

1st UU Buildings & Grounds Chronicle, 2015.

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.]

B&G Governance. I met with Matt on 30 Dec. to discuss B&G issues that the Board was said to be contemplating during my leave of absence (27 Oct. 2014--31 Jan. 2005). Jon Locketti was working on long-range issues, particularly the Patio reconstruction. There was to be a meeting on major projects sometime in early-to-mid February. Nobody was dealing with short-term work, such as replacement of exit-sign bulbs, and nobody was recording what was done or needed to be done. **Trash and Recycling** (except for cardboard) were being handled by the Goodwill cleaning crew.

I brought up **Security**, an area where I've registered many warnings about our lack of a real committee. (This is one of the areas that has fallen into the B&G orbit for lack of anyone in charge of dealing with it.) Matt noted that Frank Bishop had also brought up the dangers of having our HVAC units outdoors in the open, vulnerable to copper-pirates, as well as the embarrassingly large number of Medco building keys that are unaccounted for. Matt and I agreed that the ADT alarm-call list needs revision to correspond with which potential responders still live near the Church; I attempted to call ADT to deal with this but was unable to get through the ADT system's defenses against providing actual customer service. I'll try to get Diane to assist after holiday hassles have died down. [Done 5 Jan. Responder list can be updated @ myadt.com.]

Matt had no information on the progress of the **Schweitzer Lounge** renovation, where nothing

seems to have been done for several weeks. He and I cleaned up most of the junk that has been piled in the hallway outside Schweitzer.

Fall Room Shelf. A day or two before Christmas I brought two steel brackets and a piece of 2x4 from home and installed a high shelf, on the South wall. (This is when I found that the Church's masonry bits had gone missing.) The excellent piece of wood was the floor of the old shelving area in Schweitzer. Cost to Church: none.

Compost Container, Kitchen. January 4, 2015. I have ordered and received replacement filters for the lid of the stainless-steel container, whose filters had been disappeared for the second or third time. I've devised a system of wire and wire mesh to make it more difficult to destroy the filters, which are required to keep bugs and odors contained. [Filters installed c. 6 Jan.]

Pew Rack. January 5, 2015. The hymnal rack whose bottom has been missing for some months has been repaired. I stained the cut ends of the new bottom, but they ought to be re-stained with a darker hue; I'll bring some from home. The bottom of the rack is now held on with screws, not puny finishing nails. [Matt says that the original missing bottom of the rack was on one of the Sanctuary windowsills. I've not verified this, but note that if someone put the dark-brown wood piece on the dark-brown wood sill, that was another instance of successful, maddening hiding of stuff. {Yep, the piece was on the windowsill behind the organ console. I've removed the protruding nails and stored it in the Fall Room.}]

Safety (Anti-Slip Mat). January 5, 2015. I got the big holey outdoor mat from the Cave and set it in the Illinois entryway. Signage from last year, indicating how to use the mat, is missing. [Sign found rolled up with mat, January 11, 2015.]

Missing Tools (Hammer-Drill). January 5, 2015. While getting out tools for the rack repair, I found the other hammer drill, which I had evidently stored on a shelf in the B&G Cabinet. I haven't yet submitted the bill for the replacement drill, and won't.

Security. January 7, 2015. (Recorded here because we have no functioning Security Committee, and alarms, etc., ought to be recorded somewhere.) ADT called 4:25 PM--Zone 3, 2d-floor RE motion. I said not to call police; made the rounds, found no critters. Perhaps a hallucination of the motion detector. Thermostat in 2d-floor RE was cranked to 68 degrees, wasting pledge money and contributing to climate catastrophe.

Security. January 11, 2015. I have measured the three HVAC outdoor units near the Cave door and will provide those dimensions to Jon Locketti, who has some experience with the principal providers of chain-link fencing, and will arrange a visit for an estimate. [January 16, 2015--Jon got a chain-link provider to call me, and I am to meet the guy Tuesday 20 Jan.]

Missing Easels. January 11, 2015. Matt reports that he found the big wooden easels, missing

since late November, in the anteroom to the Elevator engine-room--not far from the Chair Closet where they belong.

Women's Restroom Toilet. January 11, 2015. Jon will get the plumber who replaced the faucets in the Men's Restroom washbowl to find an explanation for the toilet's inability to fill its tank. As noted in the 2014 Chronicle, there seems to be a blockage in the filler line, upstream of the line shutoff. I have also been told by someone that the tank was allowed to fill (very slowly) and leaked onto the floor, but I have not verified this. I hope to observe the investigation when the plumber arrives.

Water Leak on Channing Floor. January 11, 2015. Liam Grice pointed out water on the floor, in front of the northwest (rightmost on the Synagogue side) radiator. This is a smaller radiator than the others in the room, and was installed during the Channing renovation. There had been water there for some time, as a fair amount of wood flooring was discolored; water running from the radiator area had pooled under a piece of rug/mat inside the door to the Patio. It seemed possible that water had entered from the Patio, where it was clear that there was no caulking between the concrete Patio surface and the brick of the building, but the snow did not seem to have melted recently, and in any case we can't caulk when the seam is full of snow and the temperature so low. Jim Rak determined that one of the nuts on the steam line that goes into the top of the radiator was very loose, and I tightened it; when I left, Jim was going to get wrenches from his car to tighten it more securely. (I'll get a replacement for our big Channellock-type pliers that disappeared in the past year or two.) We left the grille off the radiator to allow us to keep an eye on the area. [Jim or somebody else left a container under the steam-line connection to catch any leaks. As of 10 AM 12 Jan., the whole area was bone-dry.] [It has been dry at several subsequent checks, and the grille has been reinstalled. January 16, 2015.]

Schweitzer Lounge Renovation. January 11, 2015. I spoke with Linda Mohn about the project before the Annual Meeting. She said that she believed that new heat registers would be installed, but could offer no details as to how their installation would compensate for the partial blockage of the heating/cooling vents by the new baseboards, which now cover a considerable portion of the vent openings. The Schweitzer project was described as nearly-done, but there seems to be no timetable for completion. The room has been under reconstruction since October. [January 16, 2015--I saw Linda this morning; she had come to reset the alarm after letting the carpet guy in to glue down some carpet tiles that had come up at the corners. She will let me know when whoever is dealing with baseboards and HVAC vents is coming.]

Women's Restroom Toilets, again. January 16, 2015. Jim Stone and I looked into the toilets (see above) yesterday. Removing one of the flush valves revealed that there is actually no shortage of water pressure in the water line coming into the tank. Disassembling the flush valve, removing a great deal of mineral scale, soaking the valve in vinegar, and reinstalling it demonstrated that the flow restriction was caused by something unfixable inside the flush valve. Jim researched the problems on the Internet and at Crogan's. He summarized some of what he

learned: “When I checked about a repair kit for the American Standard ‘smart valve’ in these toilets, I found that American Standard had been ‘smart’ enough to discontinue using this valve due to various problems in its design. I believe that we should replace the ballcocks with Fluidmaster 500A kits, \$10-\$15 each.”

I bought three Fluidmaster 400A kits at Handyman (\$8 each) and installed one of them yesterday evening. Jim worked with me this morning and we did the other toilet in the Women’s Restroom plus the one in the Accessible Restroom. The toilet tanks now refill in about 30 seconds. Unless the possible seepage from the bottom of the right-hand Women’s toilet proves to be an issue, we should be done with the toilet problems for the time being, at a cost to the Church of \$24.

Urinals. January 16, 2015. More research by Jim Stone: “These Sloan flush valves have occasionally stuck ‘on,’ requiring us to shut off the supply valve. We have normally replaced only the ‘diaphragm’ part of the valve [cost c. \$8]. The person I talked to at Crogan Plumbing suggested that we should install a complete repair kit (\$19) for a more satisfactory repair. Our valves would then work ‘as new.’ According to Crogan, there would be no advantage to replacing the entire valve.” Jim also determined that the design of the Sloan valves is still the same as it was when ours were installed, and that electronic gizmos are not very reliable and that furthermore the gizmos actuate the same old-style valve; thus if we went with the gizmos, we’d still have to replace the diaphragms every two or three years. Jim is going to purchase the rebuild kits and we’ll install them soon. I believe that the screwdriver now provided for emergency use if the valve sticks “on” should remain accessible, along with a (neater, re-drawn) notice indicating how to shut off the flow if we have a problem. Matt’s suggestion that we put diaphragm-replacement on a regular calendar basis has merit; I hope that info in the Office files will shed light on how long the diaphragms last.

Lighting. January 16, 2015. Matt noted yesterday that one of the LED lights in the Channing ceiling Ovoid had quit (it emitted a very faint glow). This afternoon I took the dead bulb to Youngstown Electrical Supply and bought two new ones @ \$25 each. Reports that prices have come down on these things are evidently premature. This is not the first of the ceiling LEDs to fail. Evidently claims of the long-lasting qualities of LEDs were premature, and/or the electrical contractor on the Channing renovation found unusually crummy specimens (no intelligible info as to manufacturer--replacements are Sylvania.) [Matt has since found equivalent LED floodlight bulbs, 8w actual power use, for \$20. Still seems a gouge. February 14, 2015.]

Lighting, Fluorescent Ceiling Tubes. February 14, 2015. Gary Davenport and I worked on ceiling lights in the **2d Floor RE Youth Room** on 12 Feb. Gary had attended a meeting in that room and noted that many of the lights were out. (Nobody from RE had reported the problem, and the Buddhist group that meets in the room use candles for illumination.) We replaced pairs of tubes in 4 fixtures, using old T-12 tubes from the 1st Floor Patio Room upgrade. Also replaced one of the **yellowish plastic lenses**, which had been broken in multiple places and was

held together with what appeared to be Scotch Magic Tape. (We have two more intact lenses in the Boiler Room.) One of the lights did not respond to replacement of tubes, so it probably needs a **new ballast**. We have plenty of those, from various places where T-12 fixtures have been replaced. We lacked time to deal with the ballast, so the fixture has been left with the lens hanging down as a reminder to finish the job. We also lacked enough small wire-nuts to connect the replacement ballast; I'll bring in some of those.

Matt and I spoke about the old fluorescent lights, and agreed that **a systematic campaign to rip out all the T-12 ballasts and install the newer T-8 types is not a cost-effective project**. The T-8 system offers only a modest gain in efficiency (40w tubes replaced by 34w), and the only reason to switch is the impending unavailability of T-12 tubes. We ought to stock up on T-12 tubes as we can find them, and hope to outlast the technological lag between the T-12 extinction and the arrival of the next technological breakthrough. Whenever some room is renovated we should of course move to the most cost-effective, more-efficient system available. Many of the old fixtures, with the yellowing, cracked plastic lenses, are grossly unattractive, but replacement lenses are quite costly, so we should ignore the ugliness as best we can. Most of our members and friends are unlikely to notice ugly but familiar items in any case.

Dishwasher. February 14, 2015. Two or three weeks ago it was reported that the dishwasher wasn't working. I heard this from 2 or 3 people, but nobody could be specific as to what wasn't working. I ran the machine and all cycles seemed to be functional. The drainage basket wasn't properly seated in its hole, so its tube may have been sticking up a bit and interfering with the propeller.

Baseboard in 1st-Floor Hallway, across from B&G Closet. February 14, 2015. The new baseboard has been on hand for a couple of years, fashioned to replace the old rotted piece. It is now in place; the original moulding was still in the B&G Closet and has been cleaned up and refinished sufficiently to serve. This was a tedious but fairly obvious project; **the other side of the hallway, outside the door to the B&G Closet, is more challenging**. We can't replace the moulding till there's a proper floor. At present the wood flooring, continuing into the hall from Channing, comes to an end leaving open a 2.5- foot stretch of uneven, nasty concrete (it replaced rotted wood and swamp). We need to level the concrete with floor-leveling goop, add a layer of outdoor-grade 3/8" plywood or sheet masonry, and top it off with some of the extra cork floor-tiles that we have on hand. Jim Rak has promised to assist with this but to date I've been too busy with assorted crises to call him and get the thing done.

Snow, Ice, Salt, etc. February 14, 2015. Liam Grice has recommended that we buy a serious **snow-blower**. He recommends a self-propelled 2-stage machine. I've sometimes brought my single-stage, user-propelled blower, which has usually worked fine, but I find it difficult to load and unload it in a vehicle; if I bring my ramps, they're awkward to deploy and tend to beat up the car's interior. There's room in the Cave to store a blower; the handles generally fold down easily. We'll see what is available, and how our finances look, when the weather warms and winter-gear prices fall. [No cheap end-of-season blowers were available, probably because it

was an unusually beastly winter and all the gadgets were sold.]

We're low on **salt**; I got some out from the Cave this week and I think that there's only one bag remaining. We're also low on **personnel**, as we've lost both Jim Zupanic and Richard Palmer--both of whom frequently did shoveling, as well as Jim's mowing and his and Richard's reliable and efficient contributions in whatever activities needed to get done. In the much-regretted absence of our two MVPs, it was gratifying to have Joe Kucala appear on the 12th to dig at the accumulated ice-floes. He made some good progress against the ice with his mattock before the new snow deposits of yesterday and today.

Schweitzer Lounge Renovations and the Great Cellphone Chase. February 14, 2015. The much-discussed Schweitzer project has proceeded slowly. Drywall went up late in 2014, got painted, real wooden baseboards were installed, carpet squares went down, and cabinets for the South wall were installed. (One of our admirable new cleaning crew was so taken with the gray wall paint that she recorded the formula to use in her home.) The baseboards are a welcome change from the old vinyl cove base. The ceiling lighting is a conspicuous improvement.

Unfortunately, progress came to a halt, and the room has remained unfinished. I could get no information as to what wasn't happening, did not know what contractor was doing the work (Greg Weaver), and did not wish to interfere with work that might have been impending and perhaps paid for. Until the end of January I was in any case on leave of absence from B&G. So it was a good thing that I was able to attend a meeting of the Schweitzer Committee on 9 Feb. By the time we met, the Cellphone Chase had taken place (see below). The delays have not been the fault of Mr. Weaver, who had received no guidance from the Committee to determine what should be done next. His activity is to resume soon, so the glass whiteboard should be mounted on the wall and knobs installed on the cabinet doors. (Linda Mohn has provided suitable knobs, 4 of which need proper screws--I'll find screws.) Weaver will also consult on new covers for the 4 heating/cooling vents.

The absence of those covers led to the **Cellphone** problems. Since the building is sometimes host to multiple meetings (this is a good thing), it was inevitable that the almost-finished Schweitzer Lounge would be used. The stackable wooden chairs from Channing were moved in and arranged in a circle. At one meeting, Molly Toth's 2-week-old phone dived from an unoccupied chair and fell into an uncovered vent.

Many hours were spent in the rescue effort on 3 days (3-5 Feb.) Participants were Molly; her father, Lou Toth; Gary Davenport; Matt Alspaugh; Richard Palmer; and me. Lou had a remote-viewing device, which sometimes enabled us to see the target. Unfortunately, all of us have elbows, so we could not reach into the narrow rectangular vent and grab the target in the round duct that runs parallel to the wall. Approaches that failed: flexible grabby tool (too flexible to manipulate); vacuum hose (unable to hang on when dragging the phone out of the round duct); wire basket (hard to manage, lost beneath the floor); nylon rods for shoving chimney-sweep brushes (too stiff to insert into vent); sticky tape (not enough grab, vulnerable to dust); and glue (ditto). Finally Lou and Gary were inspired to tape the remote-viewer's cable to

the flexible grabber, so that the grabber and eye were in the same place. The baseboard was pried off to allow better access to the vent, causing damage to the baseboard and to the paper covering of the drywall. (A small bead of very tough clear caulk had been used at the top of the baseboard.) The baseboard has been repaired and repainted; drywall needs more applications of spackle, primer, and paint. I've installed temporary vent-covers of hardware cloth, laying them under the carpet squares. [March 4, 2015--The Schweitzer Committee met on 9 and 17 Feb., the second meeting including Greg, who assured us that the register-covers will be the proper sort, with the baseboard notched to afford the maximum possible opening for hearted/cooled air.]

Plumbing, Frozen. March 3, 2015. **Part 1.** About 3 weeks ago, the heat went off in the 1st-floor RE Room. Matt and I were unable to find anything amiss with the furnace. (We have 3 forced-air heating devices, for Office, 2d-floor RE, and 1st-floor RE, plus the steam boiler for the older part of the building.) A call to Dieter was answered promptly, and the HVAC expert determined that the plastic pipe that carries water condensate had frozen, causing the furnace to shut itself off. (Yes, the Boiler Room contains 5 heating devices, if we count the hot-water heater, but the plastic tube is right against the outside wall.) 2 electric heaters were set up and directed at the tubing, and we succeeded in removing what was left of an electric heating tape that was installed years ago in a misguided effort to combat icing in the exterior tubing that dumps sump water. The heating tape and heaters remained on for a day or two and the furnace returned to action.

Part 2. Matt reported last week that **faucets in two rooms (2d-floor Sink Closet and 1st-floor Women's Restroom)** appeared to be frozen. He set up electric heaters in both rooms; I noted Saturday evening that the Sink Closet faucets were gushing forth and turned them off. The Women's Restroom faucets were still unproductive, and I do not know whether they have yet thawed.

Several years ago we had a frozen pipe burst and do considerable damage to 1st-floor ceilings. It had been determined before that episode that pipes in the back wall of the Sink Closet were vulnerable, and signage had been deployed to persuade people not to shut the closet door. After the cleanup, we removed the door (it may be in the Cave now) and replaced it with a curtain. It is now clear that we need further anti-freeze measures. Jim Stone has reminded me that the plans for the RE Wing will indicate where pipes go; I am not certain that the relevant pipes will be accessible, but we need to search; perhaps electric heat-tape could be applied.

Security--Motion Detectors and a Tragic Event. March 4, 2015. We have had some ADT alarms in the past couple of months; I've received the call 2 or 3 times. I've been assuming that the motion probably consisted of a bat flapping around one of the RE hallways, and on Sunday 1 March, my assumption was verified when a bat was neatly caught, without damage, between two of our many baskets. Snow-shovelers and the bat-trapper watched it set off toward the derelict building across Illinois Ave. from the church. Unfortunately it did not make it to that appropriate housing, as it was killed en route by a hawk.

Smoke Alarm, Children's Chapel (Big 1st-Floor RE Room). March 6, 2015. Yesterday Diane told me that the cleaners had reported chirping. I removed the round alarm (guessing which of the two was the source of the infrequent noise--for unknown reasons, two alarms are mounted about a yard apart) and it did make unpredictable noises. We have no battery tester at the Church, so I took the alarm along on some errands and it chirped erratically, particularly when moved around. I checked the battery, which was fine, and replaced it in the alarm after spraying electric-contact improver. Hasn't sounded since, and I'll reinstall it on the wall.

Dehumidifier, Same Room. March 6, 2015. While I worked on the alarm, I noted that someone had unplugged the dehumidifier from the high-mounted wall outlet. This unplugging requires fetching a ladder, so it cannot be accidental. In the winter, humidity is very low so the unit never turns on; in other seasons the room is damp and the unit needs to be plugged in. Does anyone know who unplugs the dehumidifier, or why? [March 18, 2015--Becky has determined that the unplugging(s) are not the RE teachers. Still a mystery.]

Dead Fluorescents. March 18, 2015. I've moved most of the dangerous mess of bad tubes from the Illinois Closet to the Channing Chair Closet, where they're packed up so that they'll be unlikely to break in transit. Hazmat pickup downtown at the Covelli Center won't come round till 15 May. Two broken tubes were securely enclosed in a dry-cat-food bag and sent off in trash. My scheme of accumulating enough T-12 bulbs to hold on till the next lighting paradigm-shift may not work out; WalMart had only one more package of 10 when I looked for more tubes. **Anyone know of more T-12s anywhere?** Replacing the ballast on one of the Youth Room fixtures was exceedingly tedious; Jim Stone and I used up our last new on-hand T-12 ballast. Swapping out bad ones for used stock from the Patio Room conversion has the downside that we may go through the hassle of rewiring only to install another funky ballast, so that we need to do the whole miserable process over.

We may be compelled to switch one room at a time to the slightly more efficient T-8 lights (and replacing the current yellowed fixtures with the nicer recessed sort that may be seen in the Patio Room), saving replaced parts to sustain the remaining rooms with T-12 lights.

Plumbing, Men's-Room Washbowl. March 18, 2015. Several reports were received to the effect that pipes had re-frozen, so that no water emerged from the washbowl faucets. Freezing seemed unlikely after several days of above-freezing outdoor temperatures, so on Sunday 15 March Jim Stone removed the aerator tip on the spigot, whereupon water gushed forth. A few days' immersion of the aerator in vinegar removed the ivory-colored bits of calcified crud, and the faucets are now working properly. Easiest fix we've had in a long while.

Plumbing, 2d-Floor Nursery. March 20, 2015. Becky reported issues with faucets in the Nursery and the adjoining Chalice Room some time ago, and today Rick from Faison Plumbing worked on plumbing in those rooms. The **toilet in the mini-restroom** seems to be working ok; when B&G replaces the works of the urinals in the Men's Restroom, we'll also do the

mini-toilet, which has the same Sloan valve system.

In both classrooms, there were dead **drinking-fountain devices** on the washbowls. They were identical American Standard items, long obsolete; Rick determined that each had an internal brass piston that was fused in place and could not be repaired or replaced. In the Nursery, Becky and I had agreed that there was no point to a fountain, as small children could use it only after climbing, which would inevitably lead to falling; we would be better off without that demand on child-minders' vigilance, not to mention injuries. So the fountain in the Nursery was replaced by a chromed hole-cover. The fountain in the Chalice Room has been replaced by a new, functional device made by Zurn.

Faucets in the sinks were said to be subject to dripping. They are wisely equipped with spring-loaded handles that dispense water only when pushed, so that water can't be left running. In both cases, aerators on the outlets had been removed, according to the unfortunate custom of taking stuff off and pitching it out without notifying B&G. The aerators were replaced. The Nursery faucet was working ok; its counterpart in the Chalice Room required prolonged effort from Rick, whose patience I've admired in the past. It ceased letting out water after the work on the fountain; having evidently acquired a substantial chunk of calcified crud which Rick was able at last to dislodge. Rick believes that the Water Department has carried out its improvements in water filtration, so that we have more calcified bits at present, and less limey water in the future. I am very glad that we did not attempt to deal with these weird and tricky plumbing issues on our own.

RE Plaque. March 20, 2015. I found in the Nursery a small plaque in honor of the late Cirenya Rose, a well-loved RE worker. The plaque-makers screwed it up so that it can't be hung without some modification, but that will be no big deal and we'll install it wherever Becky wants it to be.

Tools from the Cave. March 20, 2015. Gary Davenport, Matt, and I discovered three of the Church's tools outdoors, near the northern door on the East side of the RE Wing--leaf-rake, shovel, fork. Somebody took them out of the Cave and left them at the mercy of weather and thieves. Negligence, in the same genre as the dumping of a metal fork in one of the compost bins.

Window Wells, Children's Chapel. March 20, 2015. I've swept out crud with the big vacuum. Drains weren't blocked, and the drain-line from the dehumidifier is clear. The wire mesh over the tops of the window wells is somewhat messed up, and will be repaired with more and bigger staples.

Fall Room, Storage Space, etc. March 30, 2015. At a recent discussion on Kitchen issues (Matt, Women's Alliance people) it was suggested that the Fall Room be called something else. I'm not crazy about "**Pantry**," which suggests a wholly Kitchen identity for the room, which contains the closest thing that B&G has to a work area--particularly the table, bench grinder, and drill press. Consolidation of some non-B&G items has freed up a good deal of shelf space,

mostly in the shelf-unit next to the fridge and on the high shelves--about 15 feet altogether. I'm happy to move some of the B&G stuff that's very infrequently used (pew parts, e.g.) to more remote locations.

It was suggested (not by me!) that the **Kitchen might again be equipped with a shelf or cabinets** above the counter with sink and dishwasher--not the straightforward plywood shelf that Lowell Satre and I installed many years ago and which vanished during the Kitchen redecoration, but something deemed esthetically acceptable by the various parties with interests in the Kitchen. This seems to me a Good Thing.

The relocation of the Sanctuary audio controls from the **Sound Room** frees up more room for shelving. I've already stashed fluorescent tubes in that room (see below). I measured the room this morning.

Lighting. March 30, 2015. In accord with discussions on fluorescents, I've bought a box of 30 T-12 bulbs and put them in the Sound Room. Plan is to move them as needed, after using up the ones in the 2d-Floor Supply Closet. (See above, 18 March, re lights.)

Weirdness and Destruction. March 30, 2015. This morning, while serving on Coffee Hour Hospitality Committee, I found the wooden table from the **high chair** in the Island sink. It was covered with ice, and sitting in the sink to defrost and drain. The high chair (which belongs in the hall between Kitchen and RE Wing) had been found outdoors. Suggestions as to why anyone would have been moved to put the chair outdoors would be welcome.

The **stapler** from the Kitchen drawer near the fridge wasn't stapling, so I took it to the Office to reload with more staples. Someone had ripped out the slider that would ordinarily push the row of staples into position and disappeared it, and had stretched the staple-pushing spring into uselessness. This destruction would have required use of tools and some effort. The stapler was a good Swingline unit, labeled "Youngstown Board of Education." I've never known how it got into our kitchen, but it had been there for several years.

It seems fairly obvious that there's a continuum of responses to an empty stapler. In descending order of desirability these responses are: (1) take stapler to Office, replace staples, return stapler to drawer; (2) if you lack an Office key, put stapler in Office or B&G mailbox; (3) label stapler "empty" and leave it on counter; (4) label the empty stapler and put it back in the drawer; (5) put the empty stapler back in the drawer, unlabeled (a procedure similar to putting an empty milk carton back on the fridge shelf); and (6) rip the guts out of the stapler and put it in the drawer. Can anyone suggest a mental process, other than pure destructiveness, that would lead someone to (6)?

Kitchen Equipment. April 15, 2015. On Friday 10 April I went to church to take in some stuff for the Pancake Dinner and found the organizers in distress because there were no **skillets or cook-tops** for the stoves. I brought in some items from home, and the event seemed to go off

nicely; but it is unconscionable that we lack a reasonable arsenal of cooking equipment. I'm pretty sure that the new stoves came with cooktops to set over the burners; those items are unlikely to have been stolen, and are probably wherever it seemed reasonable to the squirrels to hide them. They'll turn up after we search the stovemakers' website and buy replacements. The skillets may, in my view, be classified as stolen. Liz Hill said that she would check ReStore for skillets; if nothing suitable turns up, there are usually good-quality skillets cheap at Ollie's. [Eventually got skillets from Ollie's.]

High-Chair. April 15, 2015. Last Sunday the wooden high-chair that has been stored in the hallway between Kitchen and RE Wing was found to be outdoors on the Patio, having been rained on. A couple of weeks earlier it was left out and iced up, so that the wooden tray had to be deglaciated in the sink. Does anyone know who takes it outdoors and leaves it there, or why? Timing of these events suggests that it may be someone involved with Farmers' Market. (Subsequently determined that FM was using it to hold up a sign. Leaving it out happened because the FM people who put away stuff aren't necessarily the same ones who get it out. Jim Converse has seen to it that the high-chair remains now indoors.)

Super Work-Party, Sat. 18 April. This is an attempt to institute infrequent but big efforts to organize efforts to improve the condition of the Church, inside and out. Lunch and child care will be provided. I expect to work mostly on new shelving in the Sound Room; tasks of various kinds will be written up for volunteers to choose. It is hoped that this format will be more productive than the monthly work parties that we used to do, till we basically ran out of people.

SWP Summarized. I believe that Matt Alspaugh has notes on who did what; I was engaged with shelving in the Sound Room. About 28 persons participated. Kadey Kimple directed **Grounds** activities and worked on the lawn corner at Elm and Illinois. Jon Locketti scraped paint from the **vent above the Cave door** (the vent is aluminum and in decent shape, to be repainted soon). Jim Stone, Andy Crabb, and Clayton Henderson worked with me in the Sound Room to measure and install a 12-foot **shelf** high on the Elm Street-facing wall. (Jim and I later put up a lower second shelf; now we have 24 feet of shelf space for storage.) Kadey later seeded the lawn corner; to water the seeded area, I had to connect all 4 of our hoses, most of which are kinky (not in a good way). One hose nozzle was broken, evidently from freezing. We need to get the spigot at the SW corner of the patio repaired; it's an unreasonable struggle to get water to the corner from the spigot in the Patio, outside Schweitzer Lounge. [Jim Stone has since suggested running a pipe from the Kitchen to the exterior, so there would be a spigot near the Illinois doorway.] Louisa Berger made **food** for the Work Party, with additional contributions from Judy Stone and Matt Alspaugh. (It was erroneously reported that Women's Alliance fed the multitude; that was unfortunate because it might give the impression that Women's Alliance is responsible for feeding whatever Church activity is going on.)

The **SWP model** was clearly a success in mobilizing participants (particularly in comparison with those of our old monthly Work Parties that attracted very few workers, or in a couple of cases, worker, singular). I hope that we can improve supervision and follow-through. Two

plastic bags of leaves were deposited into the former pond/mosquito-breeder next door, where we've been putting leaves for a few years; the incompatibility of the bags with the purpose of building a nicely-rotted organic mass wasn't clear enough to someone. Leaves, twigs, and big branches were piled together so as to make it more difficult than necessary to disentangle and grind that material. Jim Stone and I repaired the minor damage done to my chipper-shredder.

Hazardous Materials Disposal. On 16 May I took c. 4 dozen dead fluorescent tubes, plus two boxes of ballasts from T-12 fixtures, two smoke alarms, and a few CFL bulbs, to the Canfield Fairgrounds collection.

Channing Hall Fan Lights. May 17, 2015. Jim Stone and I shopped for and purchased light-kits for the fans at Lowe's on Friday 15 May, and installed them the following day. This was one of the tasks that have been long-intended but undone, in this case dragged out since shortly after the Great Channing Renovation several years ago. The wall switch for the fan-lights is a dimmer, so the included CFL bulbs are not usable; we've used 60W incandescents for the time being, in the hope that more efficient dimmable bulbs will be available at reasonable cost by the time these bulbs burn out. (Dimmable CFLs and LEDs now run circa \$9 and up apiece.) There remains some weirdness in the fan/light controls, probably attributable to a problem in the original fan wiring on the East unit; Jim and I hope to resolve that issue soon. [Done May 21, 2015.] It was pure coincidence that the service on the 17th included singing "This Little Light of Mine."

Kitchen--Towels & Rags to Be Washed. May 17, 2015. The plastic container for these items had been missing for a week or so, and I replaced it during this morning's service with an ugly bucket from the Illinois Closet, labeled to explain that the proper container has been disappeared.. By the time I left the building, c. 1:45 PM, the proper container had reappeared from its hiding place. A mystery.

Kitchen--Icemaker. May 17, 2015. This morning Jan Schnall pointed out that there was no ice in the kitchen freezer. Investigation revealed that the ice tray has been shoved part-way in, so as to hold up the wire bail that makes the icemaker think that its tray is full. This is the first time I've observed this particular means of disabling the icemaking process; usually it's been junk crammed into the ice-tray.

Dried Vegetation in the Fall Room. May 17, 2015. The three potted plants that have been in the Fall Room for several weeks are now gone. The vegetation had sat on the table next to or on top of the sign that says "This is a work table. Please don't leave stuff on it." This morning Kadey Kimple and Jim Converse declared that the plants belonged to neither of them, and Jim was kind enough to take them away.

Schweitzer Lounge. May 18, 2015. Greg Weaver installed the heat-register covers during the last week or two. This was a welcome development because the improvised wire-mesh covers that I had made were capable of keeping cell-phones and other small items out of the ductwork,

but not the chair-legs that I've seen wander very close to the holes. The electric fireplace-ish item was also installed. Questions have been raised as to how much power it draws [1500 watts], and how well suited it is to installation on the switched outlet.

Water. June 15, 2015. I got a call yesterday from the anti-fracking meeting, saying that water was coming in under the radiator. Jeanne Tucker's cell phone was not communicating well with our home phone, and it was not clear what was happening. There had been one of the several short, fierce rainstorms that we've been experiencing lately. The water was detected behind the radiator nearest to the elevator, in Channing Hall. Dripping had been heard inside the wall, and the radiator-cover grille had been removed. Only minor dampness was present, but if we get repeated water-intrusion in that enclosed area, we'll have mold, and the drywall will crumble.

The **downspout from the roof at the southwest corner of the original building** was probably overflowing. I had noted a day earlier that the slotted cap on the downspout apparatus near the ground was missing, and had noted the dimension in order to buy a replacement. In the sunny aftermath of the brief rainstorm, I found the cap in the grass, presumably blown out during a surge. This cap is there to allow air to get into the system and prevent a vacuum-bubble in the descending roof water; if the buried drainpipe can't handle the water, it will spew from the cap. Either the underground drain is obstructed, or the amount of water dumped into the system exceeds the capacity of the system. Many calls to Morris Drain today have failed to get through; presumably they're flooded with urgent calls in the wake of the heavy rains. We'll keep calling, and get the drains on the South side of the building (facing Illinois) checked.

The exterior sill of the Channing window nearest the elevator shows a triangular hole rotted away. We're probably getting some seepage through the below-ground brick as well. The cast-iron domed drain-cover in the trench along the South Channing windows was covered by leaves, which have been removed.

Good news is that the Illinois Closet (across the hall from the Kitchen) did not flood; its inconspicuous sump pump is working. And the Boiler Room sumps are also working.

Another long-obvious water problem was observed along the East side of the RE Wing, where the sidewalk tilts toward the building, the better to force water into the 1st-floor RE rooms. Jeanne's phone was used to photograph the resulting lagoon, which is close to two inches deep. This water problem manifests itself in the **recurrent mold in the big RE room (exacerbated by whoever sees fit to unplug the dehumidifier in that room)**. The problem is caused by unprofessional, sloppy work by whoever failed to provide a proper substrate for the sidewalk, which was probably laid down when the RE Wing was built in late 1960s-early 70s. (That would be the Lagoon Goon.) Since that was decades ago and we don't keep records anyhow, we can't pursue the LG, and need to deal with the slanted sidewalk. Jon Locketti has promised to seek out someone who does hydraulic concrete-tilting (previous efforts to find such an outfit led to an derelict building). We don't really need a sidewalk beyond the first (southernmost)

RE doorway, and it seems obvious that **we need to get the sidewalk readjusted or removed, and to build up the ground along the wall so that it slopes away from the building.** This seems to me a more immediate need than the reconfiguration of the Patio, resurrection of the Steeple, or other major projects on the agenda.

Water, Concrete, etc., cont'd. July 5, 2015. A-1 Concrete Leveling visited on 23 June in the person of Jim Lavary. Raising and leveling the sidewalk along the East side of the building “to divert water away from Building” would cost \$1400. The concrete between the curb and sidewalk outside the Elm Street entry, where we laid some concrete patch to deal with the Tripping Edge last summer, could be raised and leveled for \$600. (Some of our patch has already crumbled.)

This morning I spoke with Kadey Kimpel about the bank inside the Patio, next to the building, where weedy vegetation was removed several weeks ago to produce a **mudslide** and some spectacularly muddy children. Kadey agreed that some suitable ground cover needs to be planted soon--not dangerous stripping vines like the stuff that was there, but something that will cover the tilted ground. Some sort of wooden ladder-like structure, perhaps made of wood pallets, could be laid next to the building, rendered inconspicuous by ground-cover, so as to facilitate occasional access to the window-well at the top of the hill, just inside the Patio fence. The window-well needs to be checked annually to ensure that the drain at its bottom is clear.

Kadey suggested that we **move the outdoor faucet**, which is at present not working, down the hill for better access. She witnessed the struggles to connect multiple hoses from the spigot down in the Patio portico for watering the plantings at the Elm-Illinois corner. Good idea, which will require a real plumber.

Paint. July 5, 2015. We have more paint peeling, this time on the wall outside the upstairs elevator door.

Lock. July 5, 2015. Some time ago I helped Jim Rak remove the big Master combination padlock from the chain-link gate at the East end of the narrow passageway between the North side of our building and Rodef Sholom. I've soaked the lock in various anti-corrosion potions for weeks, and the end rotors now turn freely, but the two center rotors are very hard to move without using a vise, striking tool, and hammer. I'm going to follow Jim's recommendation by setting the center rotors to the combination (same as the Patio gate) and leaving them alone, using the end rotors to lock and unlock. Nothing is stored in that passage, but it is useful to keep the gate secured to discourage people from sneaking through; when open, it could be used to move tools, items for Patio entertainments, etc. We use those Master padlocks because their combinations can be reset as needed.

Kitchen--Theft, Destruction, etc. July 5, 2015. The large old percolator has been disappeared by unknown persons. We spent about \$50 to get it fixed (thermostat), and it worked fine. What particularly irritates me is that it hasn't gone to ReStore or to anyone else

who might use it; its lid was left behind in the Fall Room. Unilateral, undiscussed decisions to get rid of Church stuff are both unreasonable and contrary to Board policy. If anyone can provide info on the percolator's disappearance, I would be grateful.

Patio/Courtyard. July 5, 2015. Meeting on Patio Plans is to take place Sunday 12 July, after service, in the Board Room. This project is pretty ambitious, and should be of interest to the B&G community. [Meeting modified the proposal, removing big permanent tables and stage extension; estimate promised for next meeting. Jon Locketti is keeping records and running meetings.]

Neighborhood Cleanup, 18 July. The Church served as the base for cleanup at two properties, the derelict former halfway house across Illinois Avenue from the Church and vacant house two doors East of the Church. Gary Davenport organized the effort, which drew about forty participants and was used some equipment from the City's tool trailer. Vast quantities of weeds were removed, including a dead tree in the yard on our side of the street and a clump of weed-trees at the corner across the street. The operation ran from 9 to 11 AM, after which workers consumed a lunch prepared by Louisa Berger. Three large piles of hacked-out vegetation remain, to be picked up by the City.

The **success of this effort** calls up some reflections on why it worked, in contrast to the Church's monthly work-parties that died out in the past year or so.

1. Obviously, the **number of workers** was crucial (c. 40 vs. low single digits). The Cleanup drew from a variety of organizations and networks, while the Church has few able-bodied, available workers. Some other differences are nevertheless worth noting.
2. The **mission was clearly defined**: *Remove jungle*. Our work-parties attempted to deal with long, diverse lists of problems to be addressed, from which we picked whatever could be addressed with the personnel that turned up.
3. The **mission was doable by mass action**. Activities were easily visible, and it was fairly obvious what needed doing: *Drag massacred vegetation out of the way and pile it*. Our work parties tended to send people to scattered locations, where they toiled in solitary drudgery on separate projects. A lot of what needs to be done requires specific skills, or is accessible to one person (at most) at a time.
4. The **mission produced visible results**. *Look! Clear spaces! Big piles of weed salad!* Repaired locks, doors unstuck, etc., are fairly inconspicuous.
5. The Cleanup **took only two hours**, apart from bagels/orientation and lunch, and even after Kitchen cleanup everyone was gone before 1 PM. This time-frame was remarkably brief when compared to the understaffed old-style Work Parties which sometimes left one or two persons toiling into the very late afternoon, marinating in resentment.

Mulch. July 24, 2015. One evening this week Molly Toth, Sarah Lowry, Gary Davenport, and I moved some **mulch** from the big pile at the southeast corner of the building. We made a small dent in the pile and installed a rectangular mulched area around the base of the multicolored UUYO sign. In the process, some issues emerged. The **hose** on the East side of the building was kinked and tangled, requiring considerable effort to straighten out. The **nozzle** on that hose had been replaced, as its predecessor (a Black and Decker twist-type) had broken, spraying water in all directions except where it was supposed to spray; prolonged soaking in vinegar did not help). The **tire on the Church's wheelbarrow** (replaced a couple of months ago) was nearly flat. [It has since been reinflated, but the valve-stem is crooked; if we deflate it to move the tire, the tubeless tire will lose contact with the rim and require a visit to a monster compressor in order to re-establish bead contact.] **Another effort at outdoor work is set for Saturday 25 July, 9:30 AM.**

I apologize for the hiatus in this Chronicle; distractions have been many and I've pretty much forgotten what B&G efforts took place from July through October. That lack of memory is one of the reasons I need to write all this stuff down. Sorry. MB

Schweitzer Lounge. October 13, 2015. Jan Schnall and I installed the **drapes** on Friday 10 October. The gray wall paint for Schweitzer was used for the wooden mounting blocks, and has been moved out of the Schweitzer cabinet to the Boiler Room (where we keep all the non-flammable paint).

I've investigated the West wall between the doors, where there is a **heavy glass shelf** to be mounted. As I feared, the new and impressive studfinder that I bought for this activity shows no sturdy studs behind the new drywall. The two vertical objects behind the wall are probably furring strips (of different widths) used during the drywall. I've marked them in pencil. They are not symmetrical, and if the two shelf-supports are installed by screwing them into the probably furring-strips, they'll be conspicuously off-center. Instructions with the shelf-mounts indicate that they should be no more than 18 inches apart. For a 40-inch shelf, this is problematic, since the screws supplied with the mounts are long, evidently intended for screwing into solid 2x4 studs. I believe that the drywall was installed over the old plywood paneling, which was pretty close to the brick. I fear that the heavy shelf, held up by too few mounts which will be screwed into nothing very solid, will eventually fall down onto the electric fireplace gizmo, on which sooner or later someone will place heavy items. I am also reluctant to mangle a lot of drywall in search of a secure base for mounting. I've therefore backed away from my promise to put up the shelf, and have so informed the Schweitzer Committee. Jim Rak is considering how the job might be accomplished. [November 1, 2015--Matt reports that he's going to use different, longer brackets, relying on screws that will grab in the plywood layer behind the drywall without going too far and hitting brick.]

Security. October 13, 2015. I got the ADT call c. 3 PM yesterday. I found nobody around (early in the day for bats). ADT guy reported the alarm as "ultrasonic [i.e., motion detector]

north” and I failed to ask which floor. One of the Schweitzer doors to the Patio was unlocked; there are no door-sensors on any of the Patio doors, so it’s possible that somebody entered the Patio, tried some doors, and walked into the hallway to set off the motion detector.

[We have no functioning Security Committee, and are unlikely to create one until we have a major intrusion, so I include Security observations in this B&G Chronicle in order to save some record, somewhere.]

Security, again. October 13, 2015. Matt recently heard a report of copper-pirate attacks on local businesses, and asked me to follow up on protection for our vulnerable outdoor HVAC units (on the East side of the building, on both sides of the Cave). We had previously looked into cages and got a very costly quotation; Matt had found some fence-wire cages on the Net, but I don’t recall sizes, prices, or other details. I thought that I had some scrap outdoor-wood treated 2x4 and 2x6 lumber, but I find that I don’t. If we do this ourselves, we’ll need to make 4 holes, right up against concrete. **Does anyone have access to an auger?**

Schweitzer Lounge Curtains. November 1, 2015. Three or four weeks ago Jan Schnall and I installed curtains, using on-hand wood and inexpensive steel rods from Star Supply. Thanks to Jan for finding and hemming suitable curtains and for invaluable aid during installation.

Exit-Sign Bulbs. November 1, 2015. Two days ago I followed up on Matt’s report of LED bulbs at Menard’s and bought specimens of two types of bulbs. One worked, and will eventually serve to replace some of the bulbs in the RE hallways. (Costs \$10 instead of \$2 for the incandescents, but should last a lot longer and uses 2.5 watts instead of 20.) The other type did not in fact fit, and will have to be returned for credit. Since one of the three most common bulbs can be replaced with LED, we won’t have to replace the signs to cut electric-power waste; probably the other two types of bulb will become available in LED format reasonably soon. Someone had disappeared the classification of exit bulbs from the bulb-box in the Supply Closet, so I’ve made up a new version and put copies in the box and in the Office file.

Liquid Soap. November 1, 2015. [Not properly a B&G item, but I know of no place where we record Kitchen and cleaning supplies.] Sam’s, where we generally buy our paper towels, toilet paper, etc., has stopped stocking non-germicidal liquid hand soap. The germicidal stuff is now generally considered a bad idea, which increases vulnerability to the nasties. Liquid hand soap from Menard’s is now on the shelf in the Fall Room.

Schweitzer Lounge. November 7, 2015. Matt has successfully attached the **glass shelf** to the wall, using sturdy brackets. Today I used double-sided tape to secure the shelf to the brackets, after using artsy erasers to remove the pencil lines that I had made to line up the shelf.

Patio Room. November 7, 2015. I have installed the **rubber sealing tape to the middle door**; this makes two of the three doors winterized. That middle door is badly warped, so the seal at the bottom is imperfect. The tape is easy to install, but it changes the relative positions of the fixed

and free doors and necessitates somewhat tedious work to move the strike-plates for the locks. We have one more roll of tape, which will suffice for the third Patio Room door; I'll have to order more so we can do the two doors between Channing Hall and the Patio.

Office. November 7, 2015. Per Heather's request, I moved a box of labels to the Supply Closet and the small stack of ceiling tiles to the former Sound Room. The computer has also been moved from the table to the desk.

Patio-Room Door Insulating. November 22, 2015. I have applied the rubber insulating strips to the junctures between all three pairs of doors. The Church's Swingline staple gun was used in insulating the first two doors, but it has vanished. [Found 25 Nov.] These doors, like most other doors in the building, leak radiant heat through their single-pane windows. Insulated curtains would help, and could be installed at quite moderate cost, in a modified version of the Schweitzer Lounge curtain job.

Restroom Light-Switches. November 22, 2015. Members of Women's Alliance have reminded us of the poorly-conceived switch locations in the 1st-floor restrooms, where anyone entering the restroom when the lights are turned off must first pass through an unlighted entryway and fumble for the switch on the *inside wall* of the restroom. Anyone leaving the restroom and turning out the light must stumble through the darkened entry and grope for the handle of the hallway door. This stupidity is an original sin, dating to the construction of the RE Wing in the late 1960s. In both restrooms, switches need to be emplaced in the entryways. This is an unusual problem in that it has been messed up for decades, since installation, instead of being something that used to work and had worn out or been damaged.

Men's Restroom, Urinal Shutoff Instructions. November 22, 2015. Someone has removed and presumably destroyed the instructions for emergency shutoff of urinals when the valves stick and water is wasted.

Fire Inspection. It has been several years since our last inspection, and we are scheduled for a new one, on Wednesday 25 Nov. I'll take notes as the inspector takes notes, and will report to Board, B&G, etc.

November 28, 2015. I met as scheduled with the inspector, Zach Whinery. The City is now inspecting all the churches in town. In this summary, which I'll send to appropriate Board and B&G people, I'll use caps for emphasis, because obnoxious attributes of the e-mail and word-processing systems strip out my bold and other formatting.

RELATIVELY COMPLICATED THINGS THAT NEED TO BE DEALT WITH RIGHT AWAY:

1. **NEW HARD-WIRED WALL OUTLET(S) IN BOILER ROOM.** We are not permitted to rely on the extension cord that connects the secondary sump pump to the outlet on the South

wall. (This connection is essential because the secondary sump needs to be on a different circuit than the main pump, lest a popped breaker stop all pumping and allow the Boiler Room to be drowned. If it's news to you that our ancestors chose to build the Church athwart an underground stream, discuss the topic with a veteran B&G member; it's too long to go into here.) Installation of the necessary outlet is fairly straightforward, requiring one electrically-confident person, one helper, and some conduit and hardware. **I HAVE TO CALL THE INSPECTOR WHEN WE'VE DONE THIS, OR HE'LL START CALLING ME.**

The messily coiled extension cord on the floor of the raised part of the room can't be there any more. I explained that it has been used on only one occasion, when the freezing of a condensation-drain line shut off one of the new furnaces, necessitating some heating; I'm not sure whether we need a new outlet in that area or not, and hope that if we put away the cord we may be ok. It would be far better to slide some insulation between the exterior wall and the tube that is subject to freezing than to employ electrical heating in any case.

2. REPLACEMENT OF BACKUP BATTERIES ON ALL EXIT-SIGNS AND A COUPLE OF HALLWAY EMERGENCY LIGHTS. I've been replacing exit-sign bulbs as needed, but have not been poking the test buttons to see if the emergency power-failure lights work. Inspection revealed that they do not. There are more of these battery-backed-up devices than any normal person would imagine, and they will all have to be opened up to determine what sort of batteries are required. (Since different signs were installed by different people in different years, there will be multiple types of batteries.) Youngstown Electrical Supply, which has been a handy source for many items, is no longer conveniently located downtown, having moved to a former 7-Up bottling plant somewhere on Meridian.

3. INSPECTION AND CERTIFICATION OF THE SIMPLEX FIRE-ALARM PANEL ON THE WALL OUTSIDE THE MINISTER'S OFFICE. I've never been certain whether this is part of the current system, or whether fire-alarming is tied in with our ADT intrusion-alert setup. There is power to the Simplex apparatus, as a little light is illuminated. If it's active, it needs regular inspection and certification, which does not appear to have been done. I don't think that the annual ABC inspection and tagging of extinguishers involves any attention to the Simplex gizmo. Sorting this out requires finding records, if possible, and calling Simplex and, possibly, the Fire Department. I don't believe that there's anything relevant in the ADT file. [29 Nov. Matt reports that the Simplex alarm is not connected to the Fire Dept. Probably it needn't be checked and tagged. Alarm was tested this morning when one of the small children of the Church fell prey to Botherfingers Syndrome and pulled the alarm in Channing, next to one of the Patio doors. It's loud. **IT MAKES LITTLE SENSE NOT TO HAVE A FIRE ALARM THAT WILL CALL THE FIRE DEPT. IF SOMETHING LIGHTS UP DURING THE MANY HOURS WHEN NOBODY IS AT THE CHURCH; MATT WILL CHECK INTO AN ADT CONNECTION.**

RELATIVELY SIMPLE THINGS THAT HAVE TO BE DEALT WITH.

1. FALL ROOM SHELVES, which have been painstakingly constructed to provide the most possible storage for the wall area, should not extend closer than 24 inches to the drop-ceiling tile. It may be tolerable to keep the shelves as they are if nothing combustible is on them; I think we should replace combustibles with other items and see if the inspector objects on his return. Same with high shelves in the 1st-Floor RE Hall Closet.
2. CEILING TILES. Inspector pointed out several places where ceiling tiles were not in place (Elevator Engine Room, various other rooms). This is easy to fix, assuming that missing tiles haven't been disappeared altogether, but it's maddening because it's so unnecessary. Whoever moves tiles out of place, whether Church personnel or contractors, should follow Fulghum Rule #1--Clean up Your Mess.
3. EXIT-SIGN BULBS. I am certain that the sign in the hallway outside the North door to the Sanctuary had two working bulbs a week before the inspection; both were burned out. Likewise the bulbs on the sign above the Fall Room door to the exterior stairway, which I tend to forget is a door and never notice. The old wasteful incandescent bulbs burn out rapidly; so far we've found an LED version for just one of the three bulb-types, and that's unfortunately the least-common bulb type. We've got to do better at monitoring exit bulbs. It would be very helpful if we could find LED bulbs to replace the other two incandescent types.
4. EXIT DOOR, FALL ROOM. The door to the outdoor stairs (which some may remember as the scene of a serious attempt by the forces of gravity to kill one or more of us when we brought in the Fall Room's black refrigerator) does not open easily enough for it to be a credible exit. We've done a lot of grinding on the over-tight metal door and jamb, and can't grind much more without running out of metal; lubrication is not sufficient. We need suggestions as to how to get that door to open properly, short of staffing the room at all times with a sturdy person willing to smite the door with a determined hip-check.