

## Guinston Gutters Mission 22

### **Silver Lake Christian Community Church, Brackney, PA.**

A July storm flooded the lower level of the church building, soaking the fellowship hall, 2 Sunday School classrooms, kitchen, bathroom, and utility room. The insurance company declined to pay anything to help with recovery. No one at SLCCC had any experience with flood recovery demolition or toxic mold control work, so Pastor Rick asked for help from other churches. Guinston was the only congregation to respond.

Walter and Steve spent a day driving to Brackney to survey the damage and come up with a work plan. On September 22-24, our team of 7 traveled to Brackney to begin the process of clearance, demolition and decontamination. Thanks to preparatory work by the Silver Lake congregation, we had forced ventilation in place to reduce the concentration of foul air in the basement, and we had two dump trailers ready to haul all the debris away to the local landfill.



The first order of business was removal of moldy ceiling tiles, followed by securing electrical cables and heating air ducts safely above the ceiling grid.



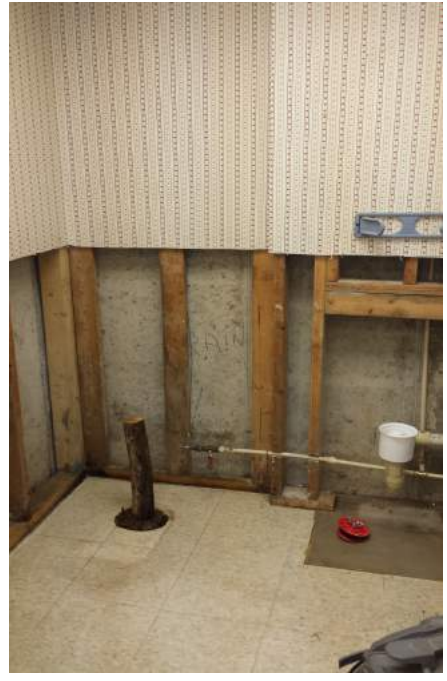
Non-load-bearing partitions were demolished and removed.



Contaminated drywall was gutted out to 42 inches above floor level.



Our team always tries to make a workplace fashion statement.



Gutted and cleaned classroom, furnace room and bathroom.



After cellar toilet fixture removal, an unanticipated sewer line back-flow issue was resolved by the engineering committee with a high-technology cutoff valve and a floor-mopping with bleach.

Contaminated furnace intake ducting was opened and cleaned, all debris and dirt were removed, walls and floor were cleaned and sprayed with bleach solution and allowed to dry. The preparatory work and hands-on participation by members of the Silver Lake congregation allowed us to complete the job of clearance, gutting, and cleanup in just two days.



After finishing work Saturday afternoon we all had a pleasant “High Tea” break on the church lawn.



As a result of our two-day effort the church basement was once again fit for use and able to be closed and heated for the winter without worrying about major mold contamination of the basement or of the sanctuary above it. Major interior basement remodeling and finishing work was still needed. Some issues with structural support and with water drainage around the foundation were revealed by the demolition process; these would also need to be addressed in the future remodeling work.

We traveled homeward somewhat tired and dirty, knowing that we had worked as obedient servants of Our Lord, and knowing that we had the thanks of the Silver Lake congregation.

Our volunteer roster for this mission included Mark Bell, Walter Blumenfeld, Sandra Britcher, Steve Judy, Ray Kaufman, Shelly Kaufman, Dennis Tompkins, and Shyrl Tompkins. Many of the Silver Lake congregation also joined in for a practical education in flood recovery.