

**1<sup>st</sup> UU Buildings & Grounds Chronicle, 2012.**

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](mailto: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 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.

[Infrequently-Asked Question: Why are B&G activities recorded in such detail? Responses: 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*?” has no 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 available evil, at the time. Also, my own memory, even for stuff that I did not so long ago, is unreliable.]

January 16, 2012. **Schweitzer Carpet.** Women’s Alliance is said to have reached agreement on who is to install what carpet, and the Zinz crew is expected to schedule installation soon.

January 16, 2012. **Alarm System.** ADT is scheduled to do the upgrade tomorrow as per the summary in the 2011 Chronicle. The Elm Street doors will at last be equipped with sensors.

January 16, 2012. **Security.** Our harmless (thus far) but annoying visitor came to the door on Thursday 12 Jan. Diane spoke with him through the security chain and he asked that she pray for him; she promised to do so and he went on his way. (Matt has a photo of this individual, who says that his name is Bruce Lee and that his friends call him Master.) Matt has requested that we install a better peephole-eye in the Illinois door; I shall try to find a suitable one in time for our next Work Party.

**Next Work Party 10 AM Sat. 21 Jan.** As usual, I’ll get there early to fetch donuts and start coffee. Non-handypersons are welcome. Partial agenda:

- \*Apply clear tape over Channing furniture don’t-take-this-outdoors labels (new labels have begun to fall off).
- \*Kitchen floor—mop and apply Mop-‘n-Glo (cleaners don’t do the kitchen).
- \*B&G Closet—sweep with shopvac (closet ceiling crumbles; cleaners don’t do closets either).
- \*Check lights and exit-sign bulbs; replace as needed.
- \*Check for cruddy ceiling tiles, RE Wing; replace with better tiles from huge stack in Fall

Room.

\*Sweep Fall Room.

\*Sanctuary—trim, level, cement cork tiles to replace broken ones.

\*Illinois door—install new security peephole.

\*Boiler Room—sweep; drain boiler.

\*Wire-brush bad paint, 1<sup>st</sup>-floor big RE room; sweep up crumbs. Paint cleaned wall, if there's time (UGL concrete sealer on hand).

\*Proceed with Electrical Census (to identify every switch and outlet as to what breaker controls it).

\*Hang up Xmas decorations in Chair Closet, if this hasn't been done. [Done by unidentified person(s)—thanks to whoever.]

\*Figure out where to install the better fluorescent fixtures that came out of Channing.

\*Channing—identify and sand heating pipes, removing bubbled paint and identifying where we need to prime and repaint with proper paint.

\*Consume donuts and coffee.

**Work Party, 21 Jan. 2012.** Present: Matt Alspaugh, Connor Johnquest, Al Pierce, Jim Zupanic.

**Disorder--**Found lights left on in 1<sup>st</sup>-floor men's restroom and upstairs hallway. Airpot in kitchen contained stale coffee. Channing thermostat was running at 68 degrees, wasting gas. [This thermostat blunder evidently occurred because Diane Thomas was on vacation, and nobody performed the thermostat-programming that we have come to take for granted.]

The **plastic cover on the Channing thermostat** was broken. Roger La Fontaine, one of the responsible grownups who supervise Cocoa-Mocha, left a note in kitchen explaining that a "broomstick accident" had damaged the cover. Roger is commended for leaving the note, in admirable contrast to the very common sleazy practice of breaking something and skulking away in the hope that nobody will notice. [On Thursday 26 Jan. I bought a new cover from All Weather, 767 McClurg, and installed it, fitting the new cover to the existing base; key is the same one we've been using. Thanks to V&V and Banner for directing me to All Weather, which is the area Honeywell distributor.]

Paper towels had been removed from the holder in the kitchen and left on the counter in Channing. A folded blue tablecloth was on a surface in Channing; I put it in the Fall Room.

Connor was first to arrive; he and I swept the B&G Closet, where grit accumulates from the continual crumbling of plaster. I gave Connor a quick tour of the steeple.

Jim retrieved **steeple fragments** from the snow. I had noted on Wed. 18 Dec. that one of the decorative wooden columns had disintegrated, and had picked up some of the fallen pieces. The steeple bits have been placed in the Board Room, so that the Board can look at them. Matt has found documents from a 1970s steeple repair that show the design and construction of

columns, probably those that are now crumbling. Our neighbor Bill Sharkey says that there are still some bits on the Sanctuary roof; we do not have the ability to climb up and get them, but gravity will doubtless bring them to the ground eventually, unless they lodge in the roof gutter. The columns are probably not weight-bearing. (If they were, one of them isn't bearing much weight any more, and we're in trouble.) If we could open the slatted windows of the steeple, it would be possible, in decent weather, to reinstall the reassembled or reconstructed column.

Connor, Al, and Jim **shoveled snow**, clearing the sidewalk all around the church. Some of the lighter earlier snowfall (18 Dec.) had been shoveled by Bill Sharkey, affording sidewalk access to the Illinois door.

Matt and Connor discussed in some detail the prospect of eliminating one of the **costly phone land-lines** that serve the ADT system and the elevator emergency communication setup. We examined the new ADT setup and modified the list of security zones; I made up a new list of zones to post next to the keypad until Diane can type a proper neat version for more permanent mounting.

I replaced four **exit-sign bulbs** and carried off the dead backup battery from the exit-sign at the Illinois door. Al verified on Sunday 22 Jan. that the new Radio Shack battery was good, and found that the 9-volt battery in the church's multi-tester was dead; so was one of the two 9-volts on hand in the office. I have since bought two new 9-volts, which are to go in the drawer where batteries are stashed.

Matt raised a **security issue**; Marcia Malmer had been in the office Thursday afternoon, 19 Jan. (filling in for Diane), when an unfamiliar person appeared at the office door. He had not rung the bell or knocked, but had got in through the RE door, which evidently had registered as secured on the ADT system. Claimed to be from First Energy and demanded info on our account number (which one would think First Energy would have already). Marcia persuaded him to go away. Matt and one of the other B&G crew applied WD-40 to the door latch to increase the likelihood that the door won't be unsecured, and they may have adjusted placement of the door sensor.

In all, an unspectacular but useful Work Party, and a decent commencement to 2012.

[Careful readers will note deviations from strict chronological order, the better to keep related topics together.]

**ADT Alarm Issues.** January 23, 2012. New system was installed Tuesday 17 Jan. as scheduled. I got a call from ADT the next day to perform a "timer test," and did so c. 7:15 PM; had another call the next day to do it again, apparently because the day shift at ADT hadn't been informed of the first test. Yet another call Sunday 22 Jan. (ADT message also left for Jim Z), which I answered today. Evidently a timer-check program, which essentially reports daily to ADT that our system is present and accounted for, wasn't properly programmed in during

installation. Appointment made for fixing this issue 9 AM-1 PM Thursday 26 Jan., when Diane will be in the office to let the guy in. The system does work, because the Buddhists forgot their new code and set it off sometime this past weekend. [January 26, 2012—we have had several more calls from ADT about the timer-check issue—another one this evening, while I was out. On my return from the YSU women's basketball game, I found Louisa's summary of the call and her discussion with the ADT person. She pointed out that the ADT technician had arrived this morning, as scheduled, and had reprogrammed the timer-check function; the caller said that maybe the repair hadn't been reported within ADT. It would shake my faith in our economic order, if I had any, to learn that a respectable monster corporation like ADT has recurrent internal-communication breakdowns much like those that we suffer at UUYO.

**Trash and Recycling.** On Sunday 22 Jan., Suzie Beiersdorfer and I found bags of garbage outside the church near the AC condenser. (Multiple pizza boxes from Westgate, food bits, etc. [almost certainly from AA]). I cannot understand why people who use the building will not follow instructions about bagging and twist-tying trash and leaving it indoors where dogs and other creatures won't rip open bags and strew stuff all over the neighborhood.

**New Coffeemaker.** Along with the garbage we found a coffeemaker box containing a Mr. Coffee machine, sans carafe. [Very likely from AA.] I have verified that the device works and have purchased a \$2 Goodwill carafe; coffeemaker is labeled #4 and is on shelf in Fall Room, ready for whenever we need a bunch of small coffeemakers, or we lose one of our lineup to mechanical failure or theft.

**Toilet** (accessible restroom, Sunday 22 Jan.)—I assisted Pierce and Zupanic in an unsuccessful attempt to unclog the toilet with the church's two plungers. Returned later with two plungers and a small snake from my house and had no luck; tried again Tuesday with yet another plunger. Still unable to get a seal between the rubber plunger and the oddly-shaped porcelain, but the clog gave up on its own. I have installed a label on the toilet tank lid warning against flushing problematic items.

**Steeple**, January 30, 2012. Yesterday Jim Z noted pieces of wood in the patio. These proved to be more fragments of the shattered column on the steeple. One big piece and one small one (still showing butts of the infamous Duct-Tape Repair) have joined the other steeple bits in the Board Room. The other big piece has a sizeable divot of grass and dirt frozen onto it, and will be moved when weather warms up.

**Mop**, January 30, 2012. Yesterday Richard showed me an O-Cedar mop from the 2d-floor sink closet, which he had tried to use during the toilet emergency a week earlier. The mop had been disassembled and put together inside out and/or backward. The squeeze mechanism does not come apart by itself and there is no need to mess with it (sponge mophead can obviously be replaced without bothering the mechanism); we were unable to imagine why anyone would have gone to the trouble of screwing up the mop. An identical mop, correctly assembled, is in the Illinois Closet and I used it last night.

**Schweitzer Lounge**, January 30, 2012. Yesterday after church Richard, Jim Z, and Al moved the furniture into the south end of the room. I returned in the early evening and mopped the exposed floor with bleach solution, then revisited after 10 PM to apply sealer (Olympic product). Margaret Haushalter says that she is ready to write the check when I tell her that the floor is done; Jim and I will try to move the furniture to the other end of the room this afternoon. [Done; disinfected and sealed other end; moved furniture back where it belongs 31 Jan.; thanks to Gregg Wess and another AA person.]

**Security (Pest)**, Tuesday 31 Jan. Before AA meeting commenced, doorbell rang and a person appeared asking about an alleged meeting on UU principles, etc. I could find no indication of such a meeting, and the visitor did not want to give me his name. He expressed interest in joining Susan Miracle's Stretch & Creative Movement class, but I told him that it was in progress and not a drop-in activity. Visitor left. This was a black man c. 5' 9", with 50s-style slicked hair. Height estimate is sans his stiletto heels, worn with nylons. This was most likely the individual who has appeared on occasion since Christmas Eve [see above, p. 3]. Al Pierce heard a young woman of our membership or friends say that she had felt uncomfortable because of this individual's presence on Christmas Eve and had taken her kids and departed in mid-service. Al also believes that the same individual was briefly incarcerated for stealing a bike from the Sheriff's Department. [May well be a different person.] Al will make inquiries to get this person's actual name; it is unlikely that it's really Bruce Lee. I believe that we need to **have a meeting of our Security Committee** (this implies that we need to have such a committee) and declare what's-his-name banned from the premises.

**Security (Door)**, Friday 3 Feb. I let Joan Bushey into the building so that she could meet the wedding party for a rehearsal that evening and wedding the following day. We went over security and I pointed out doors to be checked. The rear/north RE exterior door was not latched; no idea how long it had been unsecured, or who might have had occasion to open it.

**Plumbing (2d-floor toilet)**, February 4, 2012. Pierce was called to the church to deal with a toilet overflow, allegedly accompanied by water leakage into kitchen and hallway ceilings. He found no evidence of such leakage; believes that someone managed to tap the flush handle instead of holding it down for a real flush, thus filling the bowl and causing overflow at the next attempt to flush. Spillage had been sopped up with paper towels. Al applied the plunger and got the toilet to flush properly. This appears to be a non-problem, save for the ability of persons unaccustomed to indoor plumbing to induce clogging.

Sunday 5 Feb. There was in fact a soggy ceiling tile to the left of the dishwasher. I replaced it. A small stain on the corresponding tile in the hall looked like an old one; I left that one alone.

**Schweitzer** Sunday 5 Feb. I spoke with Margaret Haushalter at Coffee Hour; she thought that carpet would probably be installed on Thursday the 9<sup>th</sup>. [February 10, 2012–Done, by one expert installer, who moved furniture out and put it back after he finished.] Thanks to Women's

Alliance for initiative and support on this project.

**Heating.** Last week on a couple of occasions I found the old building hot on a couple of occasions, when it ought to have been set back from 68 to 50. I unlocked the thermostat cover and reset to the standby low temperature, but the thermostat seemed to revert to high. Al worked on the problem Sunday 5 Feb., and determined that someone had set the temp to 68 and pushed the HOLD button, doubtless during the period when the thermostat was unprotected from meddlers I have put a small label on the thermostat, urging users not to touch the HOLD button, and have re-locked the thermostat cover. Pressing HOLD overrides the programming that Al has painstakingly installed, and which Diane modifies for special events.

**Stairs/Safety Issues, 12 Feb.** The Perfect Flurry (not really a substantial storm) left 3-4 inches of snow. When Louisa and I got to church to work on Chili Cookoff preparations, Richard Palmer was the only one on the premises. He had shoveled from the sidewalk to the Illinois door, and was working on shoveling out the rest of the sidewalks. One or two people fell on the stairs very soon afterward; I went to the curb to fetch cookies, and as I stepped onto the top stair, I lost traction (and the cookies, which were trashed) and hit my lower back against the edge of the top step. Snow and slush were mopped up and people were stationed to keep mopping and warning, but more people fell, for a total of six victims (consensus estimate). After a week I still have some pain and limitation on lifting and bending; I saw the other victims walking around normally after their encounters with the Stairs of Doom, so I assume that those younger, fitter, lighter, more agile persons escaped serious harm.

So far as I know this is the first such series of falls on the new stairs, which have been in place for two winters. Evidently the snow was just right for sticking to people's footwear and swamping all absorptive properties of the indoor floor mat. The stairs themselves were modified so as to eliminate the terribly uneven and dangerously sloping slick surfaces as a spin-off of the Channing Renovation, and are properly configured. Their vinyl surface in necessarily hard to resist wear.

Two measures have been suggested to improve the safety of wintertime access to the church.

**1. A serious stiff-bristle mat for deployment outdoors** in slippery conditions; to be kept indoors and set out when needed, not left outdoors to be snowed on and converted into part of the slipperiness problem. (Thanks, Jim Z.) I haven't found the right item yet; suggestions welcome.

**2. Anti-slip tape to be applied at the edge of each step.** I have ordered a roll of this stuff, and will install it when it arrives and I am able to bend over and to it. [Order failed to go through; ordered for real March 2, 2012.]

**Work Party, 18 Feb.** Present: Matt Alspaugh, MB, Gary Davenport, Roger La Fontaine, Al Pierce, Ellen and Lowell Satre, Jim Zupanic.

I arrived c. 9:15; made coffee, assisted early-arriving Farmers' Market people, carried trash bags

to my car. My bag of donuts, tools, etc., was covered up by Farmers' Market boxes but eventually found. Put away the three Type A "bayonet" exit-sign bulbs that had been bought during the previous week.

Progress was made in checking the initial **labels for outlets and switches** and replacing the gummy labels with neat printed labels from Matt's gadget. I believe that all outlets in kitchen, Fall Room, and Channing are now labeled. Labels in the C-1 breaker box (in kitchen) were made more comprehensive and intelligible; still need to be printed up neatly. Lowell, Gary, Jim, and Matt were involved in this effort. Al also identified three old two-hole outlets in the Sanctuary and stage that need replacement.

Jim dug out weeds around the row of **mums** near the Illinois door and pruned the mums.

A small hose clamp was installed to keep the base for the Illinois entry light in its proper position against the ceiling.

Al and Jim determined that the wooden ladder in the Cave would not suffice to reach the bits of Sanctuary ceiling that need scraping and repainting. (Ceiling paint could not be found.) Resolved to get Al's ladder, so as to avoid wrangling the monster ladder from the Cave indoors.

Ceiling tile in the Men's Restroom was replaced by Roger.

Not a bad Work Party, considering the difficulties and distractions.

**Security, February 22, 2012.** Matt notes that the **back (northernmost) RE door has been found propped open again.** We ought to have had a sensor installed on that door when ADT was upgrading the keypad, etc.; it may be that we can wire in a sensor without paying for a service call. We also continue to get ADT calls because people have forgotten the new alarm codes or are unable to follow the one-step instructions next to the keypad and poke the #1 on the keypad to disarm the system, after entering the code. Diane is making up a nicely-printed version of my hand-printed instruction, so that users can ignore a better grade of signage. [Improved sign installed.]

[Same door problem recurred 17 March. I may be able to add another closer to the door, in order to make it less easy to leave unlatched, but we really ought to have a sensor on the door. Probably we cheated out on the original ADT installation because it would have required a lot of wire from the keypad to the door; running a wire would be tedious but not complicated, and easier if we just added a sensor in series with the other RE exterior door.]

**Work Party, 17 March.** Present: MB, Marguerite Felice, Richard Palmer, Tim Raridon, Jim Rogers, Lowell Satre; plus RE crew of Stephanie Corrette-Bennett and BeckyAnn and Tim Harker; plus Jim Converse, who was also running Farmers' Market.

I found the **Kitchen** in a foul state: nine dirty towels on counters, two empty or part-empty water bottles on island. In the kitchen container-recycling bin were two emptied-but-dirty cans of Sultana hummus spread, encrusted with dried and moldy hummus. I dealt with this stuff and put kitchen containers, etc., of unknown origin in the abandoned-property area in the hallway, duly date-labeled. Bag of ceramic mugs from Clebone Real Estate turned out to be left for distribution, and most were later handed out to Farmers' Market patrons for their use.

In the **Fall Room** I moved a bag of tablecloths and a lectern that had been arranged so as to interfere with entry to the room.

Most of the person-hours of this Work Party were spent in the **Patio Room**, where Becky had announced a desire to expand the RE space. After much discussion, we decided to move the heavy Masonite **art-display boards** out into the patio porch. The boards were disassembled, making them half as heavy, and arranged in the area where we have been accustomed to stash the big outdoor sign during the Winter. Jim Rogers suggested that we might rent display boards during Art Shows, etc., instead of storing the clunky and dangerous boards that have presented storage problems for years. (They were arranged in Channing Hall before the recent renovation of that space.) In the new outdoor location, the boards need to be protected with tarps; we had some that shrouded the sign, but I'm not sure where those tarps are now. It has been confirmed that the **old metal chairs** from Channing, now designated outdoor-use-only, are stored at Commonwealth, whence they will be returned for use in Summer outdoor activities.

While I was getting out the big vacuum from the **first-floor RE hall closet**, Becky noted that there was some unused storage space available. I shall install some shelving there. Another place where more storage can be gained is in the Patio Room, next to the **plywood coffee cabinet**. A similar cabinet can be constructed and installed. This sort of thing is all we can do to create storage unless we somehow annex land and build a barn.

**Additional stuff** was removed from the Patio Room. Richard took home a wooden table that has been used for audiovisual equipment. The excellent blue metal book cart is still there, near the coffee closet; it was said that someone wants to revive the book sale that has been carried on at times during Coffee Hours. A few miscellaneous bits, most significantly two boxes of new-style ceiling tiles from the Channing renovation, were taken to the Sanctuary attic, along with big wooden flagpoles whose bases have been on the choir-loft floor and whose poles have been in the Boiler Room. A plaster-of-Paris artwork that was left behind many years ago after an art show was removed to the Fireline dumpster, along with a warped hunk of plasterboard from the Choir Loft and a stained ceiling tile. We found in the Patio Room two of the missing yellow lenses from the big sign's lights, one lens smashed beyond repair. Richard's heavy-duty gray metal cart has been moved to the Fall Room.

**Fall Room Space:** We need to use such of the intact **ceiling tiles** from the old Channing ceiling as we need; to retain perhaps one stack for future repairs; and to haul the rest to Re-Store. It is not good use of space to have so much Fall Room floor space, plus a useful metal rolling

cart, devoted to all those tiles. What say you, colleagues?

Jim R and Marguerite worked on **outdoor cleanup** and perhaps some trimming of vegetation.

We were not able to secure the **indoor-use-only** labels (which have begun to fall off because of inexcusably crummy adhesive) to the Channing furniture, but we did rearrange the **Chair Closet**. The oval table is back where it belongs, and a box of clean children's clothes (left in Channing some time ago) has been moved to the hallway with the abandoned property. Richard and I hung the large circular wreath of brown sticks, which has been shedding bits on the floor outside the B&G Closet, from the ceiling pipes.

Richard and I applied **anti-slip tape** to the edges of the stairs leading down from the Illinois doorway. We used up the tape, for which I underestimated the need.

This was the best-attended and most productive B&G Work Party in quite a while. Thanks to all who assisted.

**Kitchen.** On 20 March I met with Kadey Kimpel, whom Matt has asked to monitor the Kitchen. I look forward to having regular attention to this much used, much-abused facility by someone who remembers where stuff belongs, what items belong to the Church and which don't, etc. The Kitchen is one of those areas into which B&G's limited energy is frequently diverted because some user has trashed it and someone (generally B&G) has to try to un-trash it. Even with the improvements in labeling drawers and cabinets, I often find that I don't know where things should go. Supervision by a responsible Kitchen-focused person should nudge us in the direction of a more rationally-organized, more user-friendly, less-often disgusting facility.

Kadey and I got the ice-maker to function again. It is said to have been jammed by someone who crammed frozen chicken into the ice tray.

**Grounds.** 7 April. On 2 April I used my chipper-shredder to make mulch out of the pile of twiggy bits (rosebushes, assorted shrub branches, vicious prickly-bushes, etc.) piled along the East RE wall. Material was reduced to one bag of mulch, which I dumped alongside the leftover pile of imported mulch for deployment. I have disposed of a couple of dead, unidentified plants left in the Fall, in plastic pots, and the pots will go in the next recycling pickup. On 6 April I removed two clumps of dead vegetation (Forsythia and some sort of reddish blossoms) from pots in Channing, where they had been shedding pieces of blossoms, and started a new outdoor pile of stuff to be shredded into mulch whenever the chipper-shredder comes round again. Kadey said during this past week that she had heard reports that hostas and other vegetation were to be brought in. Since Kadey and Karen Stangl, probably plus other gardening-friendly persons whom I can't recall, constitute the Horticultural Committee (the Grounds portion of Buildings & Grounds, along with Jim Zupanic who mows), K&K will approve and organize any new plantings and will cooperate with any greenery-connected activities by Religious Education.

**Steeple.** April 7, 2012. A new, large section of one of the columns fell into the patio courtyard, probably during vigorous winds. Tim Raridon photographed the chunk, sunk a couple of inches into the grass and standing at an esthetically impressive angle, with his cellphone. Steeple issues are to be discussed at the Board meeting on 10 April; Jim Zupanic has prepared a summary of the last few years' steeple issues.

**Closet, 1<sup>st</sup>-Floor RE Hall.** April 7, 2012. Following up on BeckyAnn Harker's observations on storage space at the March Work Party, I have installed a high shelf, about seven feet long and eleven inches wide. This was done with found material, except for the two right-angle brackets, which cost me 49¢ each and probably came from either Consolidated or Bargain Port (two long-gone hardware providers, for younger readers). No expense to the B&G Budget. I have an additional shelving item in preparation.

**Cart.** April 7, 2012. Sometime in the past week I found a stainless-steel wheeled cart in the Sanctuary entryway. It has been moved to the Fall Room.

**Kitchen.** April 7, 2012. On 6 April I installed a heavy-duty magnetic catch to help keep one of the cabinet doors closed. Another troublesome door will require more planing, plus a brace to take out some of its warp.

**Cleaning.** April 7, 2012. The Beatitude cleaners did their weekly work on 5 April. Trash bags were closed with twist-ties, so Diane's oft-repeated requests on behalf of the Trash & Recycling Committee may have sunk in at last. However, the paper towel dispensers in the 1<sup>st</sup>-floor restrooms were completely empty. I believe that we may need to renegotiate the cleaning contract, so that if the cleaners are unable or unwilling to fill the towel dispensers, they take on some other task, such as cleaning one of the rooms that aren't on their to-do list, instead. [April 13, 2012–Today there were towels in the dispensers, one of which had no end protruding to make the towels actually accessible. One of three trash bags was closed with a twist-tie, the others left open.]

**Steeple.** April 13, 2012. Jim Z and I spoke with the Board on the 10<sup>th</sup> and it was agreed that we should have the remaining columns removed from the corners of the louvered section. This was done this morning. I'm going to start a more detailed log of Steeple activities, separate from the B&G Chronicle, because there are going to be a lot of things to keep track of and this Chronicle is already too voluminous for most reasonably normal people to read. Jim and I went up into the Steeple on the 14<sup>th</sup> and determined that the deterioration had not advanced noticeably since we last looked around some months ago. Neither had it cured itself.

**Energy Audit.** April 13, 2012. This afternoon Craig (I haven't got his last name, etc.; he is based in Columbus) did a thorough survey of the building, accompanied by Matt, Tim Raridon, and me. We'll get a writeup soon.

**Light, Channing.** April 13, 2012. One of the LED lights in the Channing central ovoid was dead; no indications on the bulb as to rating (watts/lumens). Guessing as to replacement will probably produce a mismatch in brightness among bulbs in the array. Guy at Lowe's couldn't find clues either. I have sent messages to Ron Faniro, who may be able to find specs on the bulbs installed, and to led-llc, the manufacturer listed on the bulb. [Youngstown Electrical Supply stocks this bulb from the same manufacturer. Bulb is PAR-20, 6 or 8 watt; details on a note filed in the Office. Cost \$36; there are a couple of dozen of these bulbs in the Ovoid, but according to the package they *should* last 45 years @ three hours use per day.]

**Light, Kitchen.** April 13, 2012. Energy audit revealed that two fluorescent tubes were dead in the kitchen, above the middle of the Island. These are the newer, skinny T-8 tubes, which I learn will soon become the only sorts of tubes available (a shift which will necessitate replacing *almost all of our fluorescent fixtures*, as well as everyone else's). I've bought a box of ten.

**Mess, Kitchen.** On 16 April I noted that there were bags of melting ice in the island sink; I removed and trashed the bags and left the ice to melt. Jim Converse later said that he had found the ice-bags melting in the fridge section (not the freezer) of the Fall Room fridge; he cleaned up the glacial melt on the floor and set the bags in the sink. Compost was overstuffed; I took a photo and posted it in the kitchen near the compost container, and added composting instructions. If there are no objections to the latter, I'll laminate it and post it more permanently. One empty coffeemaker was left on, consuming our electricity.

**Heat Pump.** April 22, 2012. Matt left a phone message for me on the 15<sup>th</sup>, and I met him, Bob Dieter, and Dieter's assistant on the 16<sup>th</sup>. The 4-year-old York heat pump heating/ac unit from a house that is to be demolished had been discussed in general terms some weeks earlier, and moving it had become urgent. We made some space in the Fall Room, displacing Farmers' Market boxes, etc., to the tops of the fridge and FM freezer, and the two major components were conveyed down the outside Fall Room stairs. Door had to be removed to allow the outdoor compressor unit to fit, so the hinges are now better lubricated. Dieter expects the installation to take place within three weeks. The new unit will replace the old, inefficient furnace that handles the upstairs RE Wing; evidently it would be too complex to adapt it to do upstairs and downstairs. We'll gain a great deal of efficiency, as well as AC capacity. Installation should run in the \$2-3G range.

**Work Party, 21 April.** Present: Richard Palmer, Al Pierce, Ellen and Lowell Satre, Jim Zupanic, MB.

Farmers' Market and a New-Member group were in session, plus a dance rehearsal in the Sanctuary; no significant problems with access to spaces. New Members people had trouble finding **coffee stuff**, but Marcia Malmer directed them to the new location for sweeteners, etc., in a Channing cabinet. I now dimly recall the relocation, but did not remember it at first; I've made a sign for the place where the coffee items used to be.

A steel **file box**, 8½ x 11, that had been found by Liz Hill and Jan Schnall during recent excavations in the 2d-floor Supply Closet, found a home with Farmers' Market. Other metal boxes, etc., were moved to the new high shelf in the 1<sup>st</sup>-floor RE Wing Closet.

I attempted to deal with the stickiness of the **Handicap Door**, and found that there were in fact no protruding screws on the bottom of that door. Gouges in the brass threshold remain unexplained.

Satres sorted through the **abandoned items** in the 1<sup>st</sup>-floor hallway, designating things that had been there more than three months for disposal.

Al replaced two electrical **outlets in the Sanctuary** with modern three-hole outlets.

Most of our effort dealt with **ceiling tiles**. Some of the stained and damaged tiles (mostly in the 2d-floor hallway outside the office) were replaced with the better tiles left from the Channing remodeling. Some of the theoretically good tiles were found to be imperfect and were scrapped, and disposal of the bad ones that we replaced, and a few taken home by Al, enabled us to liberate a stainless-steel cart that has been piled with ceiling tiles for more than a year. Thanks to Roger Jones and Fireline, as so often, for use of the dumpster for the dumped ceiling tiles. Now we're down to one sky-high pile and a shorter pile in the Fall Room, plus a stack under a counter in the Office. When we've replaced all the bad tiles, we'll need to determine how many we should retain as spares, and probably convey some extras to Re-Store.

The drop-ceiling system no doubt seemed like a good idea when it was introduced, and it our building it covers up some ghastly ceilings, but it is miserable to work with, thanks to the need for extended periods of overhead lifting, the crumbly nature of the tiles, and the constraints of nesting the tiles in the metal tracks while working around wire hanger-supports, insulation, etc. The area above the 2d-floor dropped ceiling contain disconcerting quantities of leaves, and some spaces lack any insulation. On the bright side, only the 1<sup>st</sup>-floor ceiling (hallway north of the Kitchen) has mouse manure to drop onto the workers. Some of the ceiling lights installed in the centers of tiles are hanging low, because the ceiling-tile material is too soft to support the weight of a fixture. Some alternative to these imbecilic installations needs to be devised.

**Summary.** A decent Work Party; nasty damp weather was no problem because we had so much to do indoors. One donut left; evidently the Pepto-Bismol pink icing deterred potential consumers. I'll have to be more specific in the monthly Plaza Donuts order for a dozen—5 glazed, 3 chocolate-iced creamsticks, 4 whatever. Pink donut left in labeled, dated box in Kitchen fridge. [Somebody eventually ate it.]

**Work Party, 19 May 2012.** Present: Matt Alspaugh, Clayton Henderson, Marguerite Felice, Roger La Fontaine, Richard Palmer, Al Pierce, Jan Schnall, Jim Stone.

Hung up and labeled jacket left in Channing c. Tuesday 15 May; put keys left with jacket in

office. Cleaned up small coffeepot, left with grounds and half an inch of coffee dregs. Made coffee; removed stinking garbage from can under-sink counter, cleaned trash can. Put away dishes in drainer.

**Heat** came on c. 9:40; thermostat programmed to go to 68. I set it down. It turned on again later, and had come on the previous evening. Need to reconsider programming boiler; it's not reasonable to be paying for heat when the patio door is open for Farmers' Market and outdoor temperature is headed for the 80s.

Jan cleaned **stoves** and some kitchen surfaces (to be re-crudded at Potluck the next day). I tweaked door catches and got two of the lower cabinets to stay shut. Installed magnetic door catch to hold Channing **elevator door** open.

Jim and Al explored **wiring for exterior signs**, and discovered in the elevator engine room two pairs of wires that are listed as spares, and could be used to provide lighting for signs. (Old conduit and wiring to the existing sign has moldered away.) This is a gratifying discovery; when the elevator was installed as part of the Accessibility Project, we were supposed to get additional outlets, and were told that those promised outlets were not available because all were used in the elevator and could not, by code, be used for any more general purposes. No doubt complaint will continue about the failure to get all the outlets we were promised, but it is nice to have found some usable power after several years.

Roger, Clayton, and I applied **gutter goop** to the joint above the Minister's Office Elm Street window. This has leaked for a long time, causing corrosion on the gas meter below as well as unsightly staining on the gutter. We still need to elevate the low spot somehow, but the area should be dry enough on the outside to allow painting. Inside the gutter was a layer of mud, about an eighth of an inch, but no maple propellers, live vegetation, etc.; the gutter screen seems to be doing its job.

Matt reported that he had inquired about the delayed **energy audit**, which for reasons that I do not fully grasp has postponed installation of our donated **heat pump** (see above, 22 April). I had e-mailed Bob Dieter about the delay and found that it was caused by the church's not having authorized him to go ahead.

Roger, Clayton, and I cut down two smallish trees along the East RE side of the church. They await cutting up and removal. [Cut up 20 May, still awaiting removal.] Richard and I cut opff some small trees on the bank at the North end of the patio. (One was a thorny brute and defended itself fiercely.) Richard hacked at vines and he, Roger, and I removed large pieces of black flexible plastic pipe from the narrow area between the North end of the RE Wing and the fence; Richard mowed a path through the dense jungle. Plastic pipe needs a place to be stored. Marguerite dug out weeds on the South side of the building.

Several donuts remained uneaten. A productive work-party crew, but oddly abstemious,

donut-wise.

**Tables, Channing.** May 21, 2012. At the Work Party Matt and I had turned over one of the good folding tables to check on the Don't-Take-This-Table-Outdoors label; these labels have been falling off, and I hoped to get them securely attached with clear package tape. Something or other interrupted the table-taping effort, but we did note problems with some of the table legs. The black plastic fittings between the top and bottom segments of the height-adjustable legs are supposed to be secured with small screws, to keep them from sliding out of their proper position. Either the screws had been omitted or insufficiently tightened, or someone had gone to some trouble to remove them and screw up the legs. I have bought a box of screws that should be suitable, and hope to get some help flipping tables so that both labels and legs can be dealt with.

**Door, Schweitzer Lounge.** May 24, 2012. I dismantled the hallway door with the intention of sawing off a quarter-inch at the bottom, so that the new Schweitzer carpet would no longer prevent the door from closing. Examination of the door-bottom revealed six flat-head wood screws and a small tack; these had once attached a strip of carpet that was supposed to keep cool air from Schweitzer out of the hall. A few tiny fragments of carpet (original color long gone) remained attached. I removed the hardware and interrupted a conference between Matt and Karen, and prevailed on them to help re-hang the very heavy door. Matt's dog Ceili, who was providing enhanced building security, supervised. [Ceili's contribution to the effort doubtless deserves a poem, but the muse has not visited and I don't wish to clutter this Chronicle with mere doggerel.] No cutting was required; our circular saw remains unused. This repair of the door represents the only time in recent memory when a task turned out to be easier than anticipated.

The **doorknob** that appeared on the pass-through window behind the main kitchen sink appeared to have been removed from the Schweitzer door. It takes some trouble to remove these knobs, and I have no clue as to why someone would have done so. Doorknob reinstalled.

**Work Party, 16 June 2012.** Present: Matt Alspaugh, Kadey Kimpel, Jim Stone, MB.

I arrived c. 8:40 AM; made coffee, put away bags left in kitchen, labeled what appeared to be serving dishes left over from Picnic and set them on the Left-Behind Shelf in the hallway. Ditto backpack. Emptied compost, also composted bag of very rotten apples found in Fall Room.

Kadey, who was also assisting with coffee for Framers' Market, sorted tablecloths and took some home for cleaning. She mopped the **kitchen floor** and the filthy linoleum-type area at the Channing elevator door. The latter needs more forceful stripping and cleaning. Mop & Glo found in Fall Room but not applied. Kadey noted that a lot of **silverware** was out of place, but she did not have time to sort it.

I spray-painted the inside of the **Fall Room outside door** (to ramp) and ran out of paint. Subsequently bought the last can of off-brand gray at Big Lots and finished the door. All the

masking tape had been stolen; we had some in the Painting supplies in the Boiler Room, and maybe in the B&G Closet. Found small roll in 1<sup>st</sup>-floor RE Room and used that to mask off the knob on the aforesaid door; returned roll to RE, later bought more tape for church and stored it in the Boiler Room.

Matt and Jim researched paths from Office to RE Wing 1<sup>st</sup> floor, to run cable that would enable decent WiFi reception downstairs. (Steel mesh in RE Wing 2d floor interferes with wireless transmission.) They found no immediate solution and moved on to the 1<sup>st</sup>-floor RE **door-closers**. We had been unable for years to fix the one between the RE hallway and the short hallway on the North side of the Kitchen, and Matt proposed to transplant the working but unneeded closer from the RE Hallway to Stairs door. He and Jim instead figured out how to fix the given-up-for-dead closer. Now both closers work, probably bringing us into compliance with fire codes.

I rounded up paper recycling and noted that someone has stolen the small metal-mesh **wastebasket** that belongs under the Welcoming Table at the back of the Sanctuary. [Later found in Channing.]

The white plastic dishpan was not visible in the Kitchen, and I believed it to have been stolen. I put the orange one upside down over the trash-dumping hole next to the big sink, the better to discourage flying insects from visiting the trash can below. The missing dishpan turned up in the Kitchen freezer, filled with a solid block of ice. I have subsequently learned that the block was salty ice for homemade ice-cream manufacture; Jim Converse rescued it and moved it to the Fall Room freezer.

After Jim went home, I recruited Arnie Clebone, who was minding a table at Farmers' Market, to assist with the ladder, and I checked out the **gutter** outside the Minister's Office. I was disappointed to find that the repair made at the May Work Party had not sufficed, and that there was an inch of standing water at the joint. The gutter needs to be pushed up at that connection. I applied some white spray paint to the corroded rivets at two joints. Real repair will be accomplished only when the gutter is properly straightened so that water doesn't pool in it.

A decent Work Party, despite the embarrassingly small turnout.

**Antifracking Activities, 13-16 July.** Activists began arriving Thursday the 12<sup>th</sup>, according to Susie Beiersdorfer. I first met them on Friday when I went to pick up trash from the weekly Beatitude visit on Thursday; I pointed out where some things might be found. Jonathan, who appeared to be in charge, and other personnel were reasonable and bright. Persons manning the registration table at the Elm Street door found the door-holding-open rope, which had been disappeared. I hung the newly-printed **list of rules and procedures** in the Kitchen, and put on top of the microwave the notebook for recording queries and comments about these matters; some of the visitors have actually read the rules. The kitchen fridge was chock-full of lettuce on Friday; one shelf had been removed, and was in the smaller sink awaiting washing. Shelf has

since been put atop fridge, washed. The persons who are usually in the kitchen have been quite good about following recycling and trash policies, and have cooperated when I pointed out some issues, e. g., recyclable plastic containers in trash or insufficiently cleaned and in recycling. The slob quotient of this group appears to be considerably below the norm for groups of members and renters using the facilities.

Having been assured by Horticulture Subcommittee people that the **thornbush** at the intersection of Elm and Illinois sidewalks was to be removed, I cut the trunk and branches with chainsaw on Saturday. Activist visitors used the wheelbarrow from next door to move all the branches, thorns, etc., to the expanding heaps East of the RE Wing. On Sunday, Richard Palmer, Steven La Fontaine, and I removed the central root, using various chopping tools and an 8-foot pry-bar. (I had hoped that the latter would turn out to be a couple of feet longer, so that we'd have available a 10-foot pole for touching problematic things, but it didn't measure up.)

Horticulturalists, aided by antifrackers, dug out a great many hostas, which are said to have wilted in the sun at the sidewalk-corner and elsewhere, and planted many of them along the Illinois driveway; there are more that have been dug up and await installation.

As of Sunday night, the kitchen stapler was missing, presumably borrowed by activists.

**Clogged Toilet, Accessible Restroom.** July 16, 2012. I learned that the toilet was clogged yesterday afternoon. Richard Palmer had tried the plunger without success. There was a brownish scum, presumably fecal, covering about a quarter of the floor. I brought my small hand-cranked snake from home and failed to make progress; then I bought a similar but kink-free item from Harbor Freight (now the church has one of those, which I put in the Boiler Room), and managed to get about 20 feet of the new snake down the drain. Unfortunately, the block remains. I'll meet with Al Lucente this afternoon to watch him apply professional equipment and skills. This is the second clog we've had on this toilet. I expect that my strongly-worded request that fibrous solids (hygiene products, I assume; we've had no pot raids, so nobody is likely to have flushed a stash) not be flushed is sometimes ignored. Perhaps a more impressive-looking secure container for such items would help.

**Agenda for Work Party, Saturday 21 July.** We'll need to try to get at the usual undone things, plant hostas if they're still waiting resettlement, and (weather permitting) reduce some of the excessively huge piles of brush to mulch.

**Work Party, 21 July.** Present: Susie Beiersdorfer, Gary Graham, Marguerite Felice, Roger and Steven La Fontaine, Sarah Lown, Tim Raridon, Jim Rogers, Lowell Satre, Jim Zupanic.

Tim smoothed out the **plaster on the wall right of the B&G Closet.** It now looks like a wall instead of the aftermath of a snowball fight. Tim also reassembled the molding around the bottom step of the Elm Street stairs. These bits have been stored since they were broken up during the Channing floor work a few years ago. There's about an inch and a quarter missing,

but the tricky curved molding is back where it belongs. The plaster is ready for paint. We found a piece of wider molding (saved from Channing reconstruction) that Tim planned to use to cover the voids in the vertical enclosure around the closet door. Tim was still at work when I headed home at c. 2:30 PM.

Susie took much of the lettuce and other aging greenery from the **kitchen fridge** (advised by Adam Lee as to which items might be ok to keep), plus week-old breadstuffs left by the anti-frackers (stale, some conspicuously moldy) and delivered it to the compost bins.

I've labeled the stapler from the B&G Closet and moved it into the Kitchen to replace the one that belongs in the Kitchen drawer and seems to have gone on crusade with the anti-frackers.

All the rest of this month's Work Party, except for consuming coffee and donuts, took place outdoors. Gary helped me load my **chipper-shredder** on his truck and hauled it to the church, where we ran it from about 10:30 AM to 2 PM, stopping only to unclog the machine (one blockage from a stubborn chunk of wood, two from excessive amounts of fresh, squishy greenery) and to empty the bag of mulch. Lowell also helped with the grinding. Gary took the most distressing damage from thorns; I had to remove the branch that had chomped onto his arm. We reduced a lot of branches to mulch, and would have succeeded in disappearing all the accumulated piles of brush had it not been for all the weed-trees and other excess vegetation that all the other builders and groundspersons delivered to us. I've left the shredder in the hallway, and will try to resume mulch-making on Monday.

Since I spent most of my time grinding mulch, I'm not sure what changes have been made, but a significant portion of the Vegetable Kingdom has been modified.

Mrs. Brungard, one of our regular farm vendors at Farmers' Market, reported that she was pleased by the removal of the prickly bush (hawthorn, I think) at the Elm-Illinois corner, since now she can see the rest of the Market activities.

I'm missing one set of hearing-protector earmuffs.

A useful work party; it's nice to have a good turnout.

[Returned Sunday 22 July and ground up some more. Thanks to whoever rescued my chipper-shredder bag, which I must have left outdoors, and set it neatly in the B&G Closet. The combination of vines—some 20+ feet long, green stink-trees, and other stringy junk continues to make shredding a challenge. I hope to finish up Monday and take my machine home.

**Lots of hostae among the piles of branches**, etc.; I fear that if not replanted soon, they'll rot.

Finished mulching and took machine home, Tuesday 24 July.]

25 July 2012. Tim Raridon finished **plastering on the wall right of the B&G Closet** on the 21<sup>st</sup> (see above). I measured the areas where **baseboards** were missing, right of the closet and opposite the closet (exactly the same length, oddly enough) and photographed the existing baseboards to try to obtain a match. There were no baseboards because the originals were rotted and moldy, and were long since trashed. I visited Ace Lumber on the 26<sup>th</sup> and determined that exact duplication of the long-gone baseboards would be costly; \$80 to set up the milling machine to make the replacement, etc. This did not seem cost-effective, given that we have other demands on our funds (remember the steeple?) and that there's not \$80 worth of esthetic importance in the area at the bottom of the stairs that lead up to the Elm Street entry. A battered length of molding turned up—the only specimen of its kind—and I got eight feet of 1x8, trimmed to make the required height when topped with the molding. The 1x8 and molding have been cut to length and await staining and varnishing (1x8) and painting (molding). The fact that the molding has a good deal of damage will make it blend in nicely with the existing molding.

Jim Rak has promised to work on the uneven concrete floor outside the B&G closet door, leveling it, installing an underlayment layer, and cementing some of the leftover tile from the kitchen.

August 15, 2012. In the past week or so, I've dealt with the following, in no particular order (neither by importance nor by chronology).

Marcia Malmer noted c. 11 or 12 August that the **kitchen refrigerator's icemaker** had gone haywire, producing a solid block of ice with a packet of some foodstuff preserved in it. The frozen foreign matter is obviously the result of morons cramming stuff into the icemaker area, but the solid block indicated that at some point the ice cubes had melted and refrozen. There was a power outage recently, but it wasn't long enough to produce a thaw. Marcia, who took the lead in selecting the fridge, says that it's almost a year old, and has a year's warranty; Marcia will see to it that we get a service call.

On Tuesday 14 August, I noted a **partially-dried pool between the fridge and the Island sink**. I looked under the fridge and saw no sign of leakage; there's a good deal of hairy crud that needs cleaning, but no sign that anything under the fridge is leaking. Since the stuff on the floor was sticky, and incorporated a few small seeds, I suspect a spill, probably some sort of fruit juice, that wasn't wiped up.

I've installed two Harbor Freight 99¢ **hose-hangers**, on the Patio and East of the RE Wing. The hose on the patio is so badly kinked (not that there's anything wrong with that, in principle) that it looks to me as if it's entirely useless and should be replaced. Opinions requested from Richard Palmer and Horticulture Committee. I've installed a nozzle on the East Side hose, which is used to clean the compost pot.

Matt requested some minor repairs, etc., in preparation for the resumption of services in the Fall. A **pew rack** for hymnbooks had its bottom coming loose; this rack had been repaired by

inserting four nails in a very small space, without preparatory drilling, thus ensuring splitting. I've glued the bottom piece together and put it back with screws and washers.

Matt also requested that the south-side **pews be screwed down**. I had deferred this request because whenever we need to deal with lights, paint issues, windows, etc., we need to move the pews, but I've screwed down the south ends of the pews. The north ends are kept in place by carpet, and I ran out of the 2.5-inch deck screws that I was using. Original screws are long gone. Some of the areas under the pew-ends are so chewed up that it's impossible to determine where the original screw-holes were. Some pews lack bits of bottom-molding (about 3 inches); these bits can be replaced without great difficulty. **[August 16, 2012: Al Pierce reminds me that the pews were unscrewed when the professional painters did the Sanctuary, so long ago that Al worked on the unscrewing with my predecessor as B&G Chair, Joe Kengor. The pews on north side of the Sanctuary have been squeezed with clamps and secured so that the ends are no longer threatening to separate from the seats. The pews on the south side have not yet been squeezed and secured; I had forgotten all this, and Al has reminded me that we need to fix them before we screw them down to the floor. He is reasonably certain that he can find the clamps, including the long pipes.]**

The **donor-recognition plaque** for the Accessibility Project has been reinstalled, right where it used to be next to the Channing elevator door.

I have crawled into the Steeple and the Porch Attic to determine the required size of semi-scrap pieces to create a floor to kneel on during the forthcoming work on the Porch lights.

I've assembled the wooden frames (pieces cut and painted many months ago) for **keeping leaves out of the RE window-wells**. Need to get small-caliber mesh to cover the frames. **[I've found at Star Supply nice aluminum expanded-metal sheets that will fill this need for \$80; I've found 48-inch galvanized hardware cloth online but not in any local stores; a 50-foot roll would cost about \$43, but we need only about 14 feet. Most hardware stores sell the hardware cloth (we need quarter-inch or half-inch mesh) in 36-inch width but not 48-inch. Stay tuned.]** [Frames assembled, somewhat awkwardly, using 36-inch mesh, on 24 Aug. Thanks to Bill Sharkey for assistance.]

**Stolen or Misplaced Items:** The **top of the smallish trash can left of the Kitchen Refrigerator** is gone. We're down at least one **extension cord**. My **noise-protection earmuffs** that went missing after the July Work Party have not reappeared. Both **trouble-lights** (drop lights) gone from Boiler Room. [One later turned up.]

**Security Notes:** During the substantially confused rental on Saturday 11 August, and at other times, we've found the Patio gate standing wide open, the door from Channing to the Patio unlocked, doors to the Patio from Channing, Schweitzer, and the Patio Room unsecured (locked, but without latching the stationary door to the jamb and base), and the Handicap Door latched open. Evidently some users of the building are entrusting the closing-up to persons who don't

understand the procedures or don't choose to follow those procedures. Let the record show that the Trash & Recycling Committee and the B&G Chair have pointed out repeatedly that we need better enforcement.

**Work Party, 18 August 2012.** Present: Matt Alspaugh, Gary Graham, Liz Hill, Kadey Kimple, Al Pierce, Jim Zupanic, MB.

Matt and others installed **brighter bulbs in the Elm St. entryway and down stairwell**, per request of the Chalice Committee. Matt had a suggestion for installing a **magnet on the floor-mounted doorstop**, to hold the upper-floor elevator door open. Need to find suitable magnet and attempt attachment.

Jim hacked out much vegetation from the area between the East RE wall and the hemlock trees.

Gary and I removed the peeling-off labels from the **good Channing tables** and I used Magic Markers, to request that the tables not be taken outdoors. We also replaced missing set-screws in some of the legs and adjusted leg-heights. One table had legs set at three different heights.

I moved items on the one usable **bulletin board** in Channing so that they are no longer all clustered at the bottom of the board.

Liz inquired if anyone had seen a missing **electric kettle**. I did not recall it, but later found such an item on the lost-items shelf and still later found it in the kitchen. Needs to be labeled as a UUYO item; newly-appearing, unlabeled things are apt to be shunted off to Lost-Land. [This item was probably the one that I had found, assumed to be abandoned property, and put on the Shelf of Lost Things. It's now in the kitchen, and needs labeling. August 27, 2012.]

I put in Illinois closet a new 40-foot **extension cord**, to replace one that has gone missing. [Later found to have been appropriated for Farmers' Market coffeemaking.] Jim and I looked into a flipped **circuit breaker**, from the outlet on the North side of the old building, in the patio. This was initially believed to be the fault of an extension cord used by one of the Farmer's Market vendors (which was also blamed for last week's circuit-blowing at the porch outlet), but it is now thought that the cord was ok and that both blowouts were caused by vendors cramming multiple heavy-draw devices (especially cookers of various sorts) to one outlet. We have less than robust circuits, and many people do not understand that the electrical resources of a single circuit are not infinite, particularly when drawn out through needlessly long extension cords. [Evidently at the 25 Aug. Farmers' Market, some electrical discipline was imposed, or personnel on hand were able to unplug excessive cords and flip the breakers, as I didn't get a call.]

Ice in the **kitchen refrigerator's freezer** was again refrozen into a single block. One of the FM people and I investigated the settings and found that the freezer was set at its second-warmest level. [I went back to church Sunday 19 August to check for trash, and there were three dry paper towels on the floor in front of the fridge, plus the yellow wet-floor warning sign. There is a

pinkish layer of ice on the bottom of the freezer, below the wire-basket drawer. Marcia Malmer is arranging for a service call to get the fridge sorted out.] [August 27, 2012–Marcia reports that the fridge is out of warranty. Kadey said this morning that she had again found a bag of purchased ice cubes jammed into the icemaker area, interfering with ice production.] **See below for further developments in the Great Icemaker Hoo-Hah.**

Jim and I tried the only switch that I know of that is supposed to control **patio lights**, and determined that the switch on the Channing wall by the Patio doorway does not send any current to the two pole lights. Jim Stone has promised to investigate the patio-light situation, consulting plans for the RE Wing (which includes the Patio), etc.

August 27, 2012. After yesterday's service, I was putting away hymnals that had been left on the pew seats, and found that two more of the **hymnal-racks** were broken. I repaired them in the afternoon, as in the previous instance [see p. 18, above]. The only explanation that I can imagine for the split-producing repairs made by banging lots of nails (up to 5) into the small area where the rack-bottom is attached is that at some point in the past we must have had no drill on the premises.

August 27, 2012. **Leaves, Window-Wells, etc.** I have assembled the frames to keep leaves, etc., out of the window-wells on the East side of the RE Wing, and covered those frames with quarter-inch wire mesh. The previous effort to exclude leaves by tying half-inch plastic mesh to the security grilles did not work very well because there was no good way to connect the plastic to the brick structure, and crud got in around the edges. It is maddening that I could not find 48-inch-wide wire mesh (a.k.a. "hardware cloth"), which would have enabled us to have a neat one-piece mesh covering without buying at least ten 50-foot rolls of the stuff; the screens as actually done look rather nasty, but reduce the ability of leaves to enter the window-wells and clog the drains. The only cost for the window-wells is for the 36-inch mesh; wooden bits were recycled.

August 31, 2012. **Icemaker.** This afternoon the icemaker's container of semicircular non-cubes was **full**. I have defrosted the freezer and have removed some items that were put in the freezer without proper wrapping to become freezer-burned. The **horrendous coloration** of the layer of ice on the bottom of the freezer drawer has been proven to be caused by a **bag of colorful popsiclish treats** which had been repeatedly melted and refrozen, and more than half of whose plastic wrappers had split, allowing the contents to leak out during the several nonfrozen periods. The frozen delicacies have been trashed, and their wooden sticks offered to RE for possible projects.

Matt reported that at some time in the past two or three weeks he found the **freezer drawer to have been left open**. Marcia Malmer says that she has also found it left open, and points out that this condition likely results from cramming more stuff into the drawer than it will take.

I believe that what we have experienced is a series of **operator errors**, plus a series of **attempts**

**to compensate for those errors.** It troubles that the following reads a bit like the various car manufacturers' efforts to blame driver error for all the defects in design and manufacture, but I believe that the most likely explanation of our several weeks of grief with the freezer is the following scenario:

**1. Somebody left the freezer drawer open.** This caused the contents of the drawer to melt, and when the drawer is closed, the ice uncubes fuse into a mass, and the other contents refroze into unfamiliar shapes.

**2. Somebody tried to fix the problem by adjusting the freezer temperature setting.** Unfortunately that well-meaning person failed to read the instructions on the temp-setting panel and assumes that a lower number means a lower (colder) temperature; the freezer is set at 2, which is the second-warmest possible freezer setting, and is equivalent to setting the freezer on "Melt."

**3. Somebody else tries to fix the problem by turning off the water supply to the icemaker.** This understandably led to a failure to produce more ice; files were consulted and it was determined that the one-year warranty on the refrigerator had just expired. (If, as I believe to be the case, there was nothing actually wrong with the icemaker, it would have been embarrassing to call a technician for no good reason, and particularly embarrassing if we had to pay for a service call.)

**4. At some point in this process, a separate set of screwups was introduced when the icemaker was disabled by someone's moving the wire bail up, either in an attempt to turn the icemaker on (lifting the bail actually turns it off), or by cramming stuff into the freezer so that it jams the bail.** A couple of objects, including a bag of purchased ice, have been found so jammed.

The front of the refrigerator is now decorated with instructions and comments on these matters, so that it looks like a household fridge in a household with many accomplished children. This condition is at odds with the effort to make the kitchen look uncluttered and professional, but the profusion of things attached to the fridge doors does make it less pressing to polish the metal finish of the door, which is now pretty much invisible.

**Observation: There's not much we can do about Item #1 in the above scenario, because we'll always have some inattentive people using our facilities; this may apply as well to Item #4. We ought however to look hard at Items #2 and #3, because they appear to have caused problems because the well-intentioned people who were moved to commit these errors did not communicate their actions to anyone.**

[September 19, 2012—I have posted instructions for defrosting to left of refrigerator. Had to deal with another ice sheet yesterday.]

August 31, 2012. **HVAC developments.** Bob Dieter is recovered from his injuries and is once again able to carry on with the postponed replacement of our dying forced-air furnace that has heated the RE Wing upstairs. The near-new, high-efficiency Lennox unit that was donated when a house was demolished to make way for a highway expansion, and which has sat in the Fall Room for several months, is in place in the Boiler Room, and some of the preparations for siting the heat-pump cooling portion of the apparatus outdoors next to the other AC unit are done. The project should be finished early next week. An ugly pile of paint and other items is unfortunately taking up space on the round table in Channing, and will be in the way of Farmers' Market, Forum, and the main Sunday service. We do not have space to put stuff, particularly when the Fall Room needs to be cleared to permit hauling out the heat-pump/compressor.

August 31, 2012. **Big Downstairs RE Room.** Badly-blistered, moldy paint on the lower parts of the exterior wall (in the northern half of the room) were cleaned with an angle grinder with a stiff wire brush, creating nasty mess of grid and crud and grinding away half the bristles of a new wire cup-brush. The de-cruddified wall received two coats of UGL Drylok masonry paint. When I was able to remove the metal disk that covers a drain cleanout, I was able to take that disk to Sherwin-Williams and get a very good match for the tan paint.

As I learned from cleaning the disk, the room was originally pale green, then pale yellow. I recall painting the exterior wall (already yellow) many years ago, together with Ellen Satre. Laura Goist reports that the current coat of tan went on when she took over as RE Director. The paint still looked very good, apart from the bubbled area at the bottom of the wall. The stencils depicting symbols of various world religions have been found, so it should be possible to redo the stencilled bits that I had to paint over. I've repainted only the blocks that were bubbled, brushed, and covered with UGL. Process needs to be repeated on the south side of the dividing curtains.

September 19, 2012. **Big Downstairs RE Room, cont'd.** Other side of the wall has been painted. Gizmos holding the tie-back for the divider-curtain have been removed, cleaned, painted, and reinstalled. Tie-back (made of clear plastic belt) has been soaked in bleach and soapy water, scraped free of old paint blobs, and reinstalled. Cove-base cleaned up somewhat and re-cemented (old goop pretty nasty, and my supply at home congealed to resemble Silly Putty). Screw holding plate that covered drain cleanout (to left of wall) broke, and I had to drill out the stump of the screw; still need to tap a new screw-hole to replace cover. The cover has been cleaned and unpainted, and gleams in shiny lacquered brass, but can't yet be reinstalled. [Subsequently done.]

September 19, 2012. **HVAC, cont'd.** Dieters have spent more time than expected with the installation of the new system. We had to have an electrician (Aey) run wire to operate the neat pump; this involved dedicating two of the spare circuits (need two to get 30-amp) in the 1<sup>st</sup>-floor RE Closet, which had been awaiting use in the Choir Loft audio booth. Perhaps some of the circuits labeled as feeding mysterious and apparently nonexistent timed security lights, etc., could be sorted out and put to use. The furnace and heat pump are at last gone from the Fall

Room.

I have made signs for the **doors to Boiler Room and the Fall Room exterior stairwell**, and applied yellow tape on the floor, to discourage people from piling stuff that blocks the doors, as has happened repeatedly during the HVAC efforts.

I've moved some of the **spare stuff from the Boiler Room shelves to the Fall Room** so that all of the paint except the 5-gallon container of muddy non-matching Channing paint will fit on the Boiler Room shelves. Still need to get rid of some duplicated items and junk that were taking up space in the Boiler Room—mostly legacies of old painting campaigns carried out by people who bought new gear instead of using what was on hand. Some of it may be cleaned up well enough to give to Re-Store.

September 19, 2012. **Tools.** B&G collection now includes a **pad sander**.

September 19, 2012. **Illinois Doors.** The battered, chipped, much-abused wood doors have had a coat of primer and paint. I've used Sherwin-Williams exterior white on inside and outside, in the interest of simplifying inventory. Door handles have been cleaned up: brass parts wire-brushed and lacquer-sprayed, ferrous parts de-rusted, primed, and sprayed black. Spyhole devices removed, cleaned, reinstalled; security chain ditto. Hinges, which were gray and grimy in appearance, turn out to be solid brass. I'm working on removing them one at a time and cleaning them up, mainly to permit access to the unreachable, peeled paint behind and around the hinges, which may as well be cleaned up while they're accessible.

Still need to remove, clean up, and reinstall the latching gizmos on the stationary door, ditto the old keyed cylinder—all items uglified up with paint.

September 19, 2012. We still haven't determined where the **smoke-detector** sensor is for the big 1<sup>st</sup>-floor RE Room, nor have we proceeded on getting that alarm connected with ADT or any other means of monitoring a fire that might begin when nobody is in the building to hear the hooter.

September 30, 2012. The **Illinois Door** has been worked on, as noted above. I doubt that we'll have enough consecutive warm, dry days this season to allow removal of the hinges on the stationary door, digging out the crap paint around the hinges, and repainting the area; obviously we can do only one hinge at a time lest the door fall off. I'd like to remove more painted-over hardware and clean it up, but will have to see what other things need attention.

October 2, 2012. In the **office** Matt has rearranged some apparatus, getting a large snarl of wire off the counter. Some of the tangle has been tucked into the space between the rightmost cabinet and the wall, more gear has been moved into the top cabinet shelf. As I understand it, we have eliminated one of the phone lines and its attendant monthly cost. The **copier** has been replaced with a much more compact item, freeing up some floor space and an electrical outlet.

During the protracted process of installing the new HVAC stuff for the upstairs RE Wing, I've noticed that some of our **electrical circuits** appear to be dedicated to things that are unknown and perhaps extinct. Perhaps some of these breakers could be repurposed to run things that we actually need; this would relieve some of the strain caused by the need to find circuits for the new heat pump and other improvements.

Last night Matt and I sat through a "Webinar" on the subject of **energy efficiency**. Presenter was Craig Foster, who did an energy survey for us recently and is working with Ohio Interfaith Power and Light. What appeared to me as the potentially useful aspects of this program are the prospects of relatively reliable, manageable data on energy consumption and estimates of the cost-effectiveness of various possible measures (which can be presented in terms of how long a possible expenditure would take to repay its cost by reducing consumption).

I'd previously looked at the preliminary survey and noted a few things that are obvious and cheap and can be done on our own, such as weatherstripping the many patio doors whose gaps and drafts have been conspicuously obvious for a long time. I expect that when we have a more detailed account of our own situation, we'll be confirmed in the perception that our greatest energy hemorrhage is the cold-season outpouring of vast amounts of pledge dollars in the form of radiant energy wasted by the acres of single-pane glass. Many followers of these issues will recall that we were promised storm windows for Channing as part of the great renovation, but that the manufacturer of those windows went out of business. We remain unable to find anyone who might produce such storm windows, particularly for Channing and the Sanctuary. Perhaps contacts through the OIPL program will help with the prospect of solar generation of electricity.

And maybe the OIPL updates would serve as a nagging mechanism so that we wouldn't continue to classify our energy issues as a "long-term" problem, which in practice has meant "we have no intention of doing anything about this in our lifetimes." If so, the OIPL involvement would be worth the tedium that is probably endemic to the "Webinar." [October 18, 2012: Sat through a 45-minute teleconference with Matt and Foster; this was devoted to our church's survey and was much more useful than the Webinar. Confirmed that we lose a lot of heat through the doors to the Patio, the vast single-pane windows, and the apparently **damperless exhaust vent** above the stoves. Foster said that there's a nice installation of magnetically-attached inside-the-building **storm windows** on the Ceramics Museum in East Liverpool, which Matt and I intend to visit. Foster will connect us at last with somebody who actually can get and install the damn storms. I've made contact with Chuck Hyde, a former neighbor and a contractor who has done satisfactory work at Beiersdorfers' and my daughter's homes, to advise on weatherstripping for the Patio windows. All the double doors to the Patio, from Channing and the RE Wing, are taller than the normal door size, so standard door-weatherstripping won't work. That's presumably why the old ugly, ill-fitting bronze-tone weatherstripping fitted to the outside of the RE doors stops short of the tops and bottoms of the doors, looking stupid and admitting air.

Foster also noted that we'll need to replace all the **fluorescent lights** in the building, as the old

R-12 fixtures are becoming obsolete and tubes will eventually become unavailable. The newer R-8 fixtures and tubes will be more efficient. This raises the question as to whether it will be worth the trouble to install the fixtures removed during the 2010 Channing upgrade as we have been planning. They're much better than the older crummy fluorescents throughout the RE Wing, but are still R-12.

**Stolen Items:** We've lost another extension cord, the faded-to-pink 50-foot 3-hole specimen that I picked up at a garage sale some years ago. [Subsequently found in big RE room/Children's Chapel and returned to Illinois Closet.] In the kitchen, the **#3 coffeemaker** has been gone for two or three weeks, as has the cord for one of the bigger coffeemakers. [October 18, 2012—I found in the Sanctuary the new extension cord, purchased to replace the above specimen and labeled as belonging in Illinois Closet. Returned to closet.]

October 19, 2012. Richard asked me a few weeks ago to deal with the **lectern in the Sanctuary**. It was designed and built a long while ago, I assume, when speakers relied on their own voices and the very good acoustics of the room to communicate. It presented some problems as a microphone platform, however, as its hollow wood body resonated and amplified any tapping, bumping, etc., communicating vibrations to the microphone. I found and inserted a brass tube to keep the hole for the microphone cable from being clogged (holes on top and bottom of the lectern were not precisely aligned), and stuffed the lectern with spongy HDPE-4 packing material, bubble-wrap, and the like to reduce the resonance. I had expected that the lectern top would come off its supporting column, and removed screws in order to take it off, but it is clear that the thing was assembled with liberal use of wood glue. I had to use a hole-saw on the top to get the stuffing in; hole has been covered with a thin aluminum plate (and the piece removed by the hole-saw has been reinstalled). The two layers of old felt covering still need to be glued down. (Rubber cement has become a relatively scarce commodity, but was found in the crafts department at Walmart.)

Susan Miracle observed that one of the **doors into Channing Hall** tended to stick open in cold weather. Normally the brass handle on the south double door (on the left as viewed from the Kitchen hallway) poked in among the radiator segments, providing a hold-open function, but when the radiator heated up it moved to the extent that the door was held very firmly. Susan said that three dancers pulling on the door had been unable to dislodge it from the radiator's grasp. I have installed one of the magnetic doorstop/grabber devices that have been deployed on the wall to hold the right-hand door open, as well as on the wall next to the Channing elevator door. These devices, which I had previously found and ordered on the Net, are also made by Stanley and may be bought at Handyman.

Other **doors into Channing** in need of attention are those at the West end, at the bottom of the stairway from Elm Street. One of the original brass handles has been missing for many years. It is impossible to find a match for the other one, and difficult even to find door-pulls that aren't monstrously expensive, monstrously ugly, or stylistically unsuitable for a building like ours. (Want to feel better about your esthetic environment? Google "door pulls.") Jim Stone

succeeded in finding a reasonable replacement after I had given up Googling, and the new ones are ordered. [Stamped aluminum, but look ok. Doors painted with ext. white used on Illinois doors.] [November 18, 2012--Handles on the **West (Kitchen) Channing entry** have been removed, cleaned, and reinstalled.]

About a month ago I removed the gibbet-like **wooden sign-holder** at the sidewalk corner of Elm and Illinois. Since then I have disassembled it into two pieces of 4x4 treated wood. No inspiration as to what to do with the wood; probably it should go into the Sanctuary attic along with other items that might be useful for some future project. I have also cut up the tree-limb that was against the East RE wall, and taken away the larger bits for firewood. The twigs still need to be ground into mulch.

There's a new **trash container** to the left of the Kitchen refrigerator. This one has an accessible step-on opener. The previous container, whose lid was stolen, is now the Fall Room trash can.

In the **Fall Room**, the **venetian blinds** that were in Channing before the remodeling have gone to Re-Store. Also on hand since that remodeling (2010) are the **ceiling fans** that were bought for the new Channing and deemed too ornate for the room; nobody has suggested a use for them at the Church or elsewhere, and I hope to get them out of the room in the near future.

In the **Second-Floor Restroom**, the toilet-paper holder was coming loose from the plasterboard wall and has been replaced. [The holder in the **Men's Restroom** was ok except that it was not entirely foolproof; the roller-core looked a little different than most, so users and cleaning crew sometimes refused to use it, instead setting the new roll of paper on top of the roller. I'll donate the old one to Re-Store in the hope that someone will buy it and put it somewhere with a brighter clientele. New one is the very cheap simple one from Handyman, identical with the one installed in the Second-Floor facility.]

October 26, 2012. **Illinois doors.** I've removed the center hinge on the usually-stationary door and cleaned it up; will install. Unexpected interlude of warm weather may permit doing another one of the hinges before normal seasonal rotten weather returns. [As of November 9, 2012, the top and bottom hinges remain cruddy. Removed and cleaned the top one 16 Nov.]

**Office.** Installed wire-clamps, etc., to tame some of the snarl of cords on the office counter.

**Porch Light.** November 9, 2012. Matt and I have removed the three old porch-light fixtures and installed in the center hole a 65-watt fluorescent (light output equivalent to around that of a 300-watt incandescent bulb) that is, I believe, identical with the one over the Illinois doorway. The light is controlled by a photoelectric gizmo installed in the South hole, so it will shut off in daylight and not burn out the bulb, as has tended to occur in the past, when the Porch light-switch is left on. The bulb in the center light can now be changed from above, in the attic. Some bare and scary wiring in the old light installations has been rendered harmless. [November 18, 2012--Comments to date on the new arrangement indicate that the single fixture

provides enough light. I think that we might want to add **another smaller fixture in the area of the handicap entry and driveway**; in the meantime a lighted doorbell at that door might help.]

The porch-roof area continues to be difficult of access and so dirty that I start coughing after working there for a while. A bit of folded cardboard makes slithering through the hole between the Choir-Loft attic into the porch attic less uncomfortable, but it's a nasty environment. Some plywood sheets have been screwed down to the rafters to make it easier to get around; there are additional pieces of plywood in the Choir-Loft attic that can be added once they have been trimmed to 23-inch width to permit passage through the access hole. I have purchased a clamp-on temporary light for use inside the porch attic; it should be relatively handy to use, once we get an outlet in the choir-loft attic.

Any extensive work in the attics remains a two-person activity, since it is very difficult to carry anything up the ladder on the Choir-Loft wall, and it's best to lift stuff with rope and bucket. We still need to install an outlet or two in the Choir-Loft attic so that it won't be necessary to run an extension cord from the Audio Control Room alongside the ladder to the loft.

**B&G Closet.** November 18, 2012. I have attached fifteen jars by their lids to a board that is to be installed in the closet for storage of nails, screws, etc. This will free up some shelf space and improve access to hardware.

**Fall Room (a.k.a. Pride Room, Youth Room, Room behind the Kitchen).** November 18, 2012. This multipurpose room, used in food preparation, B&G work, etc., and our *only* reasonably accessible storage area (I've been putting some items in the Sanctuary Attic, but that's not easy to get at), has been more useful lately.

The donated furnace/AC unit has been installed and no longer takes up space in the room, and the two major recurrent activities that use the room, Farmers' Market and Adam Lee's culinary performances, have greatly improved their cleanup procedures. The table (removed from the Kitchen during its upgrade) that serves as workbench has been unobstructed by gadgets and mysterious vegetables for a couple of weeks. The curtain hardware removed from Channing has gone to Re-Store, the dead sweeper saved for parts is in the Sanctuary Attic, and some other miscellaneous bits are gone.

Other items that need to go are: the **bulletin boards**, which will be rehabilitated (aluminum frames cleaned up, Homosote board painted) and hung in the RE hallways; and the **fans** that were deemed too ornate for installation in the new Channing, which will be taken to Re-Store since nobody has volunteered to take and use them.

Once the bulletin boards are out of the way, I recommend that we allocate and label shelf space in the room. (When Cocoa-Mocha closed down, we assigned their vacated shelves next to the freezer to Farmers' Market; this has, I think, helped to contain FM stuff.) At present it's not at

all clear whose stuff is on shelves, and I suspect that there's a lot that doesn't actually belong to any group but has just been shoved onto shelves at random. Once space has been allocated, I suggest that whatever group has a space be empowered (and required) to deal with any stuff that someone else leaves in that space—date it and put it on the Abandoned Stuff shelves in the hall for disposal after two months.

To this end we'll need to identify what groups are using the spaces. B&G can't do this without some aid; certainly the VP who does Committee liaison can assist, but some groups probably exist, or used to exist, without official recognition. Probably after a few months of requests that users of shelf-space identify themselves, etc., we can get things sorted.

The elephant-size thing in the room is the mountain of **ceiling tiles** removed from Channing. We can't get those out of the way without a sustained campaign. Many of the stained and damaged tiles in the various RE Wing ceilings will require tedious, time-consuming trimming of the replacement tiles. Even where the square tiles can be installed as is, we can't just do several dozen replacements in one go because we're not able to do the overhead lifting for hours at a time. And when we're switching tiles, we ought to wipe down the metal frames between them.

December 2, 2012. I've obtained from Ace Lumber the wood for the **insulating overlap** for the Patio doors and the Elm Street door. The latter piece is trimmed and primed. I hope to concentrate on getting the door-insulation work done before attending to the bulletin-boards, ceiling-tile replacements, etc. *This is another project that would be done much more rapidly if I could get one person's assistance; we don't have a serious vise or other means of holding the wood still while it is trimmed to fit.*

Matt wishes that we remove the **plastic thermostat protector in Channing**. There have been instances when someone has been in Channing or the Sanctuary (this thermostat controls both up and down in the Old Building) and wished to modify the temperature setting. Evidently the policy of having Diane program every Monday for all the scheduled uses of the Old Building, as was supposed to be possible with the new thermostat, has not sufficed. Matt will create some signage to discourage people from screwing up the thermostat, and I shall remove the plastic protective box. I anticipate that we will suffer significant penalties in heating costs, because someone will crank up the setting to 80+ (because it is widely believed by persons who haven't thought it through that setting the thermostat above the desired heat-level will cause the room to warm up faster), and push the HOLD button (because as we know instructions are routinely disregarded), whereafter the heat will run wastefully high until someone undoes the setting.

December 2, 2012. **Security/Kitchen**. Two weeks ago we had another instance of the **kitchen refrigerator's freezer door** being left open (to the extent of two and 7/8 inches), causing meltdown of the freezer contents, water on the kitchen floor, etc. It takes less than five minutes, now that I've had plenty of practice, to remove the glacier from the bottom of the freezer, wipe out the freezer compartment, put the basket with freezer contents back where it belongs, and shut the door. (Instructions posted on wall right of fridge.) I found the problem on a Wednesday. Scheduled users of the building on Tuesday are unlikely to have opened the freezer door, much

less left it open; I suspect that someone is getting into the Church and marauding, apart from scheduled activities.

Interludes of unseasonable warmth have made it possible to remove, clean, lacquer, and reinstall the remaining **hinges on the Illinois doors**.

Recently Gary Davenport reported an anomaly in the **main kitchen sink**. The cold-water faucet ran warm; hot was very hot, as usual. I suspect that because people don't turn off the spigots for the gooseneck sprayer, and the water reaches the sprayer before the main sink faucet, there is some mixing of hot and cold occurring in the sprayer fixture. I shall try new washers in the sprayer, which doesn't shut off fully even when the handles are turned to shut it off. When that fails I'll get the plumber.

Matt reports that the **big metal sign with moveable letters** is in violation of city policy, as it is a mobile sign that has been left in place for a long time. We used to put it away in the Fall, after Arts & Lectures and Farmers' Market closed up, but since the Market has become year-round, so has the sign.

The new **permanent sign** has been installed in the southwest corner of the church property, perpendicular to Elm Street. It's more conspicuous than the old one, which is parallel to the street. Jim Rogers' design, which is also on some UUYO tote bags, seems to me to work fine.

December 5, 2012. Two days ago I was able to attach the **vertical overlap** on the main **Elm Street door**. Jan Schnall had come in to work on the kitchen, and was drafted to help line up the piece; this is a two-person effort because from the top of the ladder it's impossible to see whether the notch for the latch-plate lines up, or whether the vertical alignment is right. I caulked around the new piece; later I added some nails and several screws to tighten the attachment to the door. Yesterday I sanded and painted the overlap, and since the outdoor temperature was in the low 60s (with a couple of 5-minute interludes of actual sunlight), I put a coat of exterior white on the double door and on the Accessible Door. This was a crude, slapdash application, which covered much of the horrid gray grit that remained on the door after wiping down with spray-cleaner. A careful second coat, preceded by sanding, would make the doors look good, but it is unlikely that we'll have an opportunity to second-coat for some months. I did not take off the street-number or the signage, as a real painting job would require.

December 9, 2012. **Doors and Security**. I was called by ADT c. 8:30 AM yesterday. I told the ADT person to call off YPD, which she had summoned (no cruiser arrived), as I knew that the problem would be related to Farmers' Market or some other Saturday function opening up. I got to church c. 9 AM; Jim Converse confirmed that one of his vendors had opened the a door, before Jim had got there to disarm the alarm. The vendor had found the Handicap door open and had set off the alarm. I determined that the crash-bar on the door was working ok, but that the wood of the door had swelled to the extent that the door could be incompletely closed—close enough for the door sensor to register as closed. There was also some interference to the door's closing from fragments of wood from the door, evidently knocked loose by persons bashing

things against the door. I do not know why people won't hold the door open with the string that is screw-eyed to the outside wall, instead of smashing things into the door and jamb. I have used a belt sander to remove some wood, old paint, etc., from door-edge and jamb so that it is quite difficult to prevent the door from closing and latching. Painting the sanded bits will have to await warmer, drier weather.

**Channing-Patio Doors.** I have trimmed, primed, drilled, and countersunk the vertical pieces of 1x3 poplar to cover the gaps where the double doors meet. This is another process that would be more easily done if I had someone to hold the table in the Fall Room steady while I use the miter-box to cut the pieces to length. Once the pieces are attached to the stationary door and caulked, they can be finish-coated and strips of insulating foam attached. Same process will be required for all the doors to the Patio from the RE Wing. Remarkably enough, we have in the Boiler Room, and have actually found, the Kilim Beige paint used on the doors when Channing was upgraded two years ago; looks ok. (The tint is part of the complex palette deployed in Channing to complement the not-quite bestseller *Fifty Shades of Beige*.) Painting finished 14 Dec.

The **Schweitzer Lounge Patio doors** differ in height by half an inch or so; the door-handles are differently spaced, so that one of the overlaps has to be notched and the other one doesn't. This is an indication that the professional craftspersons who put the RE Wing together were not so conscientious as they might have been. So the imperfect state of the building is not *entirely* the result of neglect and incompetence of underskilled Buildings and Grounds drudges over the decades.

The **AA group that meets in Schweitzer** Tuesday nights has asked for help in getting to their meeting without having to pass through Channing when it is occupied by dancers. There exist no keys for the **RE doors**; they've been propping one of the doors open, so that only the first to arrive needs to go via Channing. I'll propose a less wasteful prop than the brick. AA has also expressed interest in getting the **security light** to work over at least one of the doors. I installed the lights several years ago, mounting them high enough that the bulbs aren't easily reached and unscrewed by malefactors. Setup is supposed to allow the lights to come on when it gets dark, and to be motion-activated, but in fact every time the power goes off or some botherfingers messes with the switch, the unit defaults to stay-on-day-and-night-till-the-bulbs-burn-out. I've picked up new light gizmos from Marc's, and will try one to see if it will work. [Seems to work; need to comb by and check action a few times after dark.]

I used the Little Giant ladder from home; much better stable platform than the big wooden stepladder from the Chair Closet, which has to be used sideways on a sloping porch. Replacement would be easier with directions (missing from the box I opened, provided in second box), warmer weather so fingertips don't go numb, and/or someone to hand up parts. December 21, 2012—Seems to work ok, except that motion sensor needs to be re-aimed and outdoor-grade bulbs need to be installed. I'll await better weather to do these things.

**Security Issues #1**, December 21, 2012. (Included here because we have no functioning

Security Committee.) Wednesday ADT called my house, where nobody was home; did not try my cell phone. Calls also received by Al Pierce, who was swimming, and Genia Pierce, and Jim Zupanic. Probably Ben Barnes too, but I didn't hear from him; he would likely have been at work around midday. I had another message on my home phone from Ralph Malmer, who said that he had set off the alarm. I'll communicate with Ralph about how to stop the alarm when it's gone off. Genia said that she got to the church and saw more than one police car; she went in and eventually shut off the alarm, after calling me (by that time I was home). Genia had been pushing Code plus \* instead of Code plus 1. She believed that the alarm had been caused by the north RE door, which could not have been the case because **that door has no sensor**. Perhaps our most urgent problem is to get a sensor on that door, which is opened so AA guys can go out and smoke, and not always closed. When I got to church later that afternoon, the alarm was not set.

**Security #2.** Tuesday afternoon I went in to work on RE/Patio door insulation, and found that the **Schweitzer keys** (different from any other doors in the building) were gone from the envelope in the Office. Worse yet, not only was one of the Schweitzer doors locked shut, the other one was unlocked and unlockable. Diane has no record of who has Schweitzer keys; inquiry needs to be made of Farmers' Market and whatever it was that we had in place of Arts and Lectures this summer. I can think of nobody else who would have had a reason to borrow one of the Schweitzer keys. As it happens, the person scheduled to open up for AA that night arrived early and he had a copy of the key. This was a good thing, though it is **not a sign of good organization when AA has a key to building doors and we don't**. I have since taken the AA copy and got more keys made. AA copy needs to be returned to AA, though they won't actually need it till Spring.

**Kitchen-Damper for Stove Exhaust Vent.** December 21, 2012. Kadey Kimpel discussed our problems with cold air pouring into the kitchen with Carbone Heating, of Niles; that company was replacing her home heating system and she had warm feelings toward them. At Kadey's suggestion I called Carbone and met Mike at the church. Mike determined that **the reason that our damper doesn't work is that there is not now and never has been a damper**. Karen O'Malia agreed that we should accept the Carbone proposal to install a gravity-controlled damper (no wiring to mess with) for \$340. This should be done early next week. **[Done Friday 21 Dec.]**

**Toilet, Men's Restroom.** December 21, 2012. This commode rocks back and forth, and will therefore begin to leak onto the floor when the wax sealing ring is ruined by the motion. The problem is that the floor is not level, and there is nothing solid under the toilet for it to be bolted to. I do not have any inspiration for how to solve this problem, and recommend that we summon professional help before we have to deal with the leak.

**Mirror, Women's Restroom.** On Friday 22 Dec., my son-in-law helped me trim and affix the molding that was bought several years ago to surround the mirror and cover the de-silvered bits around the edges. (In view of the very long wait between purchase of the material and actual installation, Jim Stone suggests that the framing of the mirror be designated the Immaculate Reflection, though it's not actually immaculate.) Installation still needs some joint compound

to smooth out joints between pieces and cover screw-heads, followed by paint. [Compound applied 24 Dec.; still needs sanding and painting.]

**Security.** December 23, 2012. At c. 3:45 PM today I responded to an ADT call. The door **sensor on the Elm Street main door** had signaled. I told the ADT to cancel the cop-call and went to check; to my surprise, the door was properly locked, and the vertical frame locks on the stationary door were set; it should not have been possible to rattle the door enough to set off the sensor. Nor would it have been possible to set the alarm if the door had not been fully closed. No idea how the alarm could have been set off. [**December 24, 2012–Bill Sharkey told me this afternoon that he had tugged on the door handle, found the door unlatched, and closed the door firmly. So that’s almost certainly the cause of the alarm. The latch usually snaps shut, but if the door is closed very slowly it can hang up, despite frequent lubrication. Another argument, I believe, for installing a crash-bar like the one on the Handicap Door.**]

The new **rubber mat** stored rolled up next to the Illinois door was missing. Probably instructions posted next to the mat were disregarded and the mat was not rolled up and brought indoors when the building was closed. **Stuff left unguarded will likely be stolen.** I have sent an inquiry to persons who are usually involved in opening and closing the building. [**Update,** December 24, 2012. I noticed that the new **holey rubber mat** that has been set in a bucket inside the Illinois door was missing a couple of days ago and sent some e-mails lamenting the evident carelessness that had left the mat outdoors to be stolen. This afternoon, while painting a second coat on one of the new insulating strips on the Channing/Patio doors, I found the mat outside the door in the patio. The door was unlocked. Thus the problem was not caused by thievery but by a variation on the Squirrel Syndrome, in which people take things and put them where they don’t belong. Fortunately the mat was discovered before I did another trek to Ollie’s for replacement.]

**Sump Pump.** December 28, 2012. ADT called c. 8 PM yesterday; Water Bug alarm had been set off in Boiler Room. I found c. 2.5 inches of water on the floor, just enough to reach the sensor. I determined that the Primary pump was not functional, and the Secondary pump was plugged into an inoperative outlet. When I plugged the Secondary pump into the other outlet, it came on immediately and cleared the water in less than five minutes.

Both circuit-breakers (primary in the Sanctuary panel, and secondary in the 1<sup>st</sup>-floor RE closet) were untripped, and flipping them off and on again made no difference. The nonworking Primary outlet showed No Neutral on the simple plug-type tester. I removed the dead primary pump so that it could dry out for transport and installed the plug in the outflow line to prevent blowback from pumping by the Secondary pump.

This afternoon I checked the paperwork in the Office folder. Documentation from the purchase of the Primary pump, sometime in 2009, was missing (the panel from the pump box was also missing from the Boiler Room wall). I took the pump to Grainger and bought a similar Zoeller heavy-duty pump, and then installed it, making some improvements to labeling of power cords and lifting ropes. I used to good effect a clamp-on light that had been bought for the porch attic

but not yet carried upstairs. (In the last couple of years, one portable light has gone missing from the Boiler Room.) Clamp-on light is now labeled Do Not Remove from Boiler Room. The old drop-light can go to the attic.

Diagnosing the problem with the outlet remains to be done; Jim Stone and I worked on the problem Friday morning, December 28, 2012, determining that a whole bunch of possible causes aren't in fact the problem. The organ is also dead; it worked Christmas Eve. For armchair electronic-puzzle fans, it's an open (mis)connection on the ground side, not a short circuit. I'll run an extension cord from the kitchen so that the Secondary pump can run on a different circuit from the Primary. [Further struggles, led by Jim and Al Pierce, continued on Sunday 30 Dec., and some things were learned. The mailbox cabinet was removed from the wall to allow inspection of wires behind the Sanctuary breaker-panel. We had no success in finding the fault, but somewhere during the struggle the circuit resumed working. **This is not a solution.** We hope to provide power for both the sump pump and the organ from other circuits.]

**Summary of B&G Activities during 2012.** I expect that I will be asked to provide a summary of the Committee's efforts for the year, for presentation at the Annual Meeting. I'll try to summarize this Chronicle into a one-page condensed version for those who do not care to plod through 30+ pages.

We have a number of accomplishments to consider alongside the list of necessary things that haven't been done. The great concern is that **support has essentially dried up**, as is shown by the end of the monthly Work Parties after about a decade of reasonably successful meetings. We had (or didn't have) the Work Party where Nobody Came, and since then B&G has limped along as a one-person committee, with that aged and crabby person also dealing with Trash and Recycling and putting away a lot of trash and abandoned property, as well as putting paper products in the restrooms. The Board is working on measures to spread the work around a bit. We need to make some changes lest the natural forces of decay—sometimes abetted by careless practice by users of the building—overwhelm our effort to preserve the building that provides this organization with a place to do its various things.