

1st UU Buildings & Grounds Chronicle, 2014.

New info added at bottom of document. To find particular topics, use Search or Find function. Please advise B&G Chair (Martin Berger, meberger@ysu.edu) of omissions and other errata.

*This document includes occasional observations on **Trash & Recycling** and **Security** matters, since the committees that ought to deal with those functions do not formally exist and activities are apt to go unrecorded unless they are included with B&G.*

B&G annals for previous years may be accessible on the Church website; if not, interested persons should inquire of the B&G Chair as above. Anyone wishing to receive this Chronicle via e-mail should do likewise.

[Infrequently-Asked Question: Why are B&G activities recorded in such detail? Response: Especially in an organization that runs on volunteer efforts, there is a lot of turnover in who does what, so the collective memory as to what was previously done and why tends to be weak. We have had many substantial projects undertaken by one individual who took care of business and then threw away all records. In many instances questions like "where does this wire go?" or the recurrent historian's query "what were they thinking?" have no ready answer. If we write stuff down in a searchable format, future generations can determine what we did and why it seemed like a good idea, or the least of the available evils, at the time. Also, my own memory, even for stuff that I did not so long ago, is increasingly unreliable.]

Faucet, Accessible Restroom. Someone pointed out that hot-water faucet wouldn't shut off, Sunday 12 Jan. Shut off line with valve under washbowl. Disassembled faucet Wed. 15 Jan., found no crud buildup, reassembled without making it work, took out the plastic/nylon insert, which Jim Stone took to Crogan for analysis. **Faucet, which lacks any brand marking, is identified by plastic label inside as Price-Pfister unit. Label designates model number.** Crogan didn't have part. Jim identified small tear (invisible to me) in the rubber gizmo that sits in the bottom of the faucet atop a spring, below the cartridge. After some Internet research, he was able to speak with a P-P representative who offered to send us the \$2 rubber gizmo under lifetime warranty(!) plus \$7.99 shipping, and waived the shipping charge because of Jim's charm. Now (January 17, 2014) awaiting part. [January 18, 2014–Jim brought in his printout of faucet diagrams, etc., and that information has been left in the Office for filing. Later–Jim installed the new rubberish seal and new spring early Feb., and all is well with the faucet.]

Work Party, 18 Jan. Present: Matt Alspaugh, Mark Andy, MB, Liz Hill, Al Pierce, Jim Stone, Jim Zupanic. Biggest turnout in a very long time. I hope this is a trend.

Jim Z and Mark replaced some of the damaged **cork floor-tiles in the Sanctuary**. None of the old-style thick tiles could be found, but doubling the newer cork tiles with an additional cardboard shim worked ok. Weights were left in place over the replaced tiles.

Al and Jim S explored the wiring for the **organ console**, which appears to be less screwed-up than we had expected. I had found the **electrical census** that Al did some months ago and reduced it to a playing-card-sized placard which can be posted at multiple locations to explain where the circuit breakers are and what they control. Al will bring appropriate gadgetry and determine some additional electrical issues, such as whence power is supplied to exterior lights, the Sound Room, etc. We continue to find outlets and switches that have been overlooked in identifying and labeling the relevant breakers.

We found **water on the Kitchen floor** to the left of the microwave. No source could be identified. A holiday-decorated bag was spoiled by the water—bag is believed to be leftover from Boxing Day, and contents have been labeled and placed on the Found Items shelf.

Al and Jim Z **drained the boiler**, which is supposed to be drained weekly during the heating season and seems not to have been tended for several months. We have posted a sheet inside the Boiler-Room door to record when the draining (or “bleeding”) is done. The explanation for boiler-bleeding is attached to the side of the boiler.

Two **flashlights**, one in the stairs down to the Boiler Room and one from the B&G Closet, were very dim. Jim S and I have fixed corrosion issues on one of them and replaced batteries from my household supply; we were out of D batteries at church, which means that somebody took the last Ds from the drawer in the Office without replacing them or notifying anyone of the need to do so.

Matt worked on **lights in the Minister's Office**. He has replaced some of the clear plastic lenses, and has been cleaning the aluminum gridwork that holds up the tiles in the dropped ceiling. His conclusion that some of his predecessors smoked a lot in that office appears irrefutable. The dropped ceiling can't be older than the 1960s, so that's a remarkable accumulation of nicotine grime.

Al and others could not locate **long galvanized pipes** that we believe used to be somewhere around. These pipes are needed for **clamping pew-ends** that have crept out of proper alignment. They don't appear on the inventory of stuff that has been moved to the Sanctuary attic, and may be too long to have been maneuvered through the hatch anyhow.

A useful Work Party.

Ceiling Tiles. January 19, 2014 Tim Malone and I replaced some of the tiles in the Minister's Office. Noted that the piles of tiles from Channing are different from the ones in the offices; the CH tiles are of a newer pattern, notched along the edges so that they hang down a bit from the metal frames. Since there's more hassle involved into notching the older ones to match, I decided that in places where the old-style flush-fit tiles are in place, we'll standardize on the old-style pattern. This can be done with strips of corrugated cardboard, which can be glued to the metal frames on two sides. I suggest using a removable, quick-setting adhesive like Fixodent. [The stack of tiles from the Fall Room was removed late Jan., and now adorns a member's basement ceiling. When we need to replace tiles in the future, we can use up the small stack in the Office or actually purchase new ones. February 16, 2014.]

Office Lights. Matt has converted the two short (2x2) fixtures to the new-style T8 format, and has successfully eliminated the extra switch that formerly illuminated the area on the North wall. Now those lights come on when the switch by the Office door is turned on. The former switch has been replaced by a blank plate. Matt has unearthed a regular (2x4) light-cover (not yellowed by age) from the Boiler Room, and I shall attempt to cut it into halves without breaking it.

Elm Street Door. On Friday 31 Jan. I installed a new crashbar exit device and deactivated the old lock. Many years ago, after we got the lock re-keyed, the Jensen's guy told me that we ought not to have had the new keys made--the lock was worn out. I've never quite got why he didn't say so before making a costly bunch of keys. In any case it's been a hassle for some time, and we've had more complaints lately about the difficulty of locking and unlocking. Now we won't have to explain how to keep the door from locking itself to users who can't understand how to loop a rope around the door handles. I've applied some primer to areas where the old door handle was removed and where the door has been battered. The interior door handle has been shined up and will be reinstalled without its thumb-latch gizmo. I'd prefer to postpone repainting the whole double door till it's warm enough to do the exterior door and to leave the doors open for several hours to permit paint to dry on jambs, edges, etc.

ADT Alarm. February 3, 2014. ADT called c. 10:20 AM. Code indicated door alarm, so our friend the bat is off the hook for this one. All the exterior doors were secured, and nobody was hiding in the building. Perhaps someone yanked on a door handle hard enough to trip the alarm.

Display of B&G Chronicle. Diane has printed up the complete 2013 *Chronicle*, and I have put it in a protective binder hung on the B&G Bulletin Board in the 1st-Floor RE Hall. I'll post the 2014 edition in the same location, in another binder. Thus persons not on our distribution list, including persons with no Net access, may be properly informed as to our efforts.

Cork Flooring, Sanctuary. February 3, 2014. Some new tiles were installed at our January Work Party. Heavy stuff was left on top of the new tiles to encourage proper setting of the adhesive, and has remained in place until yesterday. Jim Zupanic moved concrete blocks, presumably returning them to the area around the northeast RE door. I do not know what has become of the heavy iron plates that were also used to weigh down the new tiles.

Salt. February 3, 2014. Jim Zupanic (who does most of the snow-shoveling) and I have purchased de-icing salt and have deployed it in the Illinois entryway. Unfortunately someone has dumped salt with astonishing zeal, wasting a great deal of it and leaving gross deposits on the sidewalks. I have installed a smartass cautionary sign over the salt, and Matt has removed some of the salt on the theory that if there's a lot of it, people will assume that it's imperative to use it up. This rationing constitutes a sophisticated behavioral nudge, which may be more effective than raging at wasters *in absentia*.

The Board is said to be considering priorities and assembling a rational **to-do list of projects**. It will be interesting to see the ranking for concrete work--repairing unsightly and in some cases dangerous sidewalks, etc., whose deterioration has been accelerated by excessive salting over the years. I have discussed projects (relying heavily on suggestions from Jim Stone) with Gary

Davenport; Richard Palmer and Matt Alspaugh added some comments. Gary will have taken the list to the Board meeting. Whenever I am informed of Board action I'll write it up for this Chronicle.

Security. There was an **ADT alarm** sometime Friday 14 Feb. Semi-intelligible message left on my home phone seems to have been left a little after 4 PM; Jim Zupanic reports that message a left on his machine was recorded c. 1 PM. I have not had time to follow up on this episode, and know not whether it was a door alarm, motion alarm, or what. No signs of intrusion Friday night. Another Security concern is the reappearance of **Larry**, who caused some significant disturbances a few years ago and needs to be watched (particularly if he heads toward RE rooms). *[For new readers of this Chronicle, Security issues are included because there has been no formal Security committee for some time, so there's no record kept of problems that come up; and many of the people who find themselves drawn into Security issues are also B&G people.]*

Work Party, 15 Feb. Present: Matt Alspaugh, Richard Palmer, Ellen and Lowell Satre, Jim Stone, Jim Zupanic.

This Work Party coincided with **Farmers' Market and a bake sale**, the latter conducted by anti-fracking people. I had no idea who was running the bake sale (*Vindicator* announcement didn't even get the name of the Church right) until I got to Church c. 9:15 and found out from the FM guy; unsatisfactory communication but the various activities did not hinder Work Party efforts, as we were able to use the Fall Room for our headquarters as usual.

I assisted FM with the anti-slip mat (one of those seems to be missing) and salt, and attempted to advise on **coffeemaking**. Someone had removed the instructions from the Regal percolator and placed the tag on the other big percolator, so a significant amount of valuable Equal Exchange (red-bag, not the black-bag percolator blend) coffee was wasted using the Regal to make a weak brew suitable only for drain-cleaning. The label-switching was an active and destructive bit of meddling, for which I can imagine no possible motive. Since the replacement of its thermostat, the Regal works fine to make a full pot, if the right coffee is used.

I re-lit the pilot for the moribund 1st-floor RE furnace; it had gone out sometime since I checked on Wednesday. {Still lit February 16, 2014.}

Al and Jim Stone **installed a grab-bar in the 2d-floor restroom**. (Bar was left over from one of the 1st-floor restrooms, having been bought for no obvious reason around the time of the elevator-and-ramp project. It's good to have found a place for it.) Al and Jim also mounted a **garment hook** on the inside of the restroom door.

The green plastic **tape rule** was missing from the Kitchen tool drawer.

With assistance from Al and Jim Stone, I mounted two **whiteboards**, one in the Patio Room and one in the Chalice Room. Cardboard packaging from one of those board remains to be trimmed and removed from the classroom.

Jim Zupanic swept the **Illinois Closet, Boiler Room, and B&G Closet**. These rooms are among the territory not cleaned by the Beatitude crew, or by the RE people who sometimes sweep up in their classrooms. Jim also replaced one **exit-sign bulb**.

Several people examined **blueprints of the heating-duct layout** in an attempt to determine why the Patio Room (even when the pilot is lit) is so much colder than the Children's Chapel across the hall. Much speculation resulted. Matt will arrange a consultation with Bob Dieter, who needs to visit anyway to discuss the RE furnace.

This was a useful Work Party—decent turnout, efforts applied to suitable tasks that could be completed by a little after 1 PM. Some of the Aldi donuts were left over, all the Plaza donuts were consumed.

Carbon Monoxide Alarm, Chalice Room. February 28, 2014. About a week and a half ago, Jeanne Tucker (who teaches in the named room) reported that a “smoke alarm” was beeping; she had not been able to reach it to deal with it. I visited the room and found no alarm of any sort. After a search, I found the CO alarm concealed under papers on the desk in the RE Office. The alarm's batteries had been disconnected to stop the beeping. There is no paperwork in the files to indicate when the unit was installed or what operating instructions might be provided, but small type molded into the plastic of the unit itself suggests that it will begin beeping after 7 years' service. I think that I recall discussing the alarm's placement with Matt, so installation probably happened short of the 7-year self-destruct date, but as we have no documentation we have no grounds for a warranty claim. When I put in fresh batteries, the thing began emitting beeps and would not shut up, so I've removed the batteries and set the unit in the Office for Matt's attention.

Since the detector was in the room, there must have been some reason for its installation, and I shall shop for a replacement. [**Followup March 15, 2014:** After looking into these detectors, I find that it is apparently standard practice across the industry for them to die after a certain period, often seven years. Yesterday I bought two such from Lowe's—First Alert, 10-year warranty, c. \$20 apiece with a smoke detector thrown in. I bought two because another dead CO alarm turned up, as I recall in the B&G mailbox. I have not found out where the other one came from, and am attempting not to be distracted by my frustration at the persistent practice of withholding necessary information. Only the “what” is known, out of the bunch of Ws (who where, when, why, etc.) that are supposed to be supplied in the most humble bit of journalism. I've installed one of the CO-smoke pairs in the Children's Chapel; see below under March Work Party.

Work Party, March 15, 2014. Present: Jim Zupanic, MB.

I put away toilet paper, sorted garbage, cleaned up some recyclables retrieved from trash, sorted and dealt with cardboard, removed rolls of tickets from Fall Room work table and put them on one of the Women's Alliance, etc., shelves.

In order to deal with the **bubbled paint on the Fall Room East wall**, I moved stuff out of the way, draped the adjacent shelves with dropcloths, swept cobwebs and crumbs (still finding wire bristles from the wire-brushing of door hardware last summer), removed bad paint using an

angle-grinder with stiff wire brush, swept up paint crumbs, and applied a coat of Kilz primer to the wire-brushed area.

As expected, a search of the paint records in the Office file, and of the containers of paint on hand in the Boiler Room, turned up no clues as to the green paint on the Fall Room walls. The paint was applied by Pride people when they rented the room, and they were no better about the recording, preserving, etc. of their painting efforts than the Church's members and the professionals whom we have sometimes employed. The paint adheres solidly to the block (except for the bubbled bits, which were browned and which disintegrated into tiny crumbs, unsuitable for color-matching). We shall have to use a different color when we repaint the whole room. In the meantime I am inclined to paint a band of obviously unmatched color over the brushed-and-primed area, most of which will be concealed behind the Women's Alliance cabinet that Genia Pierce has acquired. Eventually I think that we should paint the room in either yellow (as in the 1st-floor RE hall) or one of the 50 Shades of Beige that were used in the Channing remodeling. We also have some pale blue, (in three different containers) which may match the 2d-floor RE hall, but I don't like it very well. The "Kilim Beige" color appeals because of its catchy name, which sounds like a command to a vicious tan dog.

Jim spent all of his efforts (apart from the occasional brief donut-break) outdoors dealing with **leaves**. The worst accumulation was on and around the concrete steps leading from the main sidewalk to the sidewalk leading to the Illinois doors; this was a new wind-created pile that completely hid the bottom step and constituted a significant hazard. Jim's view was that the City employees who tend Wick Park had done a less thorough job than usual last Fall, so that the wind had conveyed vast loads of fallen foliage. He filled six trash bags.

I installed a pair of **detectors (carbon-monoxide and smoke) in the Children's Chapel**. (See above.) Spacing of mounting screws was different from that on the old CO detector, which I believe was from the same manufacturer, and setup information on the units themselves varied between illegible tiny white-on-white letters to total absence; info on the paper info sheets was microdot-size but slightly more legible.

Both **exit-sign bulbs** were dead in the Children's Chapel; the same appeared to be the case in the Patio Room, but one of the bulbs lit up when tightened. Replaced bulbs. (Thanks to Jim for picking up more bulbs a few weeks ago.) There was also a bulb out in the 1st-floor hall ceiling, and I replaced it.

The four-way screwdriver has been stolen from the Kitchen tool drawer.

This was a frustrating Work Party. Since one useful person showed up, it was not the worst-attended—that was last year. Nevertheless, since many hands make light work, few hands make it slow going to make the lights work and to deal with the paint, etc. That's why I was there from about 8 AM till 3:45 PM.

The Work Party was listed in the monthly Bulletin, and I sent a reminder e-mail to the list of B&G participants this week, yet on a blizzard-free day nobody but Jim came out to assist.

[I started to add some conclusions here, but decided that speculating on reasons for the lack of B&G support may strike some readers as discouraging and negative, thus further reducing the number of persons who might pay attention to any of the information that this Chronicle attempts to present. So no more on this topic, for now.]

Paint, Fall Room. On Monday 17 March I shuffled through the paint records yet again and selected the olive-drab-lite color from the 2d-floor Youth Room to paint the 3-block-high band in the Fall Room where grinding and priming had been done. That color is darker than anything that I'd want to apply to the whole Fall Room, but I doubt that anyone will notice. This is a temporary measure till we get round to painting the whole room. [The color is quite close to that unrecorded hue used by Pride for some portions of the door jambs.]

Cabinet for Women's Alliance Stuff, Fall Room. March 18, 2014. Genia Pierce brought to my house the metal cabinet that she had acquired. It's in fairly rough condition, but should suffice for its purpose and location. I've sanded the exterior and applied Rustoleum primer. The inside will require some serious attention to deal with corroded shelves where something nasty was stored. [Ready to install as of April 1, 2014; many problems with spray paint; I ended up brush-painting the exterior of the cabinet with Rustoleum Smoke Gray. The white Zynolyte spray that's cheap at Star Supply is useless, spitting big globs despite extended shaking. I've installed a hasp to secure contents, and have purchased from Handyman a settable combination lock that will have a combination chosen in consultation with Women's Alliance.] [April 8, 2014: Lock was defective {someone had got at it and set the combination to an unknown and un-unlockable code} so Handyman took it back and I bought a Master lock with more visible numbers. The new lock is bigger than necessary, and I may ream out the hasp a bit so that the lock will sit looser in the hasp. Cabinet is now affixed to wall.]

Paint, Office. March 18, 2014. There is no paint record for the Office, which is light yellow. Diane Thomas, who spends more time in the room than anyone else, is ok with keeping the room the same color. On the hope that the light yellow of the 1st-floor RE hallway might match, I have bought a gallon of Sherwin-Williams paint matched to that hallway, and will apply a coat to the East (window) wall, which is the only one that's really gross (from uncleanable soot accumulated above heating above heating/cooling registers). [No progress on this front as of April 1, 2014.]

Furnace, 1st-Floor RE Rooms. April 1, 2014. The Board recently authorized replacement of the old dying, erratic, poison-emitting furnace, upgraded to include conventional air conditioning or heat-pump, details to be left to Bob Dieter and Matt. I met yesterday with a representative of Aey Electric, the firm which hooked up our last furnace replacement/upgrade, and met with Matt this morning. The Aey guy was not the one who had worked on our last furnace effort a couple of years ago, and had not been familiarized with what was done then, and we had no record of how stuff was done then. He said that he would send an estimate with two options: (1) installing a new subpanel in the 1st Floor RE Closet, near the existing breaker-box, and (2) working with wiring in the existing box, to be made available by combining some of the existing circuits. He would make contact with Dieter to find what power requirements would be for the new

furnace/AC unit.

Circuits: This morning I met with Matt, who had opened up a junction box in the ceiling above the entryway to the Elevator engine room and confirmed that there were spare wires in that box (red, brown, and white wires plus two blue ones, terminating in wire nuts.) These wires originate in the 1st Floor RE breaker-box, where labeling is extremely unsatisfactory. Circuits # 24 and 26 are labeled "Spare" in pencil. Circuits 27 and 29 are believed to be unused, ending in the junction-box discussed in this paragraph; they're labeled Elevator."

Furnace options: When I spoke with Jim Stone this afternoon, he brought up some points about the furnace replacement. He believed that a heat pump would be more costly to run than a regular furnace. He also contended that *there is no immediate need for air conditioning in the lower RE Wing*. Because we don't do RE in Summer and because the first floor generally stays cool even during warm weather, we'd be better off just doing the highest-efficiency heating system (with due attention to whatever--probably in the ductwork--is screwing up the distribution of heated air between the East and West sides of the first-floor RE Wing) and leaving the option of adding AC open, till climate change manifests itself more fiercely in raising Summer temperatures. But wait, there's more! Since we usually have Summer activities that involve having the Patio doors open a lot, we'll be losing a lot of expensive air-conditioned air through those doors. The people who are doing Patio activities are unlikely to be more attentive to common sense than the people whom we have now, and who aren't very reliable in turning off lights, locking up the building, etc. Jim says that Al Pierce shares his reservations about AC for the downstairs. As I reflect on the matter, it seems that the only reason to do AC now is to provide the unaccustomed good feeling of having done something ahead of time instead of putting stuff off. [Heat pump was installed; it doesn't do the heating, but provides cooling in conjunction with the new, more efficient gas furnace.]

I'll convey these misgivings about the AC portion of the furnace work to Matt and the Board, and see what response I get. [Further observations, April 8, 2014: We might be able to get more circuits in the breaker-box by using **doubled-up thin 15-amp breakers**, although I have yet to determine whether any of the circuits are or should be 15-amp. We ought not to take away potential extra circuits in the Elevator area because we'll need circuits there eventually. Matt will ask Dieter about sorting out the ductwork in the 1st-floor RE rooms.] [1 May: Dieter said that the more powerful blower on the new furnace might distribute the heated air more effectively, and on one cold morning the Patio Room did seem warmer than usual. We'll have to see how well the heat works in the Fall when the Ice Age returns. Heat pump was installed using circuits # 24 and 26.]

Cabinet for 2d-Floor Restroom. April 8, 2014. I acquired a Masonite cabinet, which I cleaned up and painted. I asked Diane Thomas, our Office Manager, to assess whether it was worthy of installation; she approved and helped stabilize it while I screwed it onto the wall. I've removed the string-and-wire system for holding spare toilet-paper rolls, which are now stored in the cabinet. We ought to add a first-aid kit to the cabinet; I'll keep an eye out. Total cost to Church for cabinet: \$0.

Hammer Drill and Masonry Bits. April 8, 2014. These items were missing when I looked for them last week to mount smoke/CO detectors. I doubt that any of the persons who have access

to the B&G Closet lock combination would have taken them, but they're gone. There is a remote possibility that I might have left them out in one of the RE rooms, and that some well-meaning person squirreled them away in an unknown location, but the drill was on sale at Harbor Freight and I've spent \$24.95 of our pledge money on a replacement.

Screwing up the Freezer. April 8, 2014. Sometime last week when I was fighting with cabinets and/or trash, I noted that the Kitchen freezer had built up another glacier. I removed it, but evidently failed to turn the temperature controls on again after I finished. Richard called me two days ago to report that the fridge and freezer had ceased to cool, so he had thrown out an assortment of melted and warmed food. This was almost certainly my fault, and raises again the point that our B&G Chair and one-man Trash & Recycling Committee (that would be me) is becoming ever less reliable and could use some assistance and/or replacement.

Next Work Party is Saturday 19 April.

[My computer is still in the shop, and is probably as dead as Generalissimo Franco. {Yep.} My access to Wordperfect is gone, and I'm working on the miniature keyboard on Louisa's new computer in this damned Evil Word program that indents my new topics and otherwise screws with my ability to type what I want. Please excuse errors introduced by frustration and rage.]

Work Party, 19 April. Present: Richard Palmer, Jim Zupanic.

I got to church c. 9 AM, carried in tools, and made coffee. Replaced **bulb in Fall Room Exit sign.** (New bulb, replaced a couple of weeks ago. **We need more bulbs.**)

I moved some boxes of doorknobs and other seldom-used items from the Fall Room B&G shelves to the high shelves in the 1st-Floor RE closet.

I was preparing to work on restrooms when Jim arrived. Left cart with towels and toilet paper in hall; will deal with it Sunday AM.

Jim and I got out my chipper-shredder (which I'd brought in the previous day, and used on brush from Bill Sharkey's yard next door) and commenced to grind up accumulated branches piled on the East side of the church. This was particularly miserable work, as some of the material was ropy vines that wrapped themselves around the cutters, and some was hawthorn, which some moron planted in the devil-strip on the South sidewalk, the better to endanger passersby with deadly thorns. Considerable damage to hands, despite gloves.

The Fall Room floor needs mopping, having been tracked up during the recent furnace work.

Jim and I moved a table from Channing to the Sanctuary, assisting Jan Elias in preparing for Sunday's service.

Richard arrived late, having been delayed by other obligations. He and Jim assisted in putting the chipper in my vehicle and unloading it at home.

Summary: Some useful work got done, but this was another disappointing Work Party in terms of **turnout**. Our inability to get more people to help with the necessary repairs, etc., perplexes me. Perhaps we should simply quit the maintenance and cleanup work and see when, or whether, anyone notices.

Heating/Cooling. 21 April. During the HVAC work, Bob Dieter pointed out that the shutoff valve on the gas line to the boiler is leaking. I said that it was obviously necessary to fix it, and he will do that at the first opportunity. [1 May: I don't believe that the valve has been fixed; not clear if the thermostat for the new furnace/heat pump has been programmed; Aey guy has wired up the new system. **We need to get protective cages built around the outdoor HVAC equipment—goons break into buildings all the time to steal copper piping, etc., and the three units now installed on the East side of the building, near the Cave door, are full of valuable metal and exceedingly vulnerable.**

Elevator. 8 May. On the 6th, the elevator was shut off by an agent of the State office of Commercial Compliance, or some such title. The inspection certificate had expired (31 March, I think). This was the result of a blunder by our elevator service and inspection people, who normally call up, make an appointment, and do the inspection on schedule. They came Thursday morning and did the inspection, submitted their report electronically (as Diane now knows how to do), and turned the elevator back on. Nothing is wrong with it. Fortunately the YEPS dinner and concert seem to have drawn nobody who needed the elevator, and Socrates Café met on the second floor so that the two ramp-users didn't need the elevator.

Paint. 8 May. I noted that the cleaners had swept up some white paint crumbs near the Elm Street entry. They said the paint had come from "the door," pointing toward the elevator area. Some paint was worn away, but there was no sign of big-time flaking, so I looked up and saw that lots of paint was separating itself from the ceiling, as had happened a few months ago in the Elm foyer. **We need to scrape, sand, and paint.** This is a serious appearance issue (for the few visitors who might be inclined to look upward) and needs prompt attention.

Kitchen and Channing. 8 May. In good shape after the YEPS event. Whoever was in the space before YEPS had left floors littered and trash unsorted and overfilled; so the Pagans left the area better than they found it.

Cleaning Service. 8 May. Diane reports that Beatitude House is shutting down its cleaning program, which will be replaced by a similar operation under Goodwill auspices employing many of the same people. Diane found me a copy of the to-do list from the Beatitude people; they are obliged to clean the classrooms and Schweitzer Lounge, which I'd thought nobody was responsible for doing. Fall Room is an orphan, though.

Alarms. 9 May. We've had a lot of false alarms lately, and a service visit was scheduled for 8 May. Diane alerted me when the fixers arrived, and I was able to ask some questions of them.

As to how we were getting burglar alarm **alerts on Zone 8** despite not having a Zone 8 programmed: maybe that zone was programmed in error when the system was installed or upgraded, and/or maybe some other system was installed somewhere in the country with the

same last four digits as ours, and we were getting someone else's alerts (including one at 2 AM). Our system number (internal ADT thing which we don't have to keep track of and don't even know) has been changed, and we definitely don't have Zone 8 programmed now.

As to how we could have gotten a **Zone 1 burglar alert** about 1 PM on Saturday, when the alarm had been turned off by Farmers' Market c. 8:30 AM and Channing had more than a dozen people milling about, so that nobody could have set the alarm later in the day, maybe the circuit board had gone bad. ADT people replaced the board. Some of the professed explanations of the various alerts strike me as only slightly more probable than poltergeist infestations, but we've gone several days without my having to hasten to the Church to respond to alarms. I hope that there haven't been more alarms that dragged other responders away from their other activities.

The ADT people said that there were compatibility issues between the alarm system and our improved phones. Diane probably understood more than I did on this matter, which will have to be resolved by our phone experts and ADT.

Concrete. 9 May. Jim Rak repaired **cracks and holes in the steps and sidewalks outside the Illinois doors**. This reminds me that we **need to do something about the dangerous misalignment of concrete between the main sidewalk and the curb, outside the Elm Street entry**. (This is where one of our members fell last Summer during Farmers' Market. As Jim notes, it would be cheaper to add a wedge on top of the lower slab of concrete than to bust out the whole hunk of misaligned but solid concrete, if said wedge could be relied on to stay put. I do not know whether the Board has authorized doing something about this, or who might be in charge of arranging the repair.

Communications. 9 May. I am still limited in my ability to get at a host of items that were accessible in my dead computer, notably the B&G mailing list. I'll send this out via cumbersome workarounds using old B&G saved mail. Perhaps in the next week or so I'll have my own working computer again.

NEXT WORK PARTY. Next regular Work Party is **Saturday 24 May**. It's later in the month than usual so as to avoid conflict with other Church events.

Paint. 21 May. I've scraped the ceiling in the **upstairs elevator vestibule** (see above, 8 May) and applied two coats of Dulux primer to the bared areas, and yesterday I edged the ceiling with the same paint (S-W flat, see Paint folder in Office). Rolling the main area will be quick. This should get done before Saturday, so that we don't have to work around Farmers' Market. Unfortunately, while edging, I noted that some wall paint is also coming loose, mainly on the North wall of the vestibule. We'll have to patch the yellow wall paint, maybe do the whole wall. This is all, I believe, a legacy of steeple leakage.

There have been anonymous complaints that the **inside of the Elm Street doors** is patchy and needs repainting. The reason that it's patchy is that when I installed the crash-bar last Fall or Winter (see somewhere in 2013 B&G Chronicle) I had to paint around the new apparatus and didn't have time to paint the whole doors, which are best done in warm weather when the doors can be left open for a while to dry. I've used spackle and primer, plus whatever white paint was

in use in the vicinity, to fill the most obvious cracks in the wood. The doors obviously need repainting inside and out, a process which will require removal of hardware to do the painting right and to clean up the hardware. This is a summer-time job, and can best be done with two or three people.

Kitchen Anomalies. 21 May. Early last week I noted that something near the refrigerator stank; there was no crud on the floor or in the fridge. Eventually I thought to check the #1 **drawer**, next to the fridge, and found mold, soggy paper, etc. Someone had presumably spilled an organic liquid, the better to provide a base for decay, and shut the drawer on the mess (remarkable, on reflection, because so many people prefer to leave the drawers standing open). I removed the contents, trashed the soggy and moldy stuff, cleaned contents as necessary, and marinated the plastic organizing gizmo in Odo-Ban. When the drawer dried out, I applied a coat of primer to the bottom; a layer of aluminum foil was added during prep for the Auction, and during the Auction I reinstalled the contents.

The concealment of the spill seems to me a disgusting act, symptomatic of the all-too-common disregard for the community (notably the people who find themselves cleaning up slob's messes) which poisons a great many aspects of our existence.

During the Auction, someone pointed out that the **sink faucet in the Island** was emitting only hot water. I put a warning sign (removed during the Auction by unknown persons for unknown reasons) on the faucet. Yesterday I checked underneath the sink and found that someone (unknown, unknown reason) had shut off the cold-water line. Sink faucet now works ok. The filter at the end of the spigot was largely clogged with reminders of how much crud there is in our water, and is soaking in vinegar, awaiting reinstallation.

Other Anomaly. 21 May. Jeanne Tucker announced last Sunday that the dehumidifier in the big 1st-floor RE classroom wasn't working. I had noticed during the Winter that someone (anonymous, motive unknown) had unplugged it. I've re-plugged and the humidifier seems to be working ok. Perhaps another instance of Botherfingers Syndrome. I hope that none of the people who do this stuff work in nuclear-power plants.

Neighborhood. 21 May. One of the **empty buildings** across the street is to be torn down and another repurposed as office space, according to one of the guys involved in the work. They hauled out stuff for some time. These are the buildings East of the lot that we park in. Karen O'Malia says that the parking lot belongs to the empty property directly across Illinois from us, so it won't soon be subject to restrictions on parking. The man who mows at the Elm-Illinois corner house (still occupied) mowed the front lawn at the disintegrating property across the street recently. We might contribute to reducing that property's ugliness by taking out some of the vegetation that is out of hand next to the building. [23 May: Contractor in front of the second building to the East (downhill) thought that both buildings would be restored, and the third one downhill from the parking lot would be leveled.)

Cleaners. 22 May. This was the last cleaning by the Beatitude House cleaning service, which has been discontinued. Next week we'll have a new group, under Goodwill auspices. We may hope for better communication and cooperation.

Restrooms; Destructiveness. 23 May. I bought a toilet-paper spindle (\$1.04—I haven't set up our tax-exempt status at WalMart) and installed it in the Accessible Restroom, replacing the one stolen sometime in the past week or two.

Tables. 23 May. Matt reported that an old table in the Chair Closet had broken into two pieces and had been set out in the Patio. That's an old Masonite-top item that's been like that for eons, not bothering anyone in its location against the wall. No idea why someone got it out, or tried to. It can be fixed fairly easily. The real mystery table has appeared in the Patio Room. It has a plastic top, resembles none of our other tables, and has faded "Grow Youngstown" markings along the edge of the table top. I'll inquire as to whether RE is ok with its presence in what is primarily a classroom. [I've since spoken with a GrowYo person who had no idea that their table was here, and who after about three weeks has not provided any response to my inquiry. (25 June.)]

WORK PARTY SAT. 24 MAY. No shortage of stuff to do. We might scrape the wall in the elevator vestibule, clean up the crumbs, and prime. If weather permits, we can address the sagging, dripping gutter above the gas meter. Much cleaning, bulb-changing, etc. Outdoor stuff should be checked with someone from the Horticultural Subcommittee (Kadey, Karen Stangl, Marguerite) but weeds are pretty obvious targets.

Boiler Room. 21 May. Sometime recently Bob Dieter and/or his colleague have been in the Boiler Room and replaced the gas shutoff valve that was leaking.

Work Party 24 May. Present: Matt Alspaugh, MB, Cathy Kajut, Kadey Kimpel, Al Pierce, Jim Zupanic.

I got to Church c. 8:10 AM. Opened doors for the Farmers' Market people and made coffee for B&G (using the #3 coffeepot which has been labeled "Doesn't work," and which in fact didn't work later when I was discussing it with Matt; It's now on the shelf in the Fall Room awaiting investigation—probably the cord, maybe the switch.

FM person arrived c. 8:50; distressed because someone had locked the **coffee cabinet**, and the key that was supposed to be in the Equal Exchange bag was missing. I unlocked the cabinet and locked the padlock onto the hasp so that no further lockouts would occur unless the locker-out had a padlock key. Leaving the cabinet unlocked still seems to me an unreasonably trusting policy.

I labeled the newly-acquired Bissell sweeper, cleaned one of the stainless-steel carts, refreshed its where-this-cart-belongs label, dealt with paper towels, etc., in restrooms, and sorted out trash and recycling in the Patio Room.

Jim R swept the long-ignored **Schweitzer Lounge** with the Bissell and washed some patio windows, as well as cleaning some other areas. Al swept in the **Boiler Room** and bled the boiler (first time since January, way overdue). I have taken away some pieces of the old leaking gas valve and pipe for recycling. Cathy cleaned the **kitchen refrigerator**, removing a lot of mysterious spilled goo. She also swept in the **Fall Room**, but deferred mopping. We

determined that the **Dirt Devil sweeper** in that room was not picking anything up, and I found an impressive internal blockage consisting of short, kinky bits of wire swept up after the tedious work with the bench grinder last summer, cleaning up door hardware from the Patio Room. That sweeper is again able to bedevil crumbs.

Jim Z worked **outdoors** for a long time, dealing with vegetation that's out of the lawnmower's reach. Kadey dug out two large bags of weeds from the Patio, and I dumped them in the former pond/mosquito breeder next door, which we've been filling up with brush, etc. for the past year or more.

Matt wiped down the **Elm Street main doors** with TSP, removing some of the grit on the outside (it's amazing how much black grit there is, now that we have so little steel industry) and preparing the doors for painting. I removed the crashbar on the inside of the south door and painted the inside surface, taking advantage of a rare dry, fairly warm day to allow paint to dry with the door open, in time to let me shut the door and head home c. 2:30 PM. I filled the cavity left by removing the inside brass door handle with caulk and spackle, so that part looks slightly better than the paint-over-tape temporary arrangement that I employed when the crashbar was installed in cold weather, but this is not a permanent solution; some of the fill will have to be dug out to allow removal of the exterior brass handle when we paint the outside of the door.

There was a lot on the agenda that we didn't get to, but this was a **productive Work Party**, with the best turnout in many months. Let us hope that it's a trend. Thanks to all who helped.

Cutting Board. 12 June. The dismembered cutting board used as a base for a percolator, so that tallish mugs will fit under the spout (see above) has been repaired and returned to the counter in Channing.

Porch Roof, 13 June. Last Fall we found someone to replace the flashing where the slate porch roof meets the brick wall. (Flashing over what has become an inch-wide gap ought not to be a big deal, but normal roofers won't work on slate, so it was a breakthrough to find the fixer.) I asked for Board approval to spend the \$275, but there was a breakdown in communication, followed by Winter. I've now spoken with the flashers, and we ought to get the work done in a month or so, perhaps sooner if they're in the area for some other, larger, job. The water from the gap probably contributes for the continuing disintegration of plaster, which falls steadily, in granular form, into the B&G Closet.

Gutter. 14 June. In response to my call for support, Jims Stone and Zupanic worked with me on the perennially-leaking gutter to the right of the Illinois door. (With three people working, this campaign's outnumbered many a Work Party.) This gutter had a low point at a seam, and had been leaking onto the gas meter for years. The great problem is access; the gutter is more than a foot out from the wall, thanks to the protective and visually nice eaves, so that the big ladder will allow inspection, but has to be supported by the gutter itself, so the gutter cannot be raised while the ladder's weight (and that of the would-be repairer) bears on it. The ladder standoff that I have provides less than a foot of distance from the wall, so it's not possible to get at the target from the ladder held out by the standoff. The nominal 24-foot ladder that I had brought from home is not tall enough, and the one-piece wooden ladder from the Cave won't reach either.

Eventually we used three ladders, employing the Church's 40-footer to allow inspection and removal of a screw that held the back of the gutter to the fascia and then moving the 40-footer's base out to lean it below the eave at a hazardous 45-degree angle. Eventually, with two screws removed from the back of the gutter, we were able to push the gutter upward (using Jim S's car jack and a 4-4 from the Cave) and install a right-angle brace under the gutter. With it held in place by the brace, we moved the big ladder so that it leaned against the gutter and we reinstalled the screws (actually one of the screws was new, since one of the gutter's internal braces had never been screwed in). A great deal of black slime, composted in place over many years, was removed from the former low spot, and if we get a few consecutive dry days I can apply the appropriate sealer to the join in the gutter.

This repair provides me with great relief; for years, most of my visits to the Church (multiple times per week) have led me to notice the maddening unfixable dripping. It was more of a hassle than I had expected or hoped, but it should stay fixed for some years. Thanks to the Jims.

Work Party 21 June. At our next regular monthly effort, I'd like to get the inside of the North door at the main Elm Street entrance. This sort of painting, if hardware is removed, can be done by regular people if they're reasonably careful and use proper drop-cloth procedures (that is, we don't need to wait for Tim Raridon or Jan Van Eyck to do the work). Lots more can be done if we have some turnout.

Work Party 21 June. Jim Stone, Jim Zupanic.

I arrived c. 8:45, made coffee, and made a new hold-open hook for the Illinois door. Noted that the **cold-water valve for the Kitchen sink sprayer** is not working; cold-water shutoff under sink is stuck too. [Plumber to deal with this Tuesday 1 July--DONE.]

Replaced **hold-open sticks for Board Room windows**. These had been stolen. New ones are conspicuously marked as to what they are and where they belong; springs that should hold up the Pella pane are broken and a costly hassle to replace. My view is that the dead springs should be removed and trashed so that they don't look conspicuously nasty, and that we should stick with the sticks till there's money to do costly optional improvements, (in some other space-time continuum).

Jim Stone arrived and commenced to use his gas **trimmer around sidewalks, etc.** He made considerable progress before being overcome by humidity-induced fatigue and heading home.

Jim Zupanic and I worked on the **inside of the North (stationary) Elm Street door**. This is less of a headache than the South (moving) door because less hardware needs to be removed before painting, but some sanding was required. The multipurpose vibrating tool was unusable for sanding because the larger triangular sanding arbor was missing, as were sandpaper triangles to fit the small triangular arbor. [These items have been replaced.] There was a shortage of coarse sandpaper; *never buy packages of assorted sandpaper, because the 150 and 240 grade stuff is useless for most purposes.* We got the inside of the door painted. It needs a second coat, but that can be done quickly as the edging is done. While putting away the paint, etc., I fell on the **Boiler-Room stairs**. Despite the abundant lights, it is hard to see the swamp-darkened bottom

step against the similarly-stained floor. I'll try to dry off the bottom step with a heat gun so that I can get yellow paint to stick, but am not optimistic.

Jim Converse said that some of the **Farmers' Market stuff in the Fall Room** will be moved out soon. Much of it will probably return in the Fall when the Market returns from its sojourn at MYCAP on the other side of the park.

We're back to a minimally-attended Work Party; same turnout (numbers and personnel) as for the special effort a week earlier to work on the gutter. I continue to be perplexed by the fact that many young, healthy members of the Church expect there to be a building for them to use, but seem uninterested in helping to preserve it.

Concrete. 25 June. Matt has reminded me that the **tripping edge** formed by the 10x20-foot slab between the curb and the sidewalk in front of the Elm Street entry needs attention. This piece of concrete is divided by grooves into six sections, two of which are cracked; the cracking makes it inappropriate to deal with the tripping issue by hydraulic injection to adjust the position of the slab. I have called three concrete companies, of which two have responded with bids of \$1200 and \$1630. Concrete appears to have gone up enormously in price since the driveway and sidewalk work that we had done at our house in the 1990s. Inquiries continue.

Flashing, Slate Porch Roof. 25 June. The bad flashing where the Elm porch roof meets brick (or doesn't meet, leaving a gap of an inch or more) didn't get done last Fall because of poor communication. I have found the invoice (\$250+\$25 travel charge) with a post-it note in which Karen O'Malia said to go ahead—most likely, the approved invoice was placed in the B&G mailbox and buried under new layers of crud. I've communicated with the slate people, and the estimate is still good. They'll do the job when their scheduling permits—this is a small job, and makes sense to do when they're working in this area. Should be done before Fall. Water intrusion from this bad flashing probably contributes to the crumbling of plaster inside walls, including the continual fall of plaster dust into the B&G Closet.

Boiler Room. 3 July. As noted above, the Boiler-Room stairs are perilous. I've added yellow stripes to the bottom two steps, and the paint seems to be adhering to the heat-gun-dried concrete. I've also demonstrated that our excellent anti-slip tape, as used elsewhere in the building, will not stick. There is now a semi-attached light above the bottom of the stairs; like the string of round plastic lights, it's plugged into an adapter at the ceiling fixture that once shed the only illumination to the room. The newly-installed fixture uses an aluminum shade and porcelain bulb-socket of unknown origin that lay on the floor of the room for many years.

Cleaners. 3 July. New people continue to be more thorough, cooperative, and communicative than their predecessors.

Flashing, Slate Porch Roof. 18 July. I've received a phone message from the flashing people, who evidently came and replaced bad parts, left an invoice in the mail slot, and departed. Nobody told me about this at the time; people want to be paid, and left the phone message for me (probably after failing to find anyone answering a phone at the church, with Diane in the office only two days a week in Summer). Our Treasurer, Andy Crabb, asked me about the invoice-nobody had told him about the repair project. He's holding up payment because when I

climbed into the former-steeple area to look into the porch roof from inside, I noted that we still have a good deal of gap between brick and flashing. No response yet from the message that I've left for the flashing folks. To be continued.

Concrete, continued. 18 July. Wally Mayhall recommended that I consult with his contact at Masonry Materials Plus about our tripping-edge (see above). That person strongly recommended a new product that is said to adhere reliably to old concrete; I've bought two bags of the stuff, which comes in under \$70. If it works, it will solve our problem much more cheaply than replacing the concrete for \$1200 and (way) up. The bags of material will sit in the Cave until I can get someone to help me mix and apply the miracle mix. This is not a one-person job.

Weatherization, Patio Doors. 18 July. The wooden overlaps that we installed on all the Patio doors (from Schweitzer, Patio Room, and Schweitzer) cover the sometimes embarrassingly large gaps between doors, and presumably spared us some fuel costs last Winter, but we did not get round to adding the foam or felt that was intended. Matt brought this to my attention recently, probably as a result of discussions regarding the Schweitzer sprucing-up project. I bought a roll of foam insulation at Lowe's—Frost-King 3/16"—and applied it to one of the Schweitzer doors. Shutting the door required moving the lock strike-plate a bit. There is a 3-M product that is 1/8" thick, and a like product from the Swiss company M-D. The latter is cheaper, as well as available in a smaller roll, so we'll try that one first. I'll bring the roll to the 19 July Work Party.

Work Party, 19 July. Present: Cathy Kajut, Al Pierce, Jim Rogers, Jim Stone.

I arrived c. 9:20 and started coffee. Noted pile of **cooking apparatus blocking door to Boiler Room**, and moved stuff. [This turned out to be there for a week-long series of cooking classes run by Grow Youngstown, whose people left the place cleaner than they had found it.]

We removed **ceiling tiles in Schweitzer Lounge**, measured the partial tiles along the edges, kept specimens of the odd-size ones, and set the old tiles out in the Patio. Noted abundance of mouse manure atop ceiling tiles. Someone was said to be coming on the 21st to remove the couches which were to be replaced by new furniture. [24 Aug.: I believe that the couches were taken away on Saturday or Sunday; they're gone.]

Cathy cleaned fridges, counters, etc. She **reorganized the baskets in the cabinets under the microwave, and swept out the cabinets.**

Jim Converse **removed some of the Farmers' Market stuff from the Fall Room** and said that the FM freezer would be taken away on Monday 21 July. [It's still there as of 9 September.]

Jim Stone **bled the boiler.** This appeared to be the first time anyone had done this since January; if anyone has bled it, the phlebotomy hasn't been recorded on the Boiler-Room door.

A Work Party of modest accomplishments, but we did get some stuff done.

We did get the Swiss weather-seal tape installed on the other Schweitzer Patio door. Required some messing with the latch to get door to work, so doing the other doors is likely to require more work than I had hoped. I'll order more of the tape.

Schweitzer Lounge Remodeling. Controversies over changes to Schweitzer Lounge, notably the exile of Schweitzer's portrait and the painting of the wood-finish quarter-inch plywood paneling, led to some objections, and were addressed at a meeting at 8:30 am, Sunday 3 August. I was unable to attend, but provided a summary of objections to procedure and decisions. Two oral summaries of the meeting that I've heard indicated unanimous or all-but-one sentiment for keeping the paneling unpainted, and unanimous support for returning the Schweitzer painting to the room. The latter has been accepted in a subsequent report from the Schweitzer Committee, and a new proposal has arisen about the walls; the paneling is now to be ripped out and replaced with painted drywall, at the cost of about \$850. Vigorous discussions will presumably follow. The floor treatment is still unspecified, though Matt supports carpet tiles, which could be replaced individually if ruined. A crud-hiding pattern is recommended, and I hope will be adopted; we should have learned something from the fiasco of the pale yellow carpet installed January 2012, which would have been quickly fouled even without the tar-tracking antifrackers. Two years and a half is not a sensible lifespan for floor covering.

At some point before 3 August, I worked on the **heating ducts** above the dropped ceiling in Schweitzer. Most of the actual repair was done with Jim Stone's assistance. The ducts were insulated with about an inch of hairy fiberglass, backed by a metalized covering. Large sections of this insulation had fallen down, as the reinforced tape used for attachment had lost its stickiness. Some sections appeared to have been disturbed during repairs, wiring, etc., since the construction of the RE Wing in the late 1960s or early 1970s. We used an upgraded species of reinforced tape recommended by Banner Supply (not the "duct tape" commonly used for assorted temporary, sloppy repairs). There are still some gaps, as sections of insulation were missing altogether, presumably discarded in the past, but much more of the ductwork is insulated than was the case before our efforts.

Gap in B&G Efforts. 22 August. I was in transit or in California from 3-12 August, so I was unable to do the usual frequent visits to Church for minor repairs, cleanups, etc.

Work Party, 16 August. Present: Matt Alspaugh, Marguerite DeFelice, Clayton Henderson, Cathy Kajut, Roger Lafontaine, Richard Palmer, Al Pierce, Lowell Satre, Jim Stone, Jim Zupanic. This turnout was the largest in several years, even after two volunteers left early because of disgruntlement over Schweitzer issues. Only two donuts were left over from the two dozen provided.

I'm not entirely sure who did what, as I was occupied in scraping and priming the ceiling and wall areas in the **Elm Street vestibule** where large areas of paint had peeled off. (Photo to be posted on the B&G bulletin board in the lower RE hallway.

Richard scraped on the water-damaged (by years of leaking steeple) woodwork and walls of the Sound Room, and applied a coat of primer.

Lowell and Roger **pulled up the yellow carpet in Schweitzer**, and Lowell took the rolled carpet sections to the Fireline dumpster; thanks again to Roger Jones for access to the dumpster.

Al and Matt discussed **security issues, including fire-safety procedures**.

Someone, probably Jim Z and Marguerite, weeded and removed some decorative vegetation from its location blocking visibility of the new sign. The deadly prickly-bush next to the Illinois Avenue door has been reduced in size.

Cathy worked on the **Kitchen**, and removed all the contents of the lower **cabinets** on the South wall (under the microwave) to enable her to clean out the cabinets. Clayton helped to reach some of the more remote parts of the cabinet. The closet had been painted a sort of aqua, a long time ago, and paint on parts of the shelves had worn away. Cathy was still working when everyone else departed, and left a sign discouraging people from putting stuff back into the paint-ready cabinets. [I have since made three visits to the Church and have painted the cabinet insides with two coats of the same S-W interior/exterior enamel that we've been using on all doors and windows. There were four nails projecting into the cabinet interior, so I removed their points with our angle grinder. The nails demonstrate that there was plenty of shoddy work done in earlier decades, so the amount of laziness and stupidity in the world may not be increasing so rapidly as the pessimists among us tend to assume.

All in all, a robust, useful Work Party. Thanks to all.

Kitchen, etc., Notes, 23 August. Someone has brought in yet another **coffeemaker** and labeled it Decaf. Not clear why we need another one of those, or why people don't leave notes about what they've done. Margaret Haushalter reported that one of the **toilets** in the Women's Restroom was running. I checked and found it silent, but the mechanism (flapper-valve and ballcock) was heavily encrusted with spiky mineral crystallization, and needs cleaning. I noted that the **plywood cover over the window-well in the Patio** (former window of the B&G Closet) had been knocked out of position. This will need to be reattached, preferably with two people working. [Done, with aid from Richard Palmer.] Jim Rak agreed to assist me with the long-deferred work on the **dangerous trippy junction between sidewalk and devil-strip concrete** outside the Elm Street entrance.

Porch Roof. 6 Sept. In the Fall of 2013 we found someone to repair flashing on the slate roof of the Elm Street porch. (The general-purpose roofers who dealt with other flashing issues around the Steeple Stump would not work on the porch roof because slate is a peculiar material, requiring special skills.) The Board failed to authorize the slate-roof work, and wintry weather appeared, as it does every year, and rendered the repairs impossible till Spring. I had a long series of exchanges with the slate people (U. S. Pride), featuring missed calls, etc. Finally they came without letting anyone know that they would be at the church, and replaced some flashing. Inspection from inside the porch roof revealed quite a lot of gaps (some as wide as three-quarter-inch) between the flashing and the brick. I advised our Treasurer to withhold payment till the problems were fixed, and we resumed the pattern of missed messages, etc. On one occasion they sent a crew that arrived when nobody was at the church to let them in, so they looked from outside and declared everything to be fine. Finally on 6 September a crew came

and I was able to show them from inside the porch ceiling where the gaps were. They spent some three hours and reduced the gaps by quite a bit, and have at last been paid. I suggest that the next time we have problems with the porch roof, preferably in the very distant future, we have the slate removed and go with normal shingles.

General Observations, 9 Sept. The **trippy concrete** remains undone; the **paint in the Elm Street vestibule** likewise. I have obtained at no expense to the Church a **wheelbarrow**, which is lodged in the closet formerly used for coffee, in the Patio Room. We have a **Work Party** coming up on the 20th.

Plumbing—Mini-Toilet between Chalice Room and Nursery, 20 Sept. Someone reported a problem with this toilet, and I looked at it on 17 or 18 Sept. This unit has the same works as the urinals. I proceeded to remove the protective cap en route to shutting off the water and found that it was already shut off. I turned it back on and found no noises or other problems, left a note about how to shut it off and a lament about the failure of people to explain what they've done, etc. Conversation with Matt today reveals that one of the cleaners noticed the toilet running, reported the problem to Diane, and shut off the water supply. At some time thereafter, a kid evidently used the unflushable toilet, which in due course proceeded to stink. (The note that I posted explains how to flush away such a problem with a bucket of water.) The usual failure to communicate, with a new variation.

Work Party 20 Sept. Present: Matt Alspaugh, Al Pierce, Jim Zupanic, MB.

I arrived c. 8:30 AM, started coffee, transferred coffee to airport, washed three new white visitor mugs, and began repairing the **old Masonite-top table** which had been put out on the Patio portico with the top and base separated. The wood glue in the B&G Closet, though not very old, was unduly viscous, barely usable; I used it up. The top, originally secured with small amounts of long-dried-out glue and six small finishing nails, has been reattached with the aforesaid glue and six properly countersunk screws.

Jim undertook to deal with the **ceiling of the Elm Street vestibule**, which had been scraped and primed at the August Work Party. I helped move the tall stepladder (which was where it belonged in the Channing Chair Closet!) and the full array of anti-splatter cardboard into place. Jim painted the whole ceiling, using a shielded roller that I brought from home. About a third of a gallon of the flat ceiling paint remains. Primed patches still need painting on the walls.

Matt and I trimmed **ceiling panels for Schweitzer Lounge**. Most of the panels for the end walls are in place. The new ones seem to cut more easily than what we've used in the past; perhaps when I recall previous ordeals I'm recalling the style that hangs down a bit below the grid, requiring notching of the edges. It was useful to have the repaired table on hand, and the big contractor's square that I brought in was also useful. Most if not all of the panels that can be installed as is, in their 2x2 form, are also in. I tied up the two red wires of unknown purpose that drooped above the suspended-ceiling grid, so they no longer interfere greatly with work in the above-ceiling area. We avoided discussion of the contested plans for covering the existing paneling with drywall, or not, and decorative touches such as the fake fireplace, allowing us to make progress on the ceiling, which is above the battle. We were moving right along when Matt

had to retire from the effort after getting a crumb of some sort in his eye; otherwise the ceiling might be entirely done.

Al swept the B&G Closet, drained the boiler, checked coffeemakers, dumped compost, checked Exit signs (the Northeast RE door has both bulbs out, as apparently does the one between the Sanctuary and the hallway to the Office, etc.), and confirmed that several ceiling fluorescents are out in the 2d-floor Youth Room.

A small Work Party, but we got quite a bit done.

B&G Directions for the Immediate Future. 21 Sept. The Work-Party Agenda concluded with my announcement that I need to take a **leave of absence as B&G Chair**, or to resign if the Board doesn't see fit to agree to a leave. I've felt overstressed for some time, not only by recent disagreements over the Schweitzer project but by several ongoing non-Church issues; my wife will undergo her second knee-replacement procedure soon, and I know that her recovery process will create substantial drains on my already overcommitted time and energy for several weeks.

If the Board can persuade someone else to assume the B&G Chairpersonship for a couple of months, or on a long-term basis, I'll do what I'm able to do in support.

If the Church reverts to the way that B&G issues were handled for some decades before my predecessor Joe Kengor initiated a more assertive, proactive approach--when action was taken on an ad-hoc basis by whoever would respond to the crisis of the day—we're going to face a period of accelerating decay and crumbling. I hope that it doesn't come to that, at least not for years or decades.

I've written up some guidelines on what has been B&G procedure during the past several years, and I'll print that up. I'll also assemble the undone stuff that hangs over us, skipped over while we've tried to deal with the most urgent matters. Perhaps these jobs can be posted in a sort of Job Jar, to be dealt with by anyone who feels moved to help out.

I don't know whether to try to continue this B&G Chronicle. It has been hard enough to know what is going on in this institution even when I've been trying to run B&G and visiting the Church several times a week. We'll see how things go.

Thanks to everyone who has helped while I've served as B&G Chair.

Concrete Repair, Elm Street Entryway Tripping-Edge. 17 Oct. Jim Zupanic, Matt Alspaugh, and I mixed and applied the patching material that was purchased early this summer and has been sitting in the Cave awaiting the combination of suitable weather, absence of large crowds, and available labor. (See notes above, June and July.) Using the new wheelbarrow acquired from my daughter's former house in Boardman, we mixed the goop and filled about half the gap. This job requires two installments, as the material is supposed to be used for one-inch fills, maximum; we'll need one more effort to finish up.

The **faucet** inside the Patio, next to the deep window-well, is inoperable. We need to get it replaced, because it's stupid to have stuff that doesn't work when we need it. This faucet is

controlled by an indoor valve in the B&G Closet; the inside valve is good, having been replaced a few years ago because it was leaking. We had to haul the hose from the East side of the RE Wing, where it is usually employed for rinsing out the compost container.

The partial repair seems to me to look ok; we roughened it a bit with a broom to improve bonding with the top layer. Matt did almost all of the kneeling-intensive smoothing-out work. The **concrete slab is overgrown on its edges by about 5 inches, and should be dug out**; we hacked away enough of the vegetation to get at the edges of the repaired portion. A serious edger, probably with a blade rather than a string, would be useful. The Church doesn't have one of these implements, nor do I.

The **yellow caution tape** has disappeared from the Church's inventory (it was in either the Fall Room or the B&G Closet. String and yellow duct tape were used to mark the (semi)repaired area.

Security. 17 Oct. Two of the doors between the Patio and the Patio Room were not fully secured.

Entry Mat. 17 Oct. For the second time, I found the small exterior doormat from the Illinois entry in the red trash dumpster. As I ranted about this problem, Matt revealed that he had put it there both times because the mat had slipped on the concrete a couple of weeks earlier, causing a Board member to fall. We need to **apply something sticky to the bottom of the mat**, which is smooth rubber and evidently prone to lose grip on damp concrete. Soon we'll be using the big roll-up exterior mat, which is kept indoors to keep it dry and deployed as needed in the ice season. I'll look at Ollie's for a better all-weather mat.

Work Party, 18 Oct. Present: Cathy Kajut, Al Pierce, Ellen and Lowell Satre, Jim Zupanic.

I arrived c. 9:05 AM. Satres were already on hand, having brought donuts and made coffee. I repaired the light-pull string (which had broken from the natural causes of age and use) in the Illinois closet. The **hold-open rope from the Elm Street main door** was gone; Farmers' Market people were using a wedge. Evidently nobody has explained how to set the crash-bar to unlock.

Ellen worked on the Equal Exchange coffee and chocolate; she found in the coffee cabinet in the Fall Room the red **box-cutter** that has been missing, presumed stolen, for many months. For the moment we have two red box-cutters in the Kitchen tool drawer, since I bought a replacement about three months ago.

Jim painted the flaked-off, primed area on the wall of the **Elm Street entryway**. The quart can was not put away properly in the Boiler Room and we came close to abandoning the search and getting a new can from Sherwin-Williams. The color-match is very good, so we don't need to repaint the whole wall.

Cathy did a lot of cleaning up in the Kitchen. One **wide drawer was emptied of metal and plastic serving trays**, which were originally disposable items and will now be disposed of when

the recycling pickup comes on Thursday. Cathy and I decided that the drawer bottom should be painted—an easy project which should be done in two installments, primer and finish.

Lowell and I trimmed and installed **ceiling tiles in Schweitzer**. We completed the West side and began the shorter North wall. About five more tiles need to be trimmed and installed. The old Masonite-topped table that we repaired a month or so ago has been left up in Schweitzer to ease completion of the ceiling work.

Al bled the **boiler**. He intended to fire it up for a pre-Winter test run during or after Sunday's service.

I had to leave c. 11:15, so I don't know if other stuff got done later.

A useful Work Party. Thanks to all.

Schweitzer Issues. Matt has sent me a summary of the Committee's reasons for deciding to **cover the Schweitzer walls with drywall**. I'll attempt to paste that summary into this document; Matt says that it is or will be posted on the Church website. **[Unable to copy from e-mail to this document; no doubt Louisa will be able to get it to work when she sits at my computer. For the moment she's doing the stairs just once per day.]**

After much deliberation and conversation with congregants with multiple points of view, the committee decided that the right way forward was to resurface the walls with drywall. The committee believes that this can be done for modest cost, approximately \$500.

There are multiple motives for this decision. A key goal is that this room should not need to be remodeled again for a long time, (decades, we hope.) A number of congregants, along with most of the committee, feel that drywall is a more acceptable wall finish than plywood paneling (either painted or unpainted). Additionally, we realized creating an aesthetically unified room will be easier with a different wall surface that allows greater flexibility in floor and window covering choice. (Recall that we had encountered this challenge with paring the dark paneling with a light-colored carpet, now removed).

Some additional supporting points:

Plywood paneling is almost never used in commercial or residential construction today. It is not considered an aesthetically pleasing material by most architects and interior designers.

Drywall is also a much more forgiving material than plywood; holes and gouges are easily repaired, marks are easily painted over. The appearance of the room can be updated with a new paint job, if need be.

Finally, we note that plywood paneling as installed is not considered fire safe by most current building codes*.

* See e.g. http://archive.org/stream/gov.mn.residential/mn_residential_divu.txt

"R702.5 ... Wood veneer and hard board paneling less than 1/4 inch (6 mm) nominal thickness shall not have less than a 3/8-inch (10 mm) gypsum board backer..." Other codes, including Ohio's, are more complex, requiring flame spread testing of materials.

Though I doubt that this statement will persuade everyone, it is a good thing to have at last received it. Perhaps in the future we'll be able to get the rationale for decisions, and opportunity to discuss them, before they are imposed. In any case, the drywall has been installed; when I went in to deal with recycling on the morning of Wednesday 22 October, the drywaller was at work. Since then more work has been done; the cabinets are in place along the South wall and await the countertop; the ceiling lights have been upgraded, either with new fixtures or with new ballasts, plus new-style skinny tubes. Today (24 October) we have molding along the top walls and wood baseboards in place. It will be interesting to see how the baseboards are modified to allow reinstallation of the HVAC registers. I received no notice when any of this work was to occur, but have observed its progress as I've been able, and I'll continue to report to the B&G mailing list and the Schweitzer-interested list.

The old adjustable shelving—slotted vertical supports, horizontal arms, wooden shelves—has disappeared. I hope that the components went to ReStore or some other place where they can be put to use. The big shelf that formed the bottom of the shelving-area on the South wall is gone; Matt says that Susan Miracle told the drywaller he could take it. [Not true; board turned up in Patio Room, where RE people returned it to Schweitzer lest its protruding nails perforate children. Board has been moved to Fall Room and nails removed; it will make a nice shelf for the Fall Room. 1 Nov.] I've salvaged recyclable metal out of the Schweitzer trash. One of our yardsticks, which was left in Schweitzer pending completion of the ceiling-tile work, has been cut into small pieces, probably to provide shims.

The Schweitzer work so far appears to be competently done. Stay tuned for floor-covering and paint choices, which are yet to be revealed.

Trippy Mat. 24 October. The small mat on the porch outside the Illinois entry, which was thrown in the trash twice (see above 17 October) is in the Cave awaiting repair. I've found one that looks more like an outdoor-grade item (\$9.99 at Marc's) and it's now in place.

Trippy Concrete. 24 October. Jim Zupanic and I applied a second layer of Tamms Thin Patch, from Masonry Materials Plus. It took two bags, so we've expended \$124.40 (for four bags). This approach seemed reasonable in the light of estimates to replace the 10x20-foot slab at upwards of ten times that figure.

Lost and/or Stolen Items. The spigot-handle for outdoor faucets is missing; so is the pink nylon string that was purchased some time ago for use in the pendulum that we used to track changes in the tilt of the steeple. Many of our losses come from people who get things out and fail to put them back where they belong, so maybe some of the missing stuff will turn up after replacement items have been bought. The crevice tool for the smaller (5-gallon) Shopvac was found in the B&G Closet, where it does not belong, and returned to the vacuum in the Fall Room.

Cigarette-Butt Receptacle. This turned up last week on the South side of the RE Wing. Matt revealed today that it was contributed by our AA group. I labeled it as UUYO property before I learned of its origin. It needs sand or some such nonflammable weighty substance for ballast. There's a hole to attach a chain to it to discourage thievery, and I'll find a suitable chain. We ought to have another one, so that both East RE area and Patio are equipped with buttcatchers that are esthetically superior to the gross coffee cans that have been used for years.

Outdoor Spigot @ NW Corner of Old Building. 29 Oct. On our first application of concrete patch to the trippy step, 17 Oct., we found that the spigot wasn't working. There's a shutoff in the B&G Closet, repaired several years ago by Rick of Faison Plumbing, and that valve appeared to be ok. We had to haul hose from the other side of the RE Wing to get water to the work area for mixing concrete; the connected hoses and the Patio portico spigot were also used for the second round of concrete work, 24 Oct. Rick returned on Wednesday 29 Oct. to diagnose what might be preventing water flow to the spigot. He could find no pipe from the Boiler Room that was not accounted for; he confirmed our view that the line must be shut off somewhere upstream, and departed. (No charge for the attempt at diagnosis.) Perhaps something was shut off during the boiler repairs or—more likely--kitchen renovation. **This needs to be sorted out, because it is unacceptable to have a spigot that doesn't work.** I don't know who did the plumbing on the kitchen-renovation job, and the Church seldom retains documentation as to who did what on contracted jobs. Inquiries need to be made. We can get Dieter to check when he's next at the church for HVAC work.

Painting Exterior Windowsills, South Side. 1 Nov. Jim Rak reports that he painted the badly-weathered wood sills outside the Sanctuary windows. I'd rather have this sort of thing done with recording of paint type, etc., but when we've fallen far behind in a lot of basic, obvious maintenance, it's inevitable that we'll revert to the practices of past anarchic times when all that got done was by uncoordinated volunteers who were occasionally inspired to deal with an obvious problem.

Pew Racks. 26 Oct. The **bottom of one of the hymnal-racks** at the very front of the Sanctuary fell off. I removed the rack and reattached the bottom piece, using screws from the B&G Closet to replace the nails originally used. Constructing the racks with small nails (vertical, not crosswise) to hold the bottoms in place was an inherently dimwitted practice by whoever made the pews and racks in the 1920s; eventually all of the bottoms will fall out, if the building endures long enough. Someone pointed out that there's **another hymnal-rack, a few pews back, that has no bottom**; in that case someone has responded to the falling-out by disappearing the wooden bottom. I have suitable slats, already stained, at home, and will supply one to fix the other rack.

Miscellaneous Cleanup, etc. 29 Oct. Since I was on the premises to facilitate the spigot investigation, I dealt with some obvious problems, such as: Returned roll of **paper towels**, which had been left near the Kitchen phone, to the wooden holder on the island; put away the message holder left in the Illinois entryway by AA; returned to the towel drawer some **towels** washed at home; noted that the two **plastic buckets** provided for dirty towels and rags to be washed were still missing and labeled a temporary towel/rag container; noted that someone had removed from the fridge the magnetized **message-holder for keeping track of glacier-formation** in the freezer (someone had removed the record of recent glaciations); removed the current **glacier**, which had filled the bottom of the freezer and was beginning to cause leakage onto the floor; moved 4 white **visitors' mugs** from the hallway mug-rack and put them where they belong; dated and labeled as left-behind stuff a **travel mug** that had been left in the Patio Room; put **sand in butt-pot** (see above, p. 24)—thanks to Susie Beiersdorfer for donating sand;

it's labeled Play Sand, but is in fact real sand; carried off some **debris from Schweitzer** for recycling.

It will be obvious that most of the activities listed in the previous paragraph are not specifically B&G responsibilities. They are picking-up-after-people activities, which would be dealt with by any responsible member of the Church community who (1) noticed the problems, and (2) knew where stuff belongs. If the Board is able to get someone to attend to this sort of trivial but time-consuming stuff as it considers how to rearrange B&G and Trash & Recycling procedures, it will allow whoever is running B&G to concentrate more effectively on projects that need B&G attention.

Modifying Buildings & Grounds Organization and Procedures. My request for a leave of absence from the B&G Chairmanship (see above, p. 21) has been accepted, and I received a document on 27 Oct. from Matt and Gerard Kelly that clarifies the arrangement. Here's a summary: (1) Leave is 1 Nov. 2014 to 31 Jan., dates to be revised if necessary. (2) I am to "step back from management of B&G activities (e.g. organizing Work Parties, projects, etc.)." (3) I am to discontinue work with trash and recycling. (4) I am to refrain from involvement with the Schweitzer Project Team. (5) I am to remain "available as a resource" if questions come up.

I have asked to be informed of what's being done in both organizational rearrangement and in activities, and Matt and Gerard have promised to do so.

There is no prohibition on my forming and expressing opinions, and if I find out anything, I'll pass it on to the B&G list.

I hope that during my leave, someone will record what's done, so that we can avoid returning to the times when there was no documentation of the problems that occurred or of the attempts to deal with them. Not to knock oral history, but a lot gets disremembered.

Mystery Windows. 3 Nov. Two old, weathered, white-painted windows (6 or 8 panes each) have turned up in Schweitzer, atop the new cabinets which are to be fitted with a countertop. I have noticed no empty window-spaces whence these panels may have come, and felt no draft from their absence. I hope that it does not amount to forbidden meddling in Schweitzer Project Team activities to inquire whether anyone knows from where these windows came, and why they have appeared in Schweitzer. [Later determined that they are to be used for an art project. Thanks to Susan Miracle for clearing this up.]

Schweitzer Lounge. 5 Dec. The carpet has been installed. It consists of patterned blue-gray squares, and is pretty much what should have been installed last time. I hope that details are being preserved as to pattern, manufacturer, etc., and that some clearly-labeled spare squares are on hand somewhere. I've not been advised as to plans for the floor-vent covers, which need to be painted to go with the new color scheme, and need some work to reinstall them under the new real-wood baseboards; I'll inquire.

Steeple-Basement and Porch Lighting. 5 Dec. Some time ago I investigated the porch-roof attic to look into why the porch light wasn't working. Since I was alone and exhausted, I failed to follow up by hauling a small ladder up the Choir-Loft ladder, or fetching the electrical test-

light. About a week ago Matt took the ladder up and determined that the bulb in the ceiling was burned out, and that there was power to the porch light, whose bulb was also burned out. (Still no explanation as to why the hatch door was open when I looked; presumably somebody went up and left the ceiling bulb [beneath the temporary rubber dome] turned on.) Matt determined that the mogul-base enclosed CFL bulb that came with the porch light when he and I installed it a year or so ago is no longer made; he purchased a regular-base bulb plus an adapter. Now we have a working photocell-triggered porch light again. This is a significant safety issue because persons using the Accessible Door at night were imperiled by the lack of illumination on the ramp, etc.

ADT Alarm, 5 Dec. [This is included here, though it's not exactly a B&G issue, because we have no Security Committee and I want to get Security stuff on the record somewhere. We won't have a **functional Security Committee** until we have a major episode of breaking-in, vandalism, arson, or wacko-intrusion during a Church event. Sorry to keep repeating this point.] I got the ADT call @ 4:20 AM—motion-detector, downstairs. When I got there I checked all the hallways and rooms, finding no sign of intrusion. No police appeared, though ADT had said they'd been called, so I called 911 and was told that the cops had been there and gone before I arrived. This suggests that ADT spent some time calling other people on the list before they got to me; that ADT broke with their procedure and called police first, instead of after making contact with a person on the UUYO responder list; or that there was a police car nearby when YPD got the ADT call and cops arrived at the scene much more quickly than usual. We need to review the responder list.

Kitchen. 6 Dec. I visited the Church on the afternoon of 5 Dec. to return kitchen towels after laundering, and found several plastic serving platters for cakes, etc., on the Island and counters. The Recyclables bin in the Island was filled with similar items. I set the full bag where such recyclable-bags belong and installed a new bag. Previously someone disappeared the plastic buckets labeled and set on the counter for towels and rags to be washed; these containers have not reappeared. Also, a few weeks ago someone disappeared the **activated-charcoal filter from the lid of the stainless-steel compost container**. This filter is intended to limit the passage of bugs and odors from the compost to the atmosphere of the kitchen, and is not cheap. This is the second time that a filter has gone missing. I suspect that the regrettable but common impulse to destroy anything whose function one doesn't understand has kicked in here.

Kitchen, again. 21 Dec. While I was assisting with the Women's Alliance Cookie Walk and Trash-&-Treasure sale, I learned that the **stove-tops** had been left in nasty condition, slathered with burned-on guck. Gary Davenport and I cleaned the left-hand stove, which was in worse shape, and I hope to deal with the right-hand one tomorrow. Also, the **compost container** was left overfilled. There are fairly clear instructions for dumping compost right there on the wall, so there would seem to be no excuse for leaving a mess.

When I visited the kitchen on Friday 19 Dec. to check on some Cookie Walk issues, I dealt with the glaciated **freezer** of the Kitchen refrigerator. Someone had disappeared the old plastic dishwashing containers, which were an appropriate height for receiving ice removed from the freezer bottom. (The new white basins, supplied by Cathy Kajut, are fine in the sink but too tall for the de-glaciation process.) Apparently an anonymous person decided to dispose of the old

basins, without consulting anyone (much as some unknown person chose to disappear the filter from the compost container, again).

There appears to be **nobody in charge of the kitchen**. I'm informed by the leadership of Women's Alliance that WA is not in charge. In view of the issues that we've had with Buildings & Grounds' acquisition by default of whatever responsibilities nobody else is taking care of, I would resist dumping this set of issues on B&G, if I weren't on leave from running that committee. The problem is that at present **there's nobody to report problems to or to establish rules for the kitchen**. This is not something that the Board can or should manage in detail, so some arrangement needs to be made.

Easels. 21 Dec. When I looked for the easels to use in putting up signs for the Women's Alliance sales, the two big wooden ones that have been in Channing holding Pledge-Drive info were gone. Richard Palmer, Liz Hill, and I checked all the rooms and closets where the easels might have gone and failed to find them. A smaller black aluminum easel was in the Minister's Office, but was missing its vertical support. I used the wooden highchair as a sign-support, but it is not reasonable that two easels should be either removed from the premises or squirreled away where nobody can find them, and another easel rendered unusable. The **failure to leave a note indicating what has become of items removed from their customary location** reflects a failure to recognize that other people use the building and its contents, and that those others ought to be able to expect reasonable access to what they need.

Toilet. 22 Dec. Yesterday it was reported that the first (nearest to the door) toilet in the Women's Restroom was not working. Richard Palmer had turned the valve on the supply line and determined that there was no flow to the tank. The flush mechanism had been divested of its spiky crystalline coating, so it seems likely that someone had worked on the toilet. Matt had discussed engaging a plumber to check all the toilets in the building, but there has been no report as to whether this has been done, or who has done what. The mechanism seems to be the same one that was there earlier, when I noted the encrustation of mineral deposits. It may be that someone has shut off the water to the toilet supply line above the valve, but if that has been done, it is odd that the other toilet isn't also shut off. I placed an out-of-order sign on the stall door but am at a loss as to what else can be done. If there's no notification as to what problems have arisen and what has been done, we're less likely to get stuff to work as it should.

Shelf, Fall Room. 23 Dec. I have installed a shelf in the Fall Room, using the nice piece of straight-grain wood that used to constitute the bottom of the shelf-unit in Schweitzer Lounge. This provides ten feet of storage space (high on the South wall) and makes use of a hunk of material that is no longer in the way. There's about 2.5 feet left over.

Missing and Recovered Items. 23 Dec. In the process of putting up the above shelf I noted that the Church's set of masonry bits has vanished. On the other hand, we now have two spigot handles for the exterior faucets, one having reappeared some months after its disappearance. Both the prodigal handle and its replacement are now hung in the Illinois Closet.