



The Renovation News

The First Presbyterian Church
Bergen, New York

Issue Number 6
November, 1996

PROGRESS & PLANS: WE NOW HAVE HEAT IN NEARLY ALL THE NEW ROOMS IN THE CHURCH!! The only areas without heat are the Fellowship Hall itself, the new center basement area, the center entryway on the first floor, and the space where the pastor's and church secretary's offices were. Many thanks to Bill Bliss and his crew for getting our Sunday School rooms warmed up.

The major work in the new center basement area is about complete; the block walls are in and the cement floor poured. We can now walk directly from the sanctuary basement to the Fellowship Hall basement. The next job in that area is to put up the walls for the



new restrooms, the hallway and a new storage room area. Installation of the lift for the handicapped and building of the new rear entryway will occur as soon as the lift itself arrives in four-to-five weeks.

As everyone can see from the front of the church, the new addition to the center entryway has been built. (Do not be concerned about the handpainted renditions of windows and doors

Jason Herry & Rick Stacy

on the plywood exterior - real windows and doors will be there before long!). Thanks to Rick Stacy and his team for a fine job.

Pastor Dave and Jean Claus, our Church Secretary, are now occupying the old stage area (and new "music" room) while their new offices are being built. The pastor's office will be the old lounge, and there will be a workroom for the copier, files; etc., between that office and the secretary's office. In addition, the back hallway will be much wider than the current narrow and congested one. We hope to have those areas done by late

November. The first floor restrooms should be done by then also.

Work on the new basement rooms under Fellowship Hall will continue (finishing the walls and ceilings, door hardware, windows, etc.), and all should be done except for carpet by early-mid December.

PRIORITIES: For the next several weeks, the renovation project will need to focus on completing the new spaces and rooms to make them fully

operational and as comfortable as possible. Walls need to be put up and finished, hardware installed, restrooms made functional, etc. For this reason, a schedule for the rebuilding of the Fellowship Hall roof structure has not been set, but it will probably begin after Christmas. Similarly, the expansion of the front hall and entry into the new space and building of the new stairs to the second floor and basement will be scheduled for late this year or early 1997. Once the Fellowship Hall structural work is done, we can finish off that room and begin to finish and equip the kitchen. There are plans to build a temporary covered walkway through the Fellowship Hall from the right rear entrance



The New Front Entry

to the kitchen and front stairway to ensure safety for all using that space, especially the children and Kid's Connection.



Everyone Deserves a Pop Break

installation. Chris' professional drywall taping and caulking have made even our work look good!!

SOME THANKS: Thanks again to Rick Stacy, Lennie Brill, and Bill Bliss and their crews for their carpentry, plumbing, and heating work. The jobs they are doing are first class and are being done at a considerable savings to the church. A special thanks goes to Chris Gresens from those of us who have been using our "amateur" skills at drywall



Our volunteers have spent many hours working in the church on the scheduled "work days", but some have also been there at those odd hours throughout the week. For that we particularly thank Bill Waldruff and Dick vonBergen.

For many weeks since late summer there have been some dedicated CLEAN-UP CREWS who come in on Saturday afternoons and evenings to pick up the messes made by the rest of the workers and to get the building ready for Sunday's services. The list is long, and growing, but they

"Uh-oh! What Did We Do Wrong?"

deserve mention and our thanks here: Ray & Dottie Abraham, Gina Bliss, Joan & Steve Dermody, Cindy D'Errico, Andrea & Tony Golino, Marge Lawrence, Tammy & Jerry Menzie, Sandy Partridge, Karl Phelps, Sandy & Lee Player, Cheryl & Dick Saville & family, Pat & Corky Shaw, and Ellen & Tom Taylor. Many thanks for your help. Reminder: the sign-up list for the Clean-up Crews is passed around at the Sunday services.

PROJECT COSTS: At the end of October project costs had totalled \$154,000, with \$42,000 for engineering/architectural service, \$65,000 for materials, \$43,000 for contracted labor, and the balance miscellaneous expenses. To date we have drawn \$120,000 on our loan from the Bank of Castile. Interest on this loan is about \$800 per month, and we have been able to pay that out of the dividends and interest from the Richards Endowment Fund.

BUILDING RENOVATION FUND: Under the leadership of Tom Taylor, plans for the 5-year fund drive are pretty well set. Solicitation of the congregation will begin about December 1st with a general mailing to everyone, followed up by personal visits from our team of solicitors. We have already begun seeking Leadership Gifts, and to date over \$60,000 has already been pledged, a big step towards our goal of \$300,000!! Solicitation of leadership gifts will continue through November. Pledges and gifts that are received in the early days of the fund drive will allow us to avoid the need to dip too deeply into our loan account at the bank, and will help keep the interest charges low.

At a recent meeting of the Fund Drive Team, Tom Taylor shared a Scripture passage that his wife Ellen read to him on a recent drive home from Buffalo. It prophetically and directly speaks to this building renovation program and to what the Lord has called upon us to do.

EXODUS 35:4-21 - *Moses said to the whole Israelite community, "This is what the Lord has commanded: Take from what you have, an offering for the Lord. Everyone who is willing is to bring to the Lord an offering of gold, silver and bronze; blue, purple and scarlet yarn and fine linen; goat hair; ram skins dyed red and hides of sea cows; acacia wood; olive oil for the light; spices for the anointing oil and for the fragrant incense; and onyx stones and other gems to be mounted on the ephod and breastplate.*

"All who are skilled among you are to come and make everything the Lord has commanded: the tabernacle with its tent and its covering, clasps, frames, crossbars, posts, and bases; the ark with its poles and the atonement cover and the curtain that shields it; the table with its poles and all its articles and the bread of the Presence; the lampstand that is for light and all its accessories, lamps and oil for the light; the altar of incense with its poles, the anointing oil and the fragrant incense; the curtain for the doorway at the entrance to the tabernacle; the altar of burnt offering with its bronze grating, its poles and all its utensils; the bronze basin with its stand; the curtains of the courtyard with its posts and bases, and the curtain for the entrance to the courtyard; the tent pegs for the tabernacle and for the courtyard, and their ropes; the woven garments worn for ministering in the sanctuary - both the sacred garments for Aaron the priest and the garments for his sons when they serve as priests."

Then the whole Israelite community withdrew from Moses' presence, and everyone who was willing and whose heart moved him came and brought an offering to the Lord for the work on the Tent of Meeting, for all its service, and for the sacred garments.

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