

# The Renovation News

The First Presbyterian Church  
Bergen, New York

Issue Number 11  
April, 1997

**RECENT PROGRESS:** The structural work in the ceiling of Fellowship Hall is complete, and that building can now safely withstand about anything nature might throw at it! The old 150-year old wooden beams have been removed, and some of the drywall has been installed in the new ceiling. We can now see just how open and impressive the Hall will be when completed. (Note: some of the old beams may find use in the renovation of the old barn behind the Bergen Town Hall in the center of the village.) Work in the Fellowship Hall should now progress rapidly with the completion of the ceiling drywall, laying of insulation, finishing of the interior walls, and installation of new windows.

There has been progress in other areas also. The painting of the door frames in the basement is complete, and the drop ceilings in the basement hallway, restrooms, and classrooms is underway. Plumbing and electrical work has also been progressing in the basement, the kitchen, and the first floor. Mile Kuhlkin's new office on the second floor behind the Carrie Miller Room is complete, occupied, and it already looks "lived-in".

**FINANCIAL REPORT:** To date total cost of the project has been about \$264,000. The table below describes these costs in more detail than has been presented in *The News* prior to this. We hope this will provide better understanding of the major elements of the project, and how the costs are distributed.

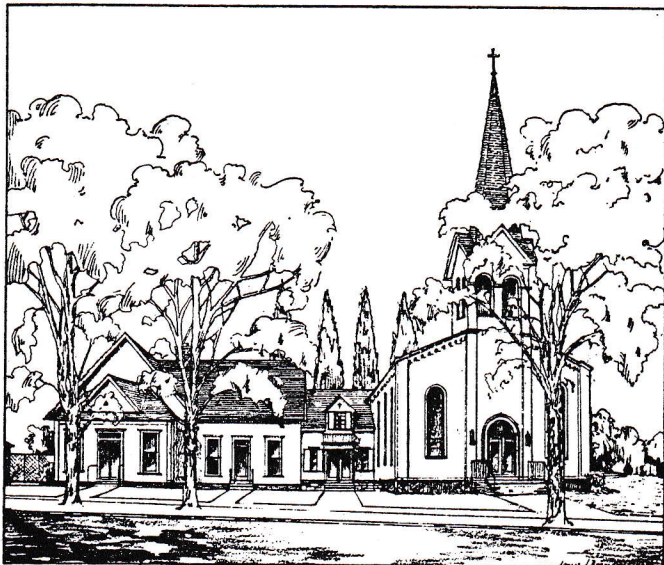
Basement Contractor	34,408.00	General Lumber	8,948.07
Basement Materials	29,684.54	General Materials	2,939.28
Doran-Yarrington Architects	34,539.73	Handicapped Lift	11,100.00
Preliminary Arch. & Eng. Studies	7,840.00	Heating System	54,233.06
Electrical Work	20,153.77	Kitchen Equipment	505.69
Fellowship Hall Labor	2,001.50	Loan Interest	7,518.96
Fellowship Hall Materials	9,032.13	Management	10,076.80
Finishing Labor	3,820.00	Miscellaneous	2,011.09
Finishing Materials	7,382.35	Plumbing	8,459.74
Front Entry Extension	6,569.25	Rear Entryway	3,238.00
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$264,461.96</b>	

Many of the more costly elements of the project are complete or nearly so, including the architectural work, basement, and heating system. The largest remaining costs are associated with the front extension, the Fellowship Hall finishing, and the kitchen. The outstanding loan balance with The Bank of Castile is \$205,000.

Renovation Fund Drive pledges to date number 35, with about \$180,000 pledged. We still have \$120,000 to go to meet our \$300,000 goal, and it appears we will need all of that to meet our costs without having to permanently drain resources from our endowments. The Fund Drive Team under the leadership of Tom Taylor has concluded that a second round of direct solicitation to those who have not as yet made their pledge is called for if we are to make the goal. If the

remaining 70-80 individuals and families can each commit to a 5-year pledge of only \$25 a month (\$300/year) or a total pledge of \$1500, we can succeed. If you are among those who have not yet made your personal financial commitment to this work, please prayerfully consider what you can do in support of this important project. Perhaps the story that follows will be of help.

**SOME LESSONS FROM HISTORY:** Recently in cleaning out an old closet, a neighbor of the church on Lake Ave. found a stack of literature from our church's past, including some of the special pamphlets printed in 1956 for our church's 150th Anniversary on December 7, 1957. The cover page of this pamphlet is reproduced here, and pages 2 ("Foreword"), 4 ("The Need"), and 7 ("Building Fund Campaign Plan") are also reproduced in this issue of The Renovation News.



*One Hundred Fiftieth Birthday*

Looking  
to the  
future

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
LAKE AVENUE, SOUTH BERGEN, NEW YORK  
CELEBRATING OUR 150<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY DECEMBER 7, 1957

*Cover Page from 1956 Pamphlet*

This anniversary celebration in 1956-57 was used by the church as the opportunity to undertake the building of the three-floor "connector" between the sanctuary building and the "chapel" (which is what our Fellowship Hall was called when it was free-standing). Page 2 of the pamphlet shows the Building Council formed to oversee the project - many of the names are familiar to many of us, and, though most are no longer with us, several are, including Harris Wilcox.

Pages 4 and 7 from 1956 deserve careful reading and reflection. The situation they had then was very similar to what we have had recently - small and inadequate church school facilities, "sanitary facilities ..... antiquated and entirely inadequate", and outdated and inadequate dining hall and kitchen facilities, etc.

This 1956/57 project had an estimated cost of \$35,000, and, as shown in the reproduction of Page 7, a Building Fund Campaign goal of \$25,000. Compare these amounts to the \$500,000+ value of our renovation, and our Renovation Fund Drive goal of \$300,000! Time, and costs, have certainly changed in the past forty years.

**COMMENT:** It is well worth reading these words from forty years ago, reflecting on the challenges facing those who were here at First Presbyterian before us, and considering how they compare to our challenges today. Our project is certainly larger and more expensive than the earlier one, but not by as much as you may think. (Assuming yearly inflation of about 5%,

(Continued on pg. 4)

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## Foreword . . .

### THE PURPOSE OF THIS BROCHURE IS . . .

TO INFORM the members and friends of our Church of the need for additional space and equipment in our church and church school, and of the equally pressing need for better facilities for other church-centered activities.

TO CHALLENGE your friendly interest and concern about the religious education opportunities which should be provided by our Church.

TO INVITE your support in this undertaking.

### THE BUILDING COUNCIL

HARRIS WILCOX, *Chairman*

Harry Ashley*	Laura Brew	Frederick Cook†
James Chapell‡	Charles Ernst	Andrew Keller*
Roy Meyers†	Frank MacConnell*	Francis Miller‡
H. Clifford Miller‡	Mrs. Warren Miller†	Maurice Mix*
Mrs. Garnet Morden	Helen Roof†	Lee Stanley‡
William Stirling*	Ernest Roblee†	Arthur Wilcox*
Mrs. George Wilcox†	Benjamin Zubert‡	Rev. William Loan

(\* Denotes Elders

† Denotes Deacons

‡ Denotes Trustees)

### FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH of BERGEN

Halfway Through

Its Second Century —

LOOKS NOW TO  
THE FUTURE!!

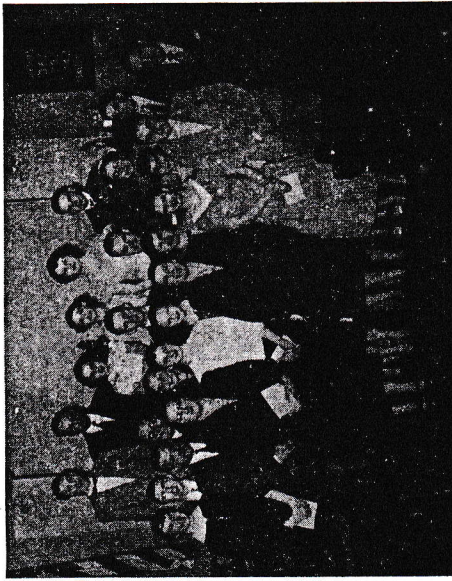
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## The Need . . .

The need for our building program is great. The pictures on these pages tell you the story more graphically and clearly than any words can.

With the trend of the times, First Church is beginning to grow. The membership class above

*Membership Class — March 23, 1956*



is part of a 12% growth in the past four months. Our church school is beginning to overcrowd all facilities. Teachers are taxed to the limit of their abilities and endurance. Sanitary facilities are antiquated and entirely inadequate. The women of our church are inconvenienced when they serve suppers and sponsor church programs of a similar nature because of the lack of room and equipment.

With the growth of the Church — and looking to the future toward an ever-expanding and growing program of activities — it is quite evident that First Church must move ahead with the challenge. In addition, the Sanctuary — the House of God, as a place of beauty and of loveliness — has been let go far too long. In keeping with the celebration of our 150th anniversary, it is part of the plan to once more put our place of worship in a condition where it may be fully worthy of its past and ready to serve better its future.

The suggested plans include all of these items and many more. An enlarged dining hall, modern kitchen facilities, adequate classroom space for the present Christian Education needs — with room for expansion to care for future growth — modern toilet facilities, an assembly hall with stage facilities, a church office and pastor's study, dual choral facilities — and many other plans of improvement.

First Church has no indebtedness of any kind at the time, and is financially sound. We have only the challenge before us — no cloud behind.

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\$25,000 in 1956 is over \$175,000 today.) The needs for improved space and facilities were the same, and, as in 1956, ours is a financially sound church with no indebtedness, although the endowment then was much smaller than the one we now have.

In 1956 our predecessors were called upon to set aside "generous and "sacrificial" portions of their incomes each week for the 156-week (three-year) duration of their campaign. There was a need for wide, generous, and sacrificial support from the congregation - just as there is today! PLEASE, read these words from the past, do your part in support of the Renovation Fund Drive, and pray that the response from our whole church family in 1997 will be as generous and supportive as it was in 1957. Their support of First Presbyterian left a legacy of service and stewardship, one that was further supported and reinforced by our successful building program and fund drive at the 175th Anniversary in 1982. We have (as it says in the very last paragraph on page 8 of the 1956 pamphlet) "truly been living on our church family's inheritance, and we must be grateful for those dedicated persons who have thus provided the place of worship that we have today".

AMEN!

## *Building Fund Campaign Plan . . .*

In order to raise the \$25,000, which is our Building Fund Campaign goal, it has been agreed that we will conduct, beginning Sunday, June 24th, an organized, extensive, individual, face-to-face solicitation for building fund pledges payable weekly (or as otherwise designated) over a 156-week period beginning September 2nd, 1956. This Campaign will be under the direction of the Building Fund Campaign Committee; assisted by information and guidance from the National Board of Missions of the Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A.

The use of pledges over a 156-week period is a basic requirement of the plan. It has been proven many times that only in this manner can the fullest approach to the most people — in the interest of the Church — be achieved.

These pledges are not based upon amounts, for obviously, all of us cannot give the same amount. They are based upon loyalty and devotion to Christ and His Church. We are asked to make our pledges in terms of percentages. On this basis, each of us can do as much as anyone else.

There is nothing complicated about the plan. Each of us is simply asked to set aside a generous and sacrificial portion of our income each week for a period of 156 weeks, and give Christ and His Church a true priority on our income during that period. These gifts must be over and above our present regular church givings. The program of the Church must go on, and curtailment in budget giving would be short-sighted churchmanship.

Pledge cards will be made available to all. It should be remembered that making a pledge in this campaign is not like signing a note. It simply shows how much you feel you will be able to give during that period. If your financial circumstances change, your subscription may be altered as you feel necessary.

Special weekly envelopes will be provided for your offering to the Building Fund, and a special account will be set up in the Churchville Bank. All checks may be made payable to the Financial Secretary of the Building Fund.

In making your gift, be sure to keep in mind Capital Fund-giving, and the fact that all gifts are deductible from income tax payments.

FOR MOST OF US . . . this is ONLY ONCE IN A LIFETIME!

Let us remember:

*"The greatest use of life is to spend it for something that will outlast it."*

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*Non-Profit Organization  
U.S. Postage Paid  
Bergen, NY 14416  
Permit #12*

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Issue #11 - April, 1997