



The Renovation News

The First Presbyterian Church
Bergen, New York

Issue Number 7
December, 1996

A LITTLE MORE HISTORY: The Bergen Historical Society has a set of postcards available which depict in photographs several scenes and buildings in Bergen through the last 80-100 years. One of those photographs is reproduced below, and shows our church in about 1910 when the sanctuary and Session House were separate structures. It wasn't until 1957 that the two were connected and the Session House became Fellowship Hall.



PROGRESS & PLANS: We have entered a new phase in the renovation project with most of our efforts now turned to finishing off the new rooms in the basement and the new offices on the first floor. Painting and ceiling installation is now underway, and we will begin to see how some of the new areas look when finished. Meanwhile, Lennie Brill and his plumbing friends continue to work on the new plumbing to the

restrooms and kitchen. The fixtures in the first floor men's room should be installed soon, and most of the work for the next month will concentrate on the new rooms and restrooms. We are also looking forward to getting the kitchen equipped - we hope to get good but second-hand restaurant fixtures through auctions or other sales.

The only major new construction in the near-term will be the installation of the new handicap lift at the rear entrance. It has been ordered and should be here before Christmas. Work on the front center entryway and new stairs to the basement and second floor will come after most of the office and new classroom work is done after the first of the year. The reconstruction of the roof structures over Fellowship Hall will get underway then, also.

SPECIAL THANKS: All of the plumbing work in the project, and there is a lot of it, is being carried out by Lennie Brill and his team of skilled plumbers and pipe fitters - Ron Meulendyk, Gary Neu and Doug Neu. They have been doing a great job, and it is a treat working with them on the project.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: If you can handle a paintbrush or roller we need your help. There are a lot of new walls to be primed and painted before ceilings and new flooring can be installed and the restrooms can be completed. This is the kind of volunteer work where you can work on

your own schedule any time during the week you might have some free time. Call Dan Sheldon at 494-2442. Thanks.

PROJECT COSTS: To date, total project cost is about \$190,000. Most of the recent expenditures have been for materials for walls, the plumbing work in the center basement, and the completion of the roof over the new, expanded front center entrance. Our best estimates indicate we are on track to essentially complete the project within the \$250,000-300,000 range we set at the outset.

BUILDING RENOVATION FUND: The letter inviting everyone to participate in the Renovation Fund Drive will be mailed about December 10th. A team of solicitors will follow up



with personal visits to everyone. We have already begun seeking leadership gifts, and to date over \$91,000 has been received in pledges. This is a great start!

During the course of this renovation project, we have been developing a list of items that, though not originally a part of the project, would be good additions to the renovation. This "Wish List" includes such things as some new office furniture for the Pastor's office, the folding doors to divide the two new large basement rooms, and new exterior front doors for the sanctuary and Fellowship Hall to match the new doors we will have on the center

Bill Bliss & Kevin Hollenbeck - Building Walls

entrance. As we near completion of the project, we will publish the full Wish List and offer you the opportunity to make gifts of those items to the church, perhaps as memorials.

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