

Basement Update

November 23, 2025

Church family,

We want to provide a clear, detailed update on the basement project at Harvest Springs. It has now been three and a half months since the flooding at the end of July that damaged the entire basement and exposed years of mold growth. Today, we want to express our gratitude, share where things currently stand, and outline the next steps as we move forward together.

Thank You

First, thank you.

Thank you to everyone who has shown up, some of you carrying out debris, others offering hours of hard work, others lifting this project up in prayer, and still others giving sacrificially. Because of your investment of time and energy, we are now *nearly finished* with the material removal phase. In total, approximately 30 tons of damaged material have been removed from the basement. That is an incredible accomplishment, and we are deeply grateful.

Thank you also for your continued support, patience, and flexibility with Harvest Kids on Sunday mornings. Lindsey and her team are doing an exceptional job navigating these changes, and our kids have adapted well to their temporary spaces.

Finally, thank you to those who have already given financially to the project. Even before knowing the full scope or final cost, you have chosen to invest because you believe in the mission of Harvest Springs and in the generations who will worship, serve, learn, and grow here long after us. Thank you for demonstrating generosity even in a season of uncertainty.

Progress Update

The removal of all damaged materials from the basement is now *almost complete*, and the space has been taken back down to the foundation. The basement is exposed and raw, giving us a clear view of the underlying issues that contributed to the water damage over the years.

Back in September, we shared that this physical reality mirrors a spiritual one. As we've taken the building down to the foundation, God has clarified a foundational value in us as a church: Generational Legacy. This is our calling and commitment to pass faith from one generation to the next. Even as our physical foundation is being examined, our spiritual foundation is becoming clearer.

Next Steps

Over the past month, several contractors have walked through the basement, and we have also received a structural analysis. We know this is a large project. However, the scope is still unknown, which makes it challenging to offer specific details about timelines or cost. For now,

our focus is on gathering the information needed to steward the resources God has entrusted to us faithfully.

That process unfolds in two phases.

Phase 1: Gathering Information

Before any decisions can be made, we must identify the root issues:

1. Determine the extent of the underground roof drain damage and correct drainage issues.

The Board of Administration has accepted a proposal from MT Dirt to begin exploratory work on the exterior drainage system. This work will identify the failures in the current system and develop a plan to redirect surface water away from the foundation. This will be billed on a time-and-materials basis, not to exceed \$136,000. *This drainage work will not begin until additional assessments are complete.*

2. Determine whether the basement walls or floor have settled.

We need to know whether the walls or floor have shifted or moved over time. This is essential for understanding what structural repairs will be required to ensure long-term integrity.

3. Determine the material beneath the basement slab.

We must identify what type of material, soil, clay, fill, or something else, lies beneath the slab. This will help us determine whether the entire slab needs to be removed and replaced and how to rebuild with long-term integrity.

4. Hire a geotechnical engineer.

A geotechnical investigation will analyze soil, moisture, drainage, and foundation conditions and provide detailed recommendations for moving forward safely and wisely.

Phase 2: Evaluating Options and Costs

Once the information from Phase 1 is complete, we will take the following steps:

1. Determine the project scope and gather bids.

With clear data in hand, we will request updated bids from general contractors to provide costs, schedules, and project components. We anticipate hiring a local general contractor to oversee the project.

2. Evaluate repairing the basement vs. other potential options.

Once we understand the true cost of repairing the existing basement, we will compare it with the costs of alternative options, such as repairing the concrete slab without removal or a potential above-ground expansion. We want to choose a path that is realistic for our budget and strategic for long-term ministry. Our goal is to make a decision that is both financially responsible and missionally aligned, planting seeds that will bless future generations and strengthen our legacy of faith.

What We Know and What We Don't

To be honest, we do not yet know:

- the final cost,
- the full scope of work, or
- whether we will rebuild the basement or choose another option.

But we do know this:

Whatever direction we pursue, it will require a significant financial investment, and because this damage is not covered by insurance, that investment will come from us, the church family.

This is more than a construction project. This is an investment in the mission God has entrusted to us to build a Jesus centered community where people take their next steps following Jesus. It is an investment in the children learning to follow Jesus in our lobby right now, and in the families who will walk through these doors for decades to come.

How You Can Invest

Every one of us can invest in this future through:

- **Prayer:** asking God for wisdom, provision, and unity.
- **Serving:** helping our ministries continue to thrive during this transition.
- **Giving:** offering sacrificially above our regular tithes.
- **Committing:** choosing to walk together with faith and unity in this season.

This is the season where we plant seeds we may never fully see grow. That is Generational Legacy, building something that lasts beyond us.

Two Invitations

As we continue gathering information, we invite you to:

1. **Pray with us**
Pray for clarity, wisdom, and direction. Pray for God's provision, from his glorious, unlimited resources, for the needs ahead.
2. **Give generously and sacrificially**
If you already give regularly, thank you. Would you consider giving above and beyond,

perhaps \$5, \$50, or \$100 a month, toward the facility renovation?

- You can set up recurring gifts online by selecting “Facility Renovation”.
- Giving envelopes are also available at the back giving station to write “Facility Renovation” for cash or check contributions.

We have already received approximately \$28,000 designated for the basement from people in our church, from other churches in Great Falls, and from individuals who join us online each week. Thank you for your generosity.

Looking Ahead

Thank you for your time, your sacrifice, your prayers, your service, and your generosity. We believe God is doing something significant, not just in our facility, but in our church family. Even as we go through a season of tearing down to the foundation, God is building up a generational legacy that will outlast us all.

We will continue to keep you updated as the next steps unfold.