

Holy Trinity Episcopal Church, Southbridge, MA

Building Committee Report for August 13, 2025, Vestry Meeting

Appointments completed

July 15th Fire Extinguisher inspection occurred

July 22nd Slim's/Berthiaume cleared drains – 1 from floor drain at the bottom of the outside steps, and 2 from the roof downspout to the left of the undercroft door. The open end of the floor drainpipe is under a rock shelter and is marked with a sign. The open end of the other pipe is just a little uphill and to the left of the rock house. Both pipes are green. The downspout drain was plugged up and perhaps water overflowing from the roof contributed to the amount of water trying to get down the floor drain. Jason Berthiaume suggested dumping some water down the floor drain periodically to help keep it clear.

Appointments upcoming:

Building and Fire Inspection was done on August 6th. Theodore Tetreault, Building Commissioner, Steve Lavoie, Lieutenant Fire Inspector, and Mike Julian were present from the town. We did pass the inspection but there are a couple of issues we need to address. One is installing emergency lights in the stairway to the balcony and on the far side of the balcony. The other issue was the table, chair and boxes at the end of the Food Share hallway. Those items have to be removed.

Other information:

Tamsin has completed a combined map of where the fire extinguishers and fire exits are located. Laminated copies have been posted in all areas.

A new drain cover for the drain outside the undercroft door was purchased to replace the one that had very small (1/4") holes. The new cover has larger (3/8") holes so hopefully that will increase the volume of water going down the drain per minute, and decrease (if not completely eliminate) the water overflowing into the undercroft.

UPDATE - After the rain on Thursday July 31st there was no water in the undercroft.

The Food Service Inspection will take place closer to the end of the year. Someone from that department will call, maybe in October, to schedule that inspection. They will be very flexible with scheduling. I will have it scheduled for a Friday so that Helen, from Rosilda's Kitchen, can be present.

The gas odor was noticed again in the Undercroft. Lynn called National Grid – Gas and they sent someone to check it out. Gordon, our plumber, came to check it out later and he said the odor he could smell was not natural gas odor. If it is noticed again, we should call Gordon Plumbing, not the gas company.

The fire department was dispatched to Holy Trinity on August 1st at 12:47 am. NO smoke or fire were found. A smoke alarm had gone off, Zone 18, which is in the undercroft. Could be faulty, or dust may have crossed the sensor. The fire alarm company suggested we vacuum the smoke detectors once a year. It has been 9 years since the system was installed and usually after 10 years the detectors will need to be replaced.

On August 6th I turned the hot water off to the bathroom sink in the Narthex since that is the faucet that is dripping. I will see if I can do something to fix that before we look at replacing the whole fixture. On August 11th and 12th, I replaced the insides of the hot water faucet. There is still a drip, but not like it had been dripping. I still have the hot water to the faucet shut off for the time being.

Jean Frost
September 10, 2025