

**NEWS RELEASE – 07/21/17**

**STONINGTON COMMUNITY CENTER MEMORIAL WINDOWS PROGRAM**

Local volunteers continue their work to preserve the historical landmark of the Stonington Methodist Episcopal Church building, built in 1917. Now known as the Stonington Community Center, current building restorations have involved removing the old carpet to reveal the original hardwood floors, removing the old drop ceiling, and having new siding installed. The committee is in the process of taking bids to update the electrical and restroom.

The windows are the next feature to be addressed. Bids are currently being taken for historically accurate patterned glass windows, staying true to the original window design and shape. In an effort to raise funds to replace windows the committee has created a “Memorial Windows” program. For a \$2000 donation a memorial name plate will be displayed. Individuals, families, groups, clubs, classes, etc. are encouraged to go together and fund a window. The Memorial Window/general donation form can be found at [www.seced.net](http://www.seced.net) on their “Links” page. Contact Fern Wright at (719) 324-5826 or on her cell at (719) 353-1136 for more information on the program.

Listed on the National Registry of Historic Places, the late Gothic Revival style of the white clapboard church recalls New England design. It was the second church built and the only identified example of this style in Baca County. The original weathervane and bell are still functional. The committee is committed to keeping restorations in line with maintaining the structure’s original appearance.

The Stonington Community Center, located at 48875 Co Rd X south of Walsh, has been awarded an Enterprise Zone designation. Contributions exceeding \$100 to this building restoration project will qualify for a Colorado tax credit. Cash contributions will qualify for a 25% Colorado tax credit, and in-kind contributions will qualify for a 12.5% (of value) tax credit. Forms to apply for tax credits can be found at [www.seced.net](http://www.seced.net) on their “Links” page. Make donations payable to SECED (Southeast Colorado Enterprise Development, Inc.) and mailed to Fern Wright at 47818 Co. Rd. X, Walsh, CO 81090.

Go to the “Stonington Community Center” Facebook page to view project pictures, upcoming events, current activities, along with additional information.

The committee is planning a 100 year birthday celebration and dedication on Saturday, September 2<sup>nd</sup> at noon. The program will include music by local talent, a pot luck lunch, old-time games, and plenty of time to visit. The committee’s restoration goal is to maintain a portion of the history of Stonington, and provide a gathering place for the local community to create new memories. For additional information on the project, or to donate labor skills or financially, please contact Fern Wright at (719) 324-5826 or on her cell at (719) 353-1136.