

# December 1, 2024 Open Doors Update

**W**e are happy to report on the progress of our Open Doors construction project. Immediately after our groundbreaking event on October 17 work began on remediation of hazardous materials from the building. This means that all the asbestos that has been hiding in our parish house in a variety of places (lower level around pipes, kitchen floor, second floor in old Sunday school rooms, etc.) had to be removed and that was all completed in a few weeks.

Currently our contractor, Drulyk Construction, is setting the stage for some serious demolition work in the Montgomery Street lobby area where stairs will be removed and an elevator to the second floor will be installed. In doing this a little more asbestos was detected in the basement that will be removed before the full-on demolition begins, very soon. The windows and doors in the lobby have been carefully removed, stored, and will be reused in the new lobby as it is created around the elevator. In addition, temporary walls are being built to set apart the construction areas from the rest of our building so we can move around safely. Drulyk is doing a great job of keeping the areas around construction (and deconstruction) as clean as possible. Shortly after demolition work begins in the Montgomery Street lobby we will see similar demolition adjacent to the Sargent Foyer area where new bathrooms will be constructed and eventually a door will be installed to the parking lot. We are in constant communication with Drulyk's project manager, being sure we all understand what is happening, where, and when; we will do our best to share important information as necessary.

The biggest adjustment during this time is functioning without a kitchen and we are managing amazingly well! Coffee hour in the Nave has been very popular and some are even saying they don't want to return to the Brewster room when the kitchen is back online! And we have had to learn how to enter the building in new ways. Until further notice we should enter the building through the kitchen and walk through a very crowded Hansen Dining Room to reach the church offices. While the kitchen is completely empty the Brewster Room has not been disturbed and is available for meetings.

If you haven't looked at the Church website recently, be sure you do! We have posted several new pieces, including videos that tell the story of Open Doors, construction progress and our developing

St. Paul's Episcopal Church



**OPEN DOORS**

Preparing for our  
3rd Century of Ministry in Downtown Syracuse NY

partnership with A Tiny Home for Good. Particularly notice the following, all near the top of the page for all Open Doors related information: Fall Update Document, Open Doors videos, and other updates (including recent Courier articles like this one.)

If you have any questions, please contact a member of our steering committee which meets monthly to follow construction and fundraising efforts (more about that soon): Becky Livengood, Fr Philip, Betsy Elkins, Tom Cantwell, Doug Mouncey, Marion Greenhalgh, Dick Pilgrim, David Ridings and Michael Mach. In addition, Betsy Elkins, Doug Mouncey and Fr. Philip are working closely with Drulyk Construction and meet regularly with them as well as with our architects from Crawford and Stearns.

It is a busy and exciting time despite the mess and confusion. Stay strong and flexible, just like we did throughout COVID! And be grateful!

