

For Public Release

October 2, 2023

The real estate of Saint Stephen's Episcopal Church, located at 1241 Crawford Drive, went onto the market during the last week of September 2023. The building is up for sale, but the congregation is not ending. Saint Stephen's will continue to function as a worshiping community, simply without permanent property of our own, for now.

This move was the result of years of discussions by our governing body, the vestry, and after consultation with our Bishop, the Right Reverend Dr. Marty Stebbins. Last April most of the active members of the congregation came together to discuss our future together. At that meeting our finances were discussed frankly and it was clear that significant changes were required. The group gathered was asked if they would approve moving forward with the possible sale of the building. It was agreed to unanimously.

We arrived at this situation because of some long-term trends, but the pandemic greatly exacerbated our situation. The leadership of our congregation believes this is the best way to be stewards of what has been entrusted to us and to further the mission of the Church. Our hope is to become more focused on ministry to our community and to the people of Billings instead of focusing on building issues and shrinking budgets.

Saint Stephen's Episcopal Church began in 1952 as a "church plant" from Saint Luke's. The physical building has expanded twice in its history adding office space and Sunday School rooms, and later a larger more modern worship area and expanded parish hall.

For many years Saint Stephen's has been proud and honored to host the Brown Baggers group of Alcoholics Anonymous which holds fourteen meetings a week. We hope that the future owners of the building would consider allowing them to continue to meet in the building, if at all possible.

As we move into this new era, our hope and faith continues to be rooted in our Baptismal Covenant and the call to seek and serve Christ in all people and to love our neighbors. We believe that this move will better equip us to do that for the next era of Saint Stephen's Episcopal Church.

All questions about the property itself should be directed to Tyler Samson of NAI Business Properties. Questions about the congregation can be directed to our office at (406) 259-5017.

Sincerely,

Dr. Steve Gerstner, Senior Warden
Doris Gerstner, Junior Warden and Treasurer
Rev. Stephen C. Day, Rector