

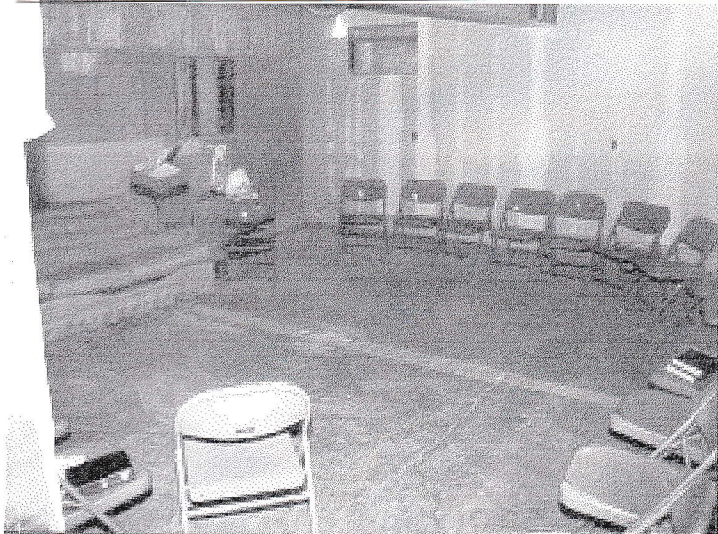
The Renovation News

The First Presbyterian Church
Bergen, New York

Issue Number 5
October, 1996

PROGRESS: During September the second large phase of the renovation began with the excavation of the basement area under the center section of the church. The walls in that part of the basement were removed as were the raised concrete floor and the two restrooms. It was a difficult and messy job, but thanks to our volunteers, particularly Fred and Jeff Ely and Corky Shaw, it has been accomplished. Ron Spink and Ron, Jr. are now building up the new concrete block walls in the basement and building the foundation for the new enlarged center entryway. In the course of this work, it was discovered that some of the old rubble wall under the sanctuary was deteriorating; however, the new concrete block wall will provide needed reinforcement.

Progress has continued on the Fellowship Hall wing and its new basement. Plumbing installation has continued, and doors have been hung and drywall has been installed in some of the new rooms. We thank Chris Gresens with his professional drywall skills for much of this work, and Dick vonBergen, David Marsh, Lennie Brill and others for their many hours of volunteer labor.



A New Basement Classroom

PROGRESS TO COME: With the cooler days the last few weeks, many of you have undoubtedly noticed that the church building has no heat! This is the inevitable consequence of having to replace the gas supply line from the street at the time we installed the new boiler; however, we expect to hook up the system and get the necessary NYS approvals in the next couple of weeks. There have also been some questions regarding the maze of air ducts in the basement - what are they for if we have hot water heat in the church? When the renovation plans were made it was found necessary to replace the old inefficient hot water boilers we had with a single, commercial-sized unit AND we were required by code to provide fresh outside air to as much of the church as possible. Those air ducts will provide

fresh air to all of the church except for the sanctuary and the basement beneath it. The air will be "pre-warmed" by two heating units - one has been installed in the attic area over the old stage and the other will be installed on the concrete pad behind the church. Sometime in the future we may want to provide fresh air to the rest of the church and some means of cooling the sanctuary for those hot summer Sunday mornings. The latter will need some significant work in the area over the sanctuary ceiling, where the old insulation will have to be replaced and some cooling fans installed.

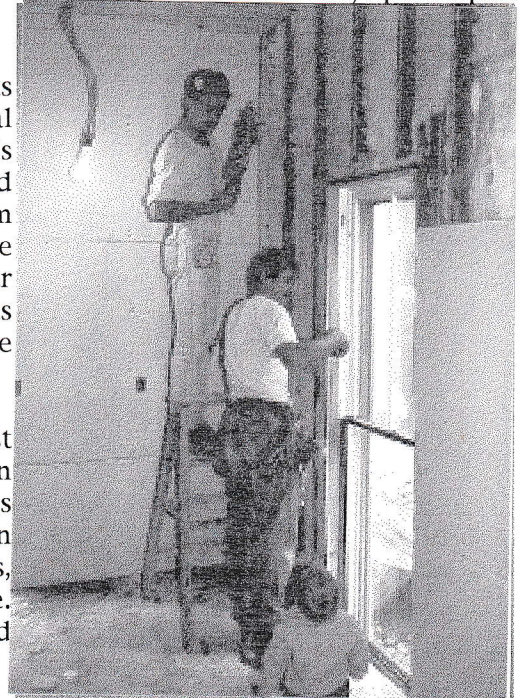
The Spinks' work in the center basement area should be complete in a few weeks, then the dirt can be filled back in around the foundation and the job of building the new extension to the front entrance area can begin. As mentioned in the last issue, Rick Stacy will be in charge of that part of our renovation. We will also be able to begin installation of the handicap lift at the back of this section off of the parking lot. Throughout this period, work on finishing the two new first floor restrooms, the basement classrooms, and the kitchen will continue. We hope to have the restrooms ready by the end of the month. The Fellowship Hall itself will next see the major roof rebuilding that has been one of the most important aspects of this project since its conception. A lot of the old, heavy, and weakened roof structures will have to come down and be replaced by a new truss system. Hopefully, that work can begin before the end of October.

It is now more important than ever that we have a full complement of volunteers! With the scope of our project expanding and a lot of work going on in several areas of the building, there are and will continue to be many jobs to be done, of all kinds, that volunteers can help with. Although Dan Sheldon expects that Thursday evenings and Saturday mornings will still be the main work sessions, there are many jobs that can be done by individuals working on their own at the most convenient times for them. Call Dan at 494-2442 if you can help out in this way.

SOME SPECIAL THANKS: Throughout the project many local business people and businesses have donated time, equipment and materials, and in so doing have allowed us to save a considerable amount of money. We need to thank them here: Dale Tucker, Kevin Russell, Dave Wohlers, Mannings, Squires & Hennings, M/E Engineering, Lawman Heating, Art Gay, Sawhorse Construction, Kaiser-Wilcox, Johnson Controls, Spencerport Paint & Wallpaper, and Roberts Wesleyan College.

PROJECT COSTS: As of the end of September the renovation costs totaled \$119,000; with \$42,000 spent for engineering & architectural services (no more costs are expected here), \$41,000 for materials (building materials and new installed systems like the boiler), and \$33,000 for labor costs (Spinks, etc.). We have drawn \$75,000 from our revolving loan account at the Bank of Castile, and are paying the monthly interest on this loan from the Richards Fund in our endowments, which is growing well enough that these interest costs have been less than the regular growth of the principle in the Richards Fund.

CAPITAL FUND DRIVE: Somewhat behind the scenes these past couple of months the work to organize a capital fund drive has been underway under the very capable leadership of Tom Taylor. He has brought together a group of people in the church as his "campaign cabinet", and he and this group are creating the communications, schedules and other plans needed to carry out an effective fund drive. We hope to have the campaign ready to present to the congregation and underway in early November.



Our Drywall Experts

HELP & ENCOURAGEMENT: These past couple of weeks and the weeks to come are the times when all who are involved in this major undertaking need your encouragement, help, and your prayers! With Sunday School back in session, Kid's Connection in session (after spending the summer in the B-B Elementary School), and all our other programs starting up for the fall, there is more opportunity for the inconveniences of trying to worship, study and fellowship in the middle of a construction project to become a discouragement. Even though we have no heat and only two operable restrooms right now, and even though we have to avoid sawhorses, mud, and rolls of insulation, we can be encouraged, and warmed by the fact that ALL the new basement rooms were ready for classes on the first day of Sunday School. Think what has been accomplished since June!! We can also be warmed by the knowledge that it is for the greater glory of our Lord and for our mission in His Name. Praise the Lord!

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