and what others have done before you at most churches. While making the plumbing repairs mentioned above electric lines were encountered and broken. As I write this message electrical repairs are being made. I think it is a blessing in disguise! In fixing the electric lines it was discovered that old underground conduits were leaking water all the way back to breaker boxes in the downstairs boiler room. The boxes had rusted to the point of falling off the wall and being a serious shock hazard, or worse. We are blessed.

There is more in the works, and it is a never ending process in a facility of this age. I say that to make points that you know well. To take care of this church that we love and cherish requires dedication and faithful workers in any and all circumstances. And yes, it takes dollars to maintain what God has so generously given us. Whatever the cost happens to be, God is trusting you and I to rise and meet that need. In this covid crisis much has been done. I thank everyone that has contributed.

In Christ,
Pastor Davon