

1st UU Buildings & Grounds Chronicle, 2013.

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

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

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

[Infrequently-Asked Question: Why are B&G activities recorded in such detail? 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?” have no ready answer. If we write stuff down in a searchable format, future generations can determine what we did and why it seemed like a good idea, or the least available evil, at the time. Also, my own memory, even for stuff that I did not so long ago, is unreliable.]

January 13, 2013. **Patio Doors.** Work on insulating the doors, begun late in the previous year, has been done in many stages. After installing the vertical wooden strips on the Illinois door and the Channing patio doors, I continued into the first-floor RE rooms, starting in Schweitzer Lounge and ending up at the North end, next to the Coffee Closet. Each poplar strip required the cutting of round notches to accommodate the door locks and handles, and there was some variation in height from door to door. The strips were cut, sanded, drilled, and primed before they were screwed onto the stationary door of each pair, and were caulked. Today’s unusually mild weather permitted Richard Palmer and me (Richard doing the finesse work) to paint the edges with the same indoor-outdoor finish paint that we’ve been using on all the white doors. The wooden strips have already reduced cold-air infiltration quite a bit, as they cover gaps that in some cases amounted to about 3/8 inch. Now it should be possible to apply foam-rubber strips in various thicknesses to seal the doors. This will be a fussy business, as most of the doors are warped so that part of the contact area is a very close fit, where no foam can be applied without making the doors very difficult to close, and other parts of that contact area are more than a quarter-inch apart.

The wood strips make it more challenging to shut the doors firmly, since the doorknobs are set close to the strips. I shall search for **different handles**, with a horizontal extension in the manner of the Channing patio doors. One of the old knobs was missing altogether in the Coffee-Closet room anyhow.

On 6 January, after the Annual Meeting, Tim Malone and Richard Palmer helped move the big extension ladder from the Cave into the Sanctuary, and we were able to attack some of the **peeling paint on the Sanctuary ceiling**. I have now recorded in the Paint folder in the office the proper technique for reaching the ceiling, by disassembling the ladder so that only one heavy 20-foot section need be carried and maneuvered. The bad paint on the ceiling near the organ console could not be fixed immediately, as it was not just paint that was peeling but spackle, and there was a serious patch with some sort of mesh. I used joint compound to disguise the considerable thickness difference between patched and unpatched areas, and returned to sand and re-spackle. On Thursday 10 January, Jim Zupanic and I removed the ladder, which had remained in place all week, and returned it to the Cave.

Friday 11 Jan. **Security Light**. Tim Malone assisted as I replaced the dead fixture over the North RE door with a new one identical with the one recently emplaced over the South door. This was a much easier job than the previous light, even though we ran out of daylight. The headlight bought a few months ago was invaluable, the weather was better (I did not lose feeling in my fingers), as was having someone to hand me stuff.

Jim Stone and Al Pierce devoted a good deal of time to sorting out the erratic **circuit which has quit, incapacitating the organ console and secondary sump pump**. They have identified alternative circuits that can be used to run the organ, and Tim Malone and I found and labeled the outlet in the Boiler Room into which the sump has been provisionally plugged. The bad circuit has died and revived a couple of times, and on Saturday was working, presumably temporarily.

Tim identified the **mysterious vile odor in the kitchen refrigerator**, as an opened container of mascarpone cheese, which has been disposed of.

Steeple removal began Monday 7 Jan., a day after the vote of funds at Annual Meeting.

Herb Soss, of Ace Lumber and the synagogue, visited to inspect the steeple process, and said that the person who was supposed to manufacture **storm windows for Channing** was in business at a new location, and had claimed to have made some progress on the storm-window frames.

In general, despite the late-2012 dearth in B&G help, we've had considerable contributions so far in the new year. Thanks to Jims Stone and Zupanic, Al Pierce, and Tim Malone. I'm considering **reinstating Work Parties** in February, plus a system of listing particular tasks to be undertaken whenever someone can spare some time. Stay tuned.

January 21, 2013. The **bench grinder** (motor with wire brush and grindstone attachments) that was saved from Rummage donations a few years ago has been cleaned up and had its cord attachment fixed. I've put it on one of the B&G shelves in the Fall Room.

One of the **Bulletin Boards** removed from Channing during the 2010 renovation has had its metal frame painted. The spattered paint was removed, but the newly shiny aluminum was blotchy and

uneven in appearance, so I've painted it. For the grossly soiled pinnable surface of the board, I doubt that we have paint or records to match the color on the 1st-floor RE Hall walls, but will look today. Boards will be hung in the hallway on the mounts that are already in place. It is vexing that the boards were so badly treated, particularly the metal frames; the boards could have been taken down when walls around them were painted, much more easily than even the very sloppy edging involved in painting around them. Renovation is a tedious process, because I'm doing it one board at a time, on the table in the Fall Room, and there is a lot of waiting for successive coats to dry.

Observations on the Steeple. I felt some anguish as the dismantling process got under way, but closer examination of the wood removed during the unsteeping has removed my doubts. I have photographs that I'll share in one manner or another, showing how horribly rotten some of the wood was. The steeple appears to have been softwood throughout, contrary to my expectation that some of the more crucial pieces would be oak or some such hardwood. Better to take it down than to have it collapse on its own.

I expected that a good deal of the wood would be good solid beams, suitable for hauling to ReStore, but almost everything has been horribly weathered, way past paint-holding, or bent, or splintered, or afflicted in more than one of these ways. I've hauled away a good deal of firewood; thanks to all who assisted. There's about 3/4 of a big dumpster of wood remaining, if anyone has a woodstove, a friend with a woodstove, or a desire to own a big pile of ugly wood.

The Brocks have to date been scrupulous in cleaning up the unavoidable messes, having left no mud and debris in the building when visiting the restrooms, and having graded the lawn smooth where the giant crane and smaller lift truck had sunk into the ground. The blue tarps applied to keep out water during the proceedings have remained in place despite some fierce weather.

The spire was taken to CASTLO soon after it came down. I haven't had a chance to examine it closely; I hope that it is in good enough shape to reinstall atop a new lower structure. Some components (suitable for measurement and duplication if we can do a proper rebuilding with more durable materials) are to be delivered to the same place. I continue to be impressed by how expeditiously the removal has gone, after many years of discussion and much expenditure on doomed half-measures to delay the collapse. Sarah Lown has done wonders in arranging the actual performance of the removal, and the Board has at last done what needed to be done.

We shall see what can be done to replace the steeple. We UUs don't expect miracles, so we didn't try to pray for the rotten wood to magically rejuvenated and the tilt corrected; but perhaps a way can be found to replace the building's historic and esthetic crown.

Bulletin Boards. February 8, 2013. During the last few weeks I've worked on cleaning up the boards from Channing, as noted above. It's a slow process, because we can do just one at a time. The January hiatus in Farmers' Market activity was convenient, because I could leave a board on the table in the Fall Room without inconveniencing the farmers and marketers. The second board

did not require painting the trim, as the aluminum was not so thoroughly trashed as on the other board. It did however require *five* coats of paint to cover the scrawls inflicted with water-based markers by inadequately-civilized persons. Kilz does seem to hide such damage better than the primers that we had on hand in the Boiler Room. Amazingly, we did have paint that matches the first-floor RE Hall walls. The first board was hung up after church a few weeks ago; we used screw-heads to hook under the top frame, as the aluminum mounting bits had been removed. I'll bring in some old aluminum floor-molding that might make a better mount. We still have the second rehabilitated bulletin board to install, and there's another one in the closet of the Children's Chapel that can be fixed up when we have time.

Refrigerators, Fall Room. February 8, 2013. Last week Diane Thomas called to say that Dave and Sherry Warden wished to donate a refrigerator. Inquiry established that the unit offered was newer than the one on the Fall Room (and thus probably more efficient) and would fit in the space, so I agreed to arrange for removal of the older fridge and installation of the new one. Gary Davenport was able to assist with his pickup truck at a time when the donors would be home. Fish Samaritan House agreed to pick up the old unit between 10 AM and 2 PM on Thursday 7 Feb. Louisa Berger and Jeanne Tucker spent most of Wednesday morning cleaning out the Fall Room and Kitchen refrigerators; a good deal of freezer-burned breadstuff went to compost and many outdated items were composted or trashed, creating room for the surviving Fall Room items to move into the kitchen. (Jim Zupanic waited for the Fish truck on Thursday; it arrived c. 11:30 AM and the old fridge went away.)

Gary, Dave Warden, and I loaded the newer fridge onto his truck without difficulty on Wednesday afternoon, and brought it to the church. It soon developed that Gary and I were unable to manage taking it down the stairs, so Lowell Satre was recruited to assist. The steps were icy, the space very tight, and it was dark by the time we finished the job.

Notes on moving refrigerators or other heavy, hard-to-handle items down the exterior stairs to the Fall Room: (1) the heavy-duty hand gray truck, believed to belong to Richard Palmer, is too short to permit easy grabbing of its handles; we should borrow a longer hand-truck, or use sturdy ropes to permit helpers at ground level to take the weight and keep the item from escaping control and crushing people in the stairwell. (2) The way to get the item to pivot to allow it to get through the door is to set four concrete blocks at the bottom of the stairwell to establish a working surface at the level of the threshold; this would be done much more easily before commencing the lowering process, instead of shoehorning them into place with the fridge suspended in the stairwell, being in the way.

No UUs were permanently injured in the process. **There is a weird problem with the light in the exterior stairwell; it will light up only if the light inside the Fall Room is off.** None of the current B&G personnel were responsible for setting it up this way; when Jim Stone and I replaced the light a couple of years ago, we didn't mess with the switches. Jim will attempt to sort out the switch wiring, and will perhaps figure out why someone among our predecessors thought it a good idea to arrange things in so perplexing a manner.

Patio Doors. February 8, 2013. The doors from RE rooms to the Patio are now equipped with vertical wooden strips to block some of the costly and ecologically embarrassing air leakage. The strips interfere to some extent with the dummy knobs used to pull the doors closed. The knobs on the northernmost door, near the Coffee Closet, were in any case in bad shape; one was missing, and the other had been installed in a nonstandard way, with two holes drilled through the knob's base. Jim Stone figured out, with aid from the Corbin website and by disassembling the screwed-up knob, how to get the knobs off. The areas around the knobs, disfigured by long-ago bad painting, etc., have been cleaned up after filling holes and sanding, and have one coat of paint. New handles, similar to the ones on the Channing Hall doors to the Patio, have been ordered; the handles project off to the side and can be grabbed and used without risk of pinching one's hands, and should be sturdy enough to permit serious yanking even when wood has swelled and made door-closing a challenge. I've also removed some door hardware that will remain, to permit cleaning paint from it. Anyone know of a way to restore the dark "oil-rubbed" brass finish after the fixture had been wire-brushed and brightened in the unpainting process?

Labeling Outlets. When I went to plug in my sander in the Patio Room, the outlets were dead. I found the relevant circuit in Panel A (closet at the end of the 1st-Floor RE Hall) and labeled the outlets. I later learned that the circuit had not blown, but had been turned off because it was labeled "kiln"—a designation from long ago, when the RE room since replaced by the Accessible Restroom held various pottery-making devices. (I've now changed the label in the breaker-box.) One of our B&G cadre had decided that since the label was mysterious, he might as well turn off the breaker and see if anyone complained. Perhaps not the ideal way to communicate an anomaly. *We need to finish up the labeling of outlets and switches.*

Work Party, Saturday 16 Feb., 10-1 or thereabouts. As noted in the Newsletter and various announcements, we'll try to revive the monthly effort. B&G donuts and coffee, plus the list of things that need doing, will be in the Fall Room (back of the Kitchen).

Electrical. C. 12 Feb. An electrician summoned by Gene Pusateri did some work in the Kitchen and Channing Hall. In the Kitchen, two pendant lights were installed above the island. They seem to be at a suitable height, and were not in anyone's way during the Chili Cookoff on the 17th. The lights had different bulbs, one 23-watt CFL and one 75-watt incandescent; Gene told me on the 17th that the mixture was deliberate, to allow assessment of different bulb types. Since the bulbs are so near the surface to be illuminated, I think that 13-watt CFLs will do fine. Switch was mounted on the side of the dish cabinet next to the Kitchen doorway, near the switch for the Kitchen ceiling lights; minor paint touchup will be needed around the switch. Matt labeled the switches during the Work Party on the 16th.

In Channing, there are now two 3-bulb strips at the ends of the ceiling Ovoid, illuminating the areas at the ends of the room. The new lights are switched along with the Ovoid lights. When their 65-watt bulbs burn out, they can be converted to whatever more-efficient bulbs are in fashion.

I found the paperwork for the new fixtures in a paper-recycling bin (plus points for the electrician for attention to recycling policies), labeled and dated the documents in case something goes bad, and left them to be filed in the Office. A broken bulb-socket of unknown origin was left on a windowsill in the Illinois foyer.

Also installed in Channing are some small under-cabinet lights, controlled by a rotary switch on the cord plugged into the outlet where the big coffee pot is normally plugged during Coffee Hour. I am undecided as to whether we should install a four-way outlet there or not; with the lights and coffee pot plugged in there's no available outlet on that wall, but more opportunities to insert plugs would doubtless lead people to overload the circuit.

Work Party, 16 Feb. Present: Matt Alspaugh, Richard Palmer, Al Pierce, Tim Raridon, Jim Rogers, Jim Stone, Court Strudwick, Jim Zupanic.

The monthly Work Parties, suspended after the debacle last Fall when nobody showed up to work, resumed with a well-attended and productive effort. Court applied himself to the **RE/Patio Doors**, applying a neat first coat to one pair in the Patio Room. (We've been working on these doors for some time now, and the new handles are ready to install once the long-neglected paint has been done.)

Matt visited all the **hallway doors in the RE Wing**, tightening hinge screws and thereby reducing or eliminating much of the doors' reluctance to close properly. He also checked circuits and used his label-maker to further the **Great Electrical Labeling Campaign**, and screwed down pew-ends that have long been unsecured, since the pews had to be moved to make room for the ladder during paint repairs.

Richard cleaned all the **coffeemakers and air-pots**, using vinegar and removing impressive quantities of crud. One of the air-pots had been disabled—someone had devoted considerable time and ingenuity to screwing up the latch that holds the top closed—and Jim Stone figured out what was wrong.

Jim also sorted out the **mystery of the lights in the Fall Room and its exterior stairwell**. During the ordeal of bringing in the new Fall Room refrigerator, we had learned that the stairwell light worked only when the Fall Room lights were off. A wire was screwed onto the wrong connector on the 3-way switch. This must have been botched when the RE Wing was built, 40+ years ago; probably nobody in past years was foolish enough to be hauling in a refrigerator when darkness had set in, so nobody noticed the problem.

Al noted a protruding nail in the underside of an RE Hallway **handrail**. He and Court fixed that problem, which so far as I know had never managed to snag anyone.

Tim worked on the plaster in the **area in front of the B&G Closet/bottom of the stairs from the**

Elm Street Entry. This should soon be ready to paint, after which process we can attempt to install the new, un-rotted baseboards.

Jim Rogers and I reassembled the **northernmost downspout** on the RE East side, installing two sheet-metal screws in the joint that has been a pressure-fit affair. The gutters were dripping copiously, and are evidently clogged, but we did not get out the monster ladder and seek out the blockage because it seemed unwise to do more ladder work than necessary with snow on the ground.

Al, Tim, and I installed the second of the **bulletin boards** removed from Channing during its upgrade and repainting to cover pushpin-holes and vandalism. Short pieces of aluminum carpet-edge molding work ok, better than plain screw-heads, to hang the boards.

Issues to be addressed. Jeanne Tucker reported a **hymnal-rack** piece coming apart, north side of the Sanctuary near the back. Gene Pusateri has noted low water pressure in the hot-water side of the Men's Restroom washbowl. (I had never noticed that because I never use the hot water, having read that using hot water will worsen my skin's inclination to crack, and having resolved to save water-heating energy when possible.) Needs to be looked into.

Security Lights. February 20, 2013. When we installed the first of the new motion-detecting lights, I had purchased proper outdoor-flood bulbs. These proved incompatible with the fixtures, as the bulbs' shape flares out and there's not enough stem to screw into the narrow shrouds of the fixture to make electrical contact. Indoor-grade CFL bulbs worked, but look silly and would probably be affected eventually by rain, etc. I've obtained from YES four short bulb-extendors, and although they are a very tight fit in the fixture, they work. When weather is less forbidding, I'll put the right bulbs in the remaining three sockets. [I shopped for bulbs, didn't find what we needed at Evil Wal-Mart, so we didn't brave the slush at the 16 March Work Party and deal with this.]

Work Party, 16 March 2013. Present: Richard Palmer, Al Pierce, Lowell Satre, Court Strudwick, Jim Zupanic.

I arrived c. 9:30, unloaded supplies (including donuts), and made coffee. There was a light covering of slush on the sidewalk; I tried clearing it with a pushbroom, which clogged quickly, and set the broom-head in the 2d-floor sink to drain. I deployed the holey slush-mat outside the Illinois door. Jim arrived and scraped slush and salted sidewalks.

Al reported that Jim Stone was unable to come and work with him on installing a more reliable power source for the organ console, so he began making a **list of all the circuit-breaker boxes** in the building. This list will be posted at multiple spots around the building, so that when a switch or outlet goes dead, anyone will be able to look at the label on the switchplate or outlet plate and proceed directly to the appropriate breaker.

Court examined the **Channing wall near the elevator**, where the **magnetic door-holder gizmo** had pulled out of the plasterboard, and went home to make a plate that would provide a more solid mounting for the magnet. He returned with a sturdy aluminum plate, with the magnet firmly attached, and we mounted the plate using two butterfly bolts into plasterboard and two screws that hit a wooden stud. He also examined the 2d-floor elevator door, where a door-holding magnet has nowhere to be attached, and offered a simple alternative solution that will probably work; stay tuned for followup.

I scraped four pieces of tape from the stainless-steel hood over the big pass-through window between the kitchen and Channing.

Lowell and Richard checked **Exit signs**, and we replaced some bulbs. After the Work Party finished up, I was able to visit ABC Fire and buy their last three Type A bulbs, with which I replaced two more bulbs. We have just one on the shelf now.

Jim **vacuumed Schweitzer Lounge**, which had become fairly crummy.

Lowell and Richard repaired several loose bits on **pews**.

Jim found some bits of cement which had oozed up around **floor tiles** replaced in the 1st-floor RE hall, and cleaned them up with paint thinner.

Al checked the **faucet in the Men's Room sink**, determined that nothing was dripping or leaking, and increased water flow by removing and cleaning the wire-mesh filter on the faucet.

A useful Work Party, dealing with several small issues. Perhaps the April campaign will be able to deal with some of the outdoor items as well. Thanks to all.

Work Party, 21 April 2013. Present: Matt Alspaugh, Richard Palmer, Al Pierce, Jan Schnall, Court Strudwick, Jim Zupanic.

Weather was clear but cold, with a few snowflakes in the air. Jim looked over the depressions in the **lawn**, caused by heavy equipment during steeple removal; Ralph Malmer, who was on hand for Farmers' Market, agreed to rototill the dents soon. We should have plenty of composted material to use for leveling up. Other outdoor issues, such as the need to grind up branches accumulated on the East side of the building (and if possible in the parking lot across Illinois), and the continuing drip from certain parts of the roof gutters, await future efforts.

The most urgent issue on the agenda was **installation of handles on the RE/Patio doors**. Al took care of this, so when the weather warms up it should be easy for people to go in and out those doors. The handles resemble those on the Channing/Patio doors and look decent, as well as providing a much better grip than the old round handles. Painting all the doors, inside and out, will take some time.

Jim cemented down several of the **floor tiles in the RE Wing rooms facing the Patio**, using some of the tiles that had been loosely in place and some from the spare-tile collection. This effort addresses safety issues as well as the esthetic embarrassment of wandering tiles. Similar work with cork tiles in the Sanctuary awaits.

Court dealt with **doorstops in the main-floor elevator area**. The kickdown-type gizmo did not provide sufficient clearance to work on the elevator door itself, but was installed on the door between the elevator entryway and the Sanctuary. The **elevator door** can now be held open by means of a hook-and-cord arrangement that Court proposed a month or two ago. Matt has given me the doorstop for the elevator door for reinstallation; he had removed it in an effort to equip it with enough magnetic grabbing-power to hold the door open. I have unglued the magnets and it is ready to put back where it was; if it's not there, someone will push the door open past ninety degrees and break the door or its hinges, as was demonstrated a few years ago.

Court, Richard, and I installed one of the magnetic door-grabbers on the **hallway door near the Office**. Matt had noticed that the wooden wedge used to prop that door open tended to snag wheelchairs and trip pedestrians.

Someone had left on the **table in the Fall Room** an electric serving apparatus, on the order of a steam table. There was no clue as to whose this was, and it has been dated labeled and placed on the abandoned-property shelves.

Jan dusted the **Channing window ledges**, which the cleaners will not clean, and the windows on one side of the Sanctuary. Someone has **stolen the can(s) of Pledge and container of Milsek** polish from the Fall Room; I say stolen because if these items had been used up their containers would have appeared in trash or recycling containers. The 4-way **screwdriver has also been stolen** from the tool drawer in the Kitchen.

One of the two **bulletin boards** that were cleaned up after being displaced from various locations about the building and installed in the 1st-floor RE hall has been taken over for **Buildings & Grounds and Trash & Recycling** use. I have posted some T&R materials, including a rant about a particularly egregious recent trashing, and I'll post the B&G Chronicle there as well.

The left-side **urinal** in the Men's Restroom was reported to be running water and not shutting off; reporter said he couldn't get the cover-nut off to permit turning off the water as per instructions on wall. Nut was only finger-tight; I shut off water, took apart flush apparatus, and put it together. It worked ok, and there was not the rotten-rubber deposit that normally signifies that the unit needs replacement. [See below, p. 10.]

Matt and Andy Crabb, assisted by two Crabb daughters, were running telephone cable in the Office and 2d-floor hallway, doing arcane procedures that will **improve our phone service and save significant money**. (There was a recent loss of phone and Internet service for several days.)

The emergency phone in the elevator is back in operation too.
An admirable Work Party. Thanks to all.

Channing Bulletin Board. April 26, 2013. Jan Schnall brought in a medium-sized **cork board** which she wished to install in order to display announcements about the forthcoming Church Auction and other activities. Installation had been cleared with Karen O'Malia. With Jan's assistance, I attached the bulletin board this morning, and moved the photographs higher in the same inter-window space. The result looked ok to Jan and me.

Elevator Doorstop. I have reinstalled the floor-mounted stop that prevents the first-floor elevator door from being swung open past its limit and damaging its hinges. Matt had glued magnets onto the stop in order to hold the door open when carts, wheelchairs, etc., are being moved in and out of the elevator, but they proved to have inadequate grabbing power and have been removed. The door can now be held open by a cord looped over the door handle, as per Court Strudwick's inspiration. I'll compose an explanatory label for the use of the cord.

Little Yellow Flags. After dealing with the cork-board and heading home, I spotted a Gas Company truck in front of the church, and asked its driver for an explanation of the many small yellow pennants stuck into the grass (accompanied by spray-painted markings). He said that whatever the impending procedure may be, it's not a Gas project; the flags indicate where gas lines are buried, so that whoever is going to be digging can avoid them. Still not clear who is going to be doing what.

Ornithology. On Wednesday 24 April, after I sorted and set out the recycling (which Green Team was scheduled to pick up the following morning but didn't), I walked along the East side of the RE Wing to check on how much brush was piled there to be ground into mulch. I heard a very loud noise overhead, looked up, and saw nothing; they a large, fluffy light-tan hawk swooped down and alit in the tree nearest the synagogue. I surmise that we may have a hawk nest, and should be ready to duck.

Urinal. April 28, 2013. Al Pierce reported that left urinal was running. He turned it off with screwdriver; I was distracted before putting up out-of-order sign. Need to get new flush unit, plus gasket for handle, where water is leaking out.

Water Damage, Sound Room. Richard Palmer showed me water marks on the inside of the door to the audio control room. Gray and black streaking supports the obvious assumption that the water has come from the steeple area, where there's a lot of gritty dust from our Steel Town era. Since Richard very seldom closes the door when he's in the room, the damage may have been there for a very long time. Some scraping, priming, and painting will be required. Presumably the capping of the steeple base has protected us against further leaks; once the door is repainted, it will be easy to detect any future problem.

Rack for Sound Room. Richard noted that components should be rack-mounted for accessibility.

He will provide me with information as to what is required and what it will cost. This ought not to come out of the B&G budget, but it is relevant to the function of the building, and perhaps B&G can provide some lobbying support.

Security. As Richard and I headed to the stairway to the loft, in order to examine the water damage, we were surprised to encounter someone coming down those stairs—young black man carrying a bag. He claimed to have been looking for a restroom up there. We directed him to Channing Hall, where he seems to have struck Al Pierce as someone up to no good and to have been escorted outdoors. *We need an active Security Committee; we're ok when Al is here, but he's not here all the time. It is regrettable that we are unable to find anyone willing to run this committee until we have a serious incident. This is a recording.*

Fall Room Light Switch. 1 May. Jim Zupanic and I replaced the switch inside the Kitchen/Fall Room door, which had worn out (when turned on, the fluorescent lights would begin to illuminate, then go dark).

Little Yellow Flags, Cont'd. The Gas Company has been digging. As of 3 May, word from the job supervisor was that the digging under the Elm Street sidewalk would continue to a point near the fire hydrant; there would be no digging on either side of Illinois; that we probably didn't get warning about the disruption of the sidewalk because our gas service isn't affected by the work (ours comes in somewhere around the driveway on Illinois); and that the ripped-up or broken bits of sidewalks on Elm would be replaced. (May 18, 2013—hole is still there, plus possibly-related holes at the East end of the block on Illinois.)

Work Party, May 18, 2013. Present: Gina De Angelo, Jane Eichelberger, Cathy Kajut, Kadey Kimpel, Richard Palmer, Jim Rogers, Jim Zupanic.

I arrived c. 9 AM and made coffee. I had to dig out the table in the Fall Room; some items were moved to the Abandoned Property shelf, including a cardboard box containing a few plastic dishes of unfamiliar pattern, left on the floor under the table. One of the metal wheeled carts was left in the Kitchen and there was a light on in the Choir Loft.

Cathy had been working the previous day on **establishing order in the Kitchen and Fall Room** and resumed her efforts. A good deal of unlabeled food has been discarded, and expiration dates have been taken literally. Organizing and labeling shelves in the Fall Room (those not in B&G and Farmers' Market realms) is to follow. Cathy has agreed to persist in these efforts for some time.

Gina, Kadey, and Jane weeded and tended the **decorative vegetation**. Three shrubs (which Kadey promises won't grow huge) are to be planted in front of the wall around the stairs to the Fall Room, on the South side of the Church.

Jim Z held the ladder (note: one-piece wooden one is ok for measuring, not for repair work) and I

measured the **gutter** above the gas meter, where the combination of a sag and a seam results in a maddening persistent drip. There has to be a way to prop the gutter; when it ceases to pool water, the various sealing methods that have thus far failed will work.

Jim R, Richard, and I worked on the **hideous pile of branches and twigs**, covered by leaves, on the East side of the building. I had transported my chipper-shredder to Church the previous evening, storing it in the entry to the stairway (Northeast RE door). The machine jammed a couple of times but succeeded in grinding all the branches. Most of the resulting mulch was applied by the Horticulture Subcommittee, as above. I had not recalled the presence of the Evil Thorn Bush among our shrubbery, and neglected to bring my long welding gloves. My arms are healing well. Jim and Richard raked up the leaves and put them in the pond/mosquito breeder next door, and the whole area looks enormously better. We still need some hacking at saplings that have appeared among the ground ivy. I noticed none of the poison ivy that has been persistent in the area; perhaps previous poisonings of it have had some effect.

On the whole, a useful if exhausting Work Party. It was nice to escape the snow and rain that interfered with the last few Work Parties and to welcome an industrious new recruit.

Trash & Recycling, May 19, 2013. I returned to the Church c. 9:15 PM to pick up some stuff that I'd forgotten and noted that the Container Recycling bins in Kitchen and Channing were full. I bagged and labeled them so that tomorrow's Kitchen crew will have somewhere to put additional items. I was flabbergasted to find that the **Kitchen trash barrel** (which belongs under the counter to the right of the main sink) was gone, so that anything dumped into the rubber-ringed hole in the counter would go onto the floor under the counter. (There was a small dishpan for stuff to bounce out of, in place of the barrel.) After a prolonged search I found the barrel, concealed in the Illinois Closet. At least it was clean; last week it was in its proper location, but had been slimed with half an inch of what appeared to be chicken fat, applied to the bottom of the barrel beneath the trash bag, the better to ensure that the bag would damage my carefully-maintained car trunk.

The barrel in question is perhaps the ugliest in the world, having been smeared with what looks like floor adhesive during the Channing Remodeling. Under the sink it is inconspicuous and useful. When it is moved and messed with, the Trash & Recycling Committee is not amused.

Disappearance of Extension Cords, May 19, 2013. All of the good three-wire cords are gone, from the Illinois Closet and B&G Closet. They were all labeled as UUYO property. It is *not reasonable* that we should have to keep buying replacements because people steal them, or render them unavailable by disappearing them into secret locations. [One cord—faded-orange 50-ft., that I picked up at a garage sale some years ago—has been returned. May 30, 2013.]

Where Did That Come From? May 19, 2013. At the North end of one of the RE hallways is a wheeled metal item, a “book truck” or “library cart,” holding miscellaneous items. Does anyone know its origin or intended function? It seems to be functioning as a crud collector. (This is not

to be confused with the smaller blue one that stays in one of the Patio Rooms, near the Coffee Closet, and is associated with the recurrent but now dormant efforts to carry on a book sale during Coffee Hour.) [May 25, 2013–Jim Converse says that this cart belongs to Farmers’ Market. Its tilted shelves are convenient for some coffee-sales purposes.]

Kitchen/Channing. I have purchased 17 white ceramic mugs for visitors’ use, costing \$8.50 at Re-Store. We’ve also acquired free, from office cleanouts at YSU, two more coffeemakers. One is a Braun, requiring a smallish carafe but apparently usable without paper filters; the other is B&D, apparently with the significant advantage of allowing coffee to be poured out (without a mess) before the whole pot is finished brewing. These have yet to be checked out.

Phone Gadgets. May 25, 2013. I have installed an ugly but sturdy shelf-unit in the closet of the RE/Manjushri room at the Northwest end of the RE Wing 2d floor, to house the equipment installed by Andy Crabb and Matt to bring the Church’s phone, etc., into the current century. No materials cost. [Later the Internet connection was lost; AT&T guy found a broken wire.]

Exhaust Fan, 2d-Floor Restroom. May 28, 2013. I had noticed an ominous noise, and assisted Jim Stone in dealing with it. The noise itself was intermittent, and was quieted by tightening the cover-plate screws, but we investigated further, removing the high-grade fan, lubricating its motor, and removing enough fuzzy dust to clothe two or three hamsters. Should be good for another 40+ years.

Water Leak, Sound-Room/Choir-Loft Door. June 2, 2013. Richard Palmer reported the presence of water in the headpiece above the door between the Choir Loft and Sound Room. He had noted dampness there earlier, but we had resorted to wishful thinking to believe, sort of, that the dampness was left over from steeple removal or earlier. Tim Riordan had observed the current water intrusion, and Richard showed a cell-phone photo of the affected area to several B&G people at today’s picnic. Very brief showers just before the 11 AM service apparently sufficed to direct enough water into the area to cause the doorway to drip.

Richard suggests plausibly that the problem most likely originates at the flashing where the brick steeple base meets the roof. If this is the case, the issue almost certainly antedates the steeple removal; as Richard pointed out, when there was water anywhere above the Choir-Loft area, we blamed it on precipitation that entered via the steeple’s louvers or the rotten areas and bad flashing where different sections of the steeple met.

Solutions are not immediately obvious, and there seems to be no way to get at the likely site of the leak without summoning high-altitude repairers and their costly devices for lifting someone up to the affected region. Joe Kengor and I demonstrated several years ago that although the main roof over the Sanctuary area can be reached from the Illinois doorway porch roof, the big roof has too severe a tilt to be negotiated without unacceptable risk.

Suggestions, anyone? **[July 1, 2013: Some suggestions have been made as to roofers who might**

be consulted, and Brocks should be called; their work demolishing the steeple didn't involve the old flashing around the brick base, but they might have some ideas. Nobody has yet followed through by calling anyone.]

Sanctuary and Sanctuary-Attic Ventilation. June 2, 2013. Andy Crabb noted this morning before the service that the **Sanctuary was unventilated and uncomfortably stuffy.** The only way to get any cross-ventilation at all was to open the Elm Street and Illinois doors, plus the interior doors at both ends of the Sanctuary. It rained (briefly) in the Illinois door, which was closed. Without the rain, ventilation would be poor, and we would need an extra Security person to watch the Illinois door as well as the Elm Street door; and the service would suffer from noise intruding from both the streets and the RE activities.

We could improve airflow by opening some Sanctuary windows—probably starting with two in diagonally-opposed corners. This would require some serious effort, since I assume that the windows have been painted shut for decades, and whatever window(s) that we opened on the South (Illinois Ave) side would be subject to intrusion when left unlocked. (As the Security Committee would surely agree, if we had such a committee, anything that can be left unsecured will be so left, according to Murphy's Law and many, many observations of how the presently functional points of entry are treated.) Sanctuary windows on the North (Synagogue) side are high enough from the ground to be inconvenient invasion sites. We could gain some ventilation by opening the smallish window in the Choir Loft, a project that would require some ladder work. The effect would be limited by the lack of corresponding windows on the Pulpit end of the room for cross-ventilation.

Andy's observations raised the question of **whether the loss of the steeple had reduced ventilation.** I do not recall that anyone brought this up during all the discussions about the steeple and its removal. When the steeple was in place, there was little direct connection between its large louvered spaces and the Sanctuary. There's one small door at the top of the ladder attached to the Choir-Loft wall, but that is kept closed; some connection between the attic above the Sanctuary and the occupied parts of the building does exist, as is demonstrated by the occasional appearance of bats in various human habitats, but that access must be exceedingly convoluted, as demonstrated by the fact that bat appearances are so very rare that when one has occurred, most of the congregation have been unaware that any such incident had ever happened before.

Where we do now have a problem is in the ventilation of the Sanctuary attic. Some years ago we had a temperature-controlled fan installed in the roof somewhere above the pulpit area, the better to reduce the accumulation of heat and moisture above the Sanctuary ceiling. This was a highly successful project, which appears to have enabled paint to stay put on the ceiling. (Ceiling painters with elaborate scaffolding, etc., are not as costly as steeple repairers, but took substantial and maddeningly frequent bites out of our budgets.) **The rubber cap that covers the steeple-stump excludes air as well as water,** thus defeating the attic ventilation. Suggestions,

anyone? (July 1, 2013: Matt has said that he believes that the porch-roof attic has enough gaps and holes to provide sufficient air that the attic vent fan can use. So far as I know, whoever installed the vent fan didn't provide the paperwork that ought to have accompanied it; such items usually indicate how much intake area is required. It would require considerable effort and agility to get to the vent fan and look for manufacturer, part number, etc., so as to permit inquiries to obtain the information as to intake area. I continue to suspect a strong likelihood that we now have insufficient air intake that may create enough vacuum inside the Sanctuary attic to strain the vent-fan motor and induce burnout. Unfortunately there is no prospect that we'll soon have more agile, willing workers or fewer urgent demands to deal with projects deemed more urgent.)

Channing Storm/Screen Windows. On Tuesday 11 June I had a phone call from Downies, who conducted the work on the Channing overhaul in Summer 2010. Brian Downie reported that the windows were ready. This was stunning news, because the contracted constructor of the windows had folded and vanished, leaving undone the only energy-efficient aspect of the renovation that had survived our planning and oversight sessions. This had led to persistent grumbling on the part of persons in the practicality faction as opposed to the esthetics faction, but had generally been given up as a lost cause. We didn't even have the name of the non-windowmaker. Downies had kept up on the situation, found the relocated, renamed window enterprise, and obtained the windows, which were being loaded onto a truck as Brian Downie spoke.

The Downie crew arrived at the church at 7 AM on Wednesday 12 June and finished installation by early afternoon. The windows are so inconspicuous that most members, even those who have been in Channing, probably remain unaware of the installation. We have found that opening the storms so as to use the screens for ventilation requires two persons to stand on the pew beneath the window in question (because the windows are big, and the latching triggers on the storm window are so far apart that one lifter has his or her hands so far apart, retracting the latches, that he or she can't apply enough strength to raise the large, heavy glass storm window). One of the wooden windows sticks, so that it is at present impossible to raise it fully, or to raise the top wooden panel high enough to secure the window latch. (When the Channing Project finished up, the screenless, stormless windows were all working, but time and paint have had some effects.) The B&G Work Party agenda for 15 June included freeing up that window, but we were unable to get to it. The first actual attempt to use the new screens, on Sunday 30 June, led to some frustration about this window. It's actually pretty secure, because of the friction, and such energies as we can deploy have continued to be focused on the Patio/RE doors.

Labeling of Outlets, etc. On 12 May I was working on the Patio/RE doors (removed ineffectual, ugly aluminum insulating strips, puttied some holes, etc.) and found that the upper outlets in the Schweitzer sockets weren't working. Jim Stone suggested that those circuits were probably switched, as proved to be the case. I have applied labels to the switch panel and outlets so that this deluxe arrangement should cause less frustration and confusion in the future.

Work Party, 15 June 2013. Present: Matt Alspaugh, Kadey Kimpel, Jim Stone, Richard Palmer, Jim Zupanic. I arrived early and trimmed the fierce holly bush beside the Illinois doors so as to

permit access to the **downspout**, which had fallen apart. Jim Z helped and we shoved the spout together; the gizmo at the bottom that holds up the lower section still needs to be modified, but as I write this account two weeks later, friction is still holding the spout together.

Kadie **trimmed and weeded**, and hauled the holly clippings to the pile of stuff awaiting shredding. Jim Z and I ground up the holly and some accumulated branches, using my chipper-shredder, which I had brought to church the previous evening. Matt dealt with phone and Internet issues. Jim S spent most of his time working on the **lock on the North Schweitzer door**. This was a useful Work Party, as usual mostly concerned with small immediate tasks.

At some point in late June, Tim Riordan primed and painted the lower **walls outside the RE Closet** (at the bottom of the stairs from Sanctuary to Channing). He had previously repaired the plaster. Some may recall how foul that area was for many years, with plaster so rotten and paint so blistered that I hung a piece of fabric—the Holy Shroud of Youngstown—to conceal the worst of it. Drying out the closet and replacing its moldy, dangerously rotten wood floor with concrete has created the possibility of making the area presentable. Tim used the most likely paint on hand, and it matches the upper portion of the wall fairly well; we'll probably need to paint the rest of the walls eventually, though. The baseboards have been trimmed and ready to install for many months; the one on the South wall of the stair-landing can be done after a couple of other wood bits are painted and installed. This will require some improvisation to fill the void behind the baseboard with something to which the board can be attached. The other baseboard will have to wait till the floor outside the closet has been leveled and tiled.

Patio Doors. These have been neglected for a very long time. The push to convert the Patio Room from a storage dump and Arts & Lectures backstage area to a proper RE classroom has led to a major and time-consuming campaign, which will be discussed topically, because I've been too busy to write down the day-to-day efforts which have gone on almost every day for at least three weeks at this writing (July 1, 2013).

All the doors need **painting**. Discussions involving Matt, Karen O'Malia (Board Chair), BeckyAnn Harker (RE Chair), and others about the classroom have agreed that professional painters should be employed to relieve pressure on B&G (though Court Strudwick, Richard Palmer, and Ralph Malmer have all done expert-level work already, there is a *lot* of exacting work to do on the doors. Unfortunately the doors were **in no condition to be painted**: not only do we have a great deal of flaking paint (mostly on the outdoor side of doors and frames, probably in part caused by slapping latex paint over unsanded, dirty oil), there is paint and corrosion on handles and hinges that won't go away because someone paints neatly around the crapped-up hardware. In addition, we had a four-panel section of the northmost pair of doors without mullions/muntins, where unsightly sections of tough Lexan were screwed on to keep out the bad guys who had smashed through the door in the days before we had a fenced patio and an alarm system. In another door, we had three imperfect panels—one with cracked glass, two with sturdy but fading Lexan. And that's just the appearance items; several doors could be opened only with difficulty, and there were the Schweitzer doors, one pair permanently locked (no key in existence), the other pair opened with a unique key.

So far here's what we've done, proceeding from North (Synagogue) to South (Channing). The **worst-damaged door** has gone to Ace Lumber, where beautiful new muntin strips/mullions were built. While it was away (taken in on a Wednesday, picked up Saturday morning) a door-substitute was provided by a discarded, legless table, which has been leaned against the handrail in the 1st-floor RE Hall for some time. The door frame has been sanded, removing the beads built up by repeated paintings. Hinges have been removed to permit cleaning up the inaccessible areas around and behind them; this pair of doors is done, with two coats of exterior-grade paint. (Incidentally, all exterior doors that we've worked on in the past few years are done with the same Sherwin-Williams satin exterior paint; we have far too many varieties of paint and far too little storage space, so this is one area where we can standardize and simplify.) Metal parts have been removed and cleaned. (See B&G Bulletin Board for a small exhibit on the undesirability of slopping paint on metal parts.) We have removed and cleaned up the slider-type stabilizers at the tops of the doors—they aren't springy door-closers, but prevent slamming. Doors open and close much more easily when these stabilizers, plus the hinges, are cleaned and lubricated.

All of the Patio doors, like the Elm and Illinois doors, are paired, with one door held in place by **top and bottom jamb locks**, and the other door locking into its partner, which is stabilized by the jamb locks. Several of the jamb locks were difficult to operate because of corrosion or misalignment. They are remarkably sturdy devices, and have survived despite being hammered when they stick and whacked against the jambs when morons try to slam them shut while the bolts protrude. We have previously worked on some of the upper jamb locks, which can be removed while the doors remain on their hinges; thus far we have removed two of the locks from the bottoms of the doors, ground away corrosion that made it impossible for the bolts to move, and cleaned, lacquered, lubricated, and reinstalled the locks. The southern Schweitzer door proved unusual in that it had been installed incorrectly when the RE Wing was built (original error, if not original sin); the bolt didn't rest in the bottom plate to keep it aligned, and couldn't project to lock the bottom of the door. All it could do was to hit against the plate and force it out of position. Fixed by chiseling. The hole in the aluminum threshold was also slightly off, and has been modified.

Most of the door hardware is superb solid-brass stuff. **Cleaning the good brass hinges and handles** is a slow process, using a wire wheel and producing nasty dust. Some of this has been done in the Fall Room, where I'm told there have been complaints about the presence of the bench-grinder and the dust; most of it has been done in my basement, and most of the grit is in my basement. [Later: New wire wheel makes the grinder in the Fall Room more effective than the one in my basement, speeding up the cleaning a bit.] Some of the brass dust is in my respiratory system, despite the mask that I use. The cheap pseudo-brass passage locks clean up surprisingly well. The interior handles, installed last Winter to accommodate the anti-draft strips, are still in good shape, but the screws that secure them to the wood are pathetic, and are being upgraded as the handles are replaced.

On one of the doors in the Patio Room, the passage lock was broken, and a plastic original piece has been replaced with a new brass part from Jensen's. Presumably we'll need to modify the others eventually, but the parts are \$12 apiece, and can be done as needed. [Subsequent discovery—the brass-sleeved replacement exists at Lowe's for under \$4.] I checked for some different latch gear, but found none—ideally there would be no exterior knob or handle. (Note that the exterior parts of the newish 3-year-old passage latches on the Channing/Patio doors are not weathering well. They were installed during the 2010 Channing overhaul, I believe, and may have been selected by the architect without consideration of the need for outdoor-grade quality. They can be removed and spray-painted every few years.)

In **Schweitzer**, Jim Stone found high-quality deadbolts that could be keyed to match all the other doors. We first replaced the lock on the northern pair of doors, the lock that had its very own key and could not be reworked to match the other doors. Old and new locks share the same backset, but are not the same shape inside the door, so considerable woodworking was required. Some cosmetic work remains to be done, but the lock works. On the southern pair of doors, the bolt was amputated to allow removal of the old lock. Installing the new one was less grueling than on the northern doors, thanks to learning curve.

As the door project moves toward completion, whoever interacts with the painters should bear in mind that insofar as possible, **all door hardware should be removed before painting, and replaced after painting.** Even skilled painters will get some paint on stuff around which they must edge. As we work on cleaning up the hardware (14 big brass exterior handles, 12 of the closing sliders, 30 hinges, many hours of grinding), we are painting the areas around these pieces while they're removed. Pros won't need to edge around hinges, handles, and locks, and this should allow them to focus their attention on the mullions and mullions and mullions.

Missing Stuff. July 1, 2013—Some things have disappeared: we had half a dozen **pieces of 2x4**, painted gray, stored on the B&G shelves for propping things, etc. Someone at a Farmers' Market or some other festivity asked me for something of the sort, borrowed them, and that was the last of them. A **yellow extension cord**, left at the church in late May and labeled in the abandoned-property section of the hallway/coatrack area, was borrowed for FM coffeemaking on 22 June and not returned; found 29 June in the green plastic FM Coffee box. It's not even *ours*! Church policy is to keep stuff for two months, then dispose of it or—as in this case, when it's something that we can use—add it to the Church inventory. A plastic **lid** for a big jar, saved on the B&G shelves in the Fall Room for paint storage, has been disappeared. That's not even something that anyone could use, apart from its jar—presumably Botherfingers Syndrome. We can sequester some things under lock and key in the B&G Closet, Office, Sound Room, etc. but wouldn't it be nice if the stuff that somebody uses but isn't locked up could be left alone? [I have since found the faded orange cord, which belongs in the Illinois Closet or the B&G Closet—I'm typing this at home, so I can't refer to the clearly-printed label on the cord—in the 1st-Floor RE closet, where the TV and big wet-dry vac are kept.]

Messing with Stuff. On 23 June, Diane Shaheen called me c. 7 PM to report that the spigot in

the Patio was spewing water. I directed her to the Illinois Closet, where she found the spigot handle (right where it belongs) and shut it off. So somebody, presumably earlier on that Sunday, was moved to turn on the water and leave it turned on, spewing.

Breaking Stuff–Schweitzer Bust Busted. July 9, 2013. Last week Richard Palmer and I were working on the Schweitzer doors when Richard noticed that the **bust of Albert** had been detached from its base, which had disappeared. Presumably somebody messed with it, dropped and broke it, and trashed the base. It's the concealment of damage that I find particularly offensive. The bust can be remounted, but given the complications of dealing with the Schweitzer and Patio Room doors, that won't happen soon.

Trashing Stuff–Trash. July 9, 2013. Yesterday, after spending some frustrating hours dealing with Schweitzer doors, I found a particularly **disgusting mess in the Patio trash can**. It contained 30+ recyclable items, mostly smeared with various food goo. Within 8 feet of the trash can were two clearly-marked containers for plastic and metal recyclables. I have been reprovved by Diane Shaheen for expressing my rage loudly and in the presence of three or four Antifrackists, who were gathering for a meeting. I regret losing control. On reflection I recognize that the mess is probably not the consequence of a deliberate assault on Church policy, common sense, and common decency, but it is nevertheless offensive. The worst of the goo was purple, and probably spread from half a dozen plastic clamshell containers. If someone at Farmers' Market was selling something gooey and purple, in such containers we might identify the immediate source of the problem. It has been suggested that we provide **yet another container**, for items that are recyclable but not clean—for those able to recognize plastic and metal, but not willing to put their gross containers in the sink. I shall try that.

This section is not a B&G item, but I include it here because (1) there is no Trash & Recycling Committee, and all T&R issues fall on the B&G Chair because nobody can be found to assist with T&R; and (2) therefore, one of the reasons that B&G tasks are maddeningly slow to accomplish is that I keep getting entangled in T&R issues.

Fall Room. July 9, 2013. There have been declarations that the Patio Room will gain space from moving the plywood **coffee cabinet** to the Fall Room. I think that its current location has some advantages—fits neatly into its space, is handy to the Coffee Closet—and that relocation to the Fall Room raises some issues. I spoke about this recently with Liz Hill, who agreed that there is no obvious open wall space in the Fall Room (and said that none of the advocates of moving the cabinet had troubled to measure it). It needs to be more widely recognized that we no longer have any open space for storage, anywhere in the Church. (Save for items that can be fitted laboriously through the hatch leading to the Sanctuary attic.) It's a Rubik's Cube: Anything that you move has to displace something else, which has to go somewhere.

We have gone to considerable trouble to build shelves and to make more efficient use of the Fall Room, building shelves, organizing and labeling stuff, etc. Farmers' Market items (including the FM freezer), which have sometimes taken up a lot of space, are now down to less than a quarter of

total floor space in the room. B&G has claimed some shelves for items that may be of use, but are less apt to be stolen than the tools that we lock up in our closet. Our stuff can be tightened up, once the Patio Door project is done, but we need to hang onto what we've got.

Liz suggested that some of the mountain of ceiling tiles could be taken to Re-Store. If somebody wants to take a specimen tile there (Thursday and Friday only) and determine whether they'd take the tiles, that would be useful. Again, this is one of the things that I'd do if not entirely occupied by the doors. [July 16, 2013—I have checked with ReStore, and they will take ceiling tiles, and the file cabinet as well. They have on hand 8 to 10 similar file cabinets, priced at \$45. When we're less busy with the Patio Room, we can get ReStore to pick up most of the tiles and the cabinet; then the remaining tiles can be stacked in the corner now occupied by the emptied cabinet.]

Handicap Door Latch. July 16, 2013—Sunday afternoon I determined that the failure of the unlock setting was, as in a couple of previous instances, caused by the slipping of the front cover of the crash-bar toward the left, so that the hold-open gizmo did not make contact with the latch. I had previously pinched (with vise-grip) the channel holding the cover, but that was not enough to hold it in place. Now there's a small sheet-metal screw holding the cover in place.

Coompost Container, Kitchen. July 16, 2013—When I emptied the container Sunday afternoon, one of the handle attachments vanished. A somewhat unsightly arrangement of bolts and washers, using what was on hand, is now holding the handle on. When we're done with Patio doors, a less conspicuous fix can be devised. I've brought more washers to the B&G Closet supply.

Flashing Leak around the Steeple Stump. Dave from Groover surveyed the problem on Friday 12 July, and an estimate arrived on Monday 15 July. Matt and I discussed it, and President Karen O'Malia agreed to accept the bid. No idea yet as to when the work will be done.

Heating/Cooling, etc. Bob Dieter and colleague came on the afternoon of Friday 19 July to look into our recently-donated heat pump, which was not working when asked to cool the downstairs RE rooms. I'm not aware as to what progress was made on that front, but Bob noted that the 1995 water heater in the Boiler Room was dying. Dieters replaced the unit with a new Rheem heater that afternoon.

Sump Pumps. While the water heater work was under way, a hose blew off the secondary sump, which was perhaps actuated by the sudden dumping of water from the moribund heater. The secondary was reconnected without much trouble, but it seemed that the top-of-the-line primary pump, bought 27 December 2012, had quit. I took it home to examine and cleaned it up, anticipating getting it replaced (it would have been the first of our many sump pumps to die while under warranty), and determined that it was working. Hoses blew off when I reinstalled it, and I gave up c. 9 PM. I purchased more hose clamps before the Work Party on the 20th.

Work Party, 20 July 2013. July 21, 2013. Present: Matt Alspaugh, Jim Stone, Diana Shaheen,

Marguerite De Felice. (Richard Palmer had a medical excuse.)

Jim installed a **doorknob and lock** on the door between the 1st-floor RE hall and the RE-Channing hall.

Matt and Jim discussed the still-dead **circuit(s) controlling the organ keyboard and Sanctuary wall outlets**; when an electrician comes to assess the Patio Room ceiling lights, he will be invited to sort out the above problems.

Matt carried the **ceiling lights** displaced from Channing during its remodeling to the 1st-floor RE hall for installation in the Patio Room.

I removed most of the **cove base in the Patio Room** and removed most of the floor heating registers.

Matt, Jim, and I got the **room divider** down in the Patio Room. I returned in the evening and took some parts off the divider.

Jim and I reinstalled the primary **sump pump**, trimming the PVC pipe for an improved fit.

Patio Room Divider, etc., cont'd. July 21, 2013. After church Adam Lee and Shavon Johnson helped cut up the vinyl (and fiberglass) parts of the divider and haul them out to my car. I deposited those parts and the cove-base in the Fireline dumpster. Metal expandable supports remain (three of them, c. one foot by ten [expanded]) and will be recycled unless someone thinks of a use for them, soon. Stuff that was on top of the cabinets and shelves in the room—presumably stashed more or less out of the way, the better to fall on people when the furniture has to be moved, in a process that many consider equivalent to “putting things away”—has been temporarily moved into the increasingly crowded hall. Becky Ann Harker, our RE Director, told me that decisions on wall paint and floor covering were in process.

Patio Room Door Panes. July 21, 2013. Jim Stone and Matt have cut panes from on-hand stashes of assorted glass, and we are almost ready to install the newly-cut glass to replace the one panel with cracked glass and the five with old, clouded plastic. Moldings have been patched and/or replaced and painted. [July 26, 2013—Finished installing panes yesterday. I've painted moldings in all but one, which I hope to get soon; finish coat when the painters do their thing should seal in the repairs.]

Patio Room Doors. July 26, 2013. All the doors now work. The vertical bolts that hold the stationary (South) door of each pair in place work, but some of the bottom bolt-latches still need cleaning up and lubrication; to finish up these latches, **I need one person to help move the doors**, which are heavy and must be removed to allow access to the bottoms. One of the doors also needs the attention of the belt-sander on the bottom.

Apart from those cases in which doors need removal, what remains is a **long and tedious process of removing, wire-brushing, spraying, and replacing brass hinges** and a few handles. It seems massively stupid to paint without getting at the cruddy areas around the hinges, and if the hinges are removed to clean out the cobwebs and other crud, it seems stupid to put the hinges back without removing the decades of ugly corrosion. This is taking a long time because it takes a while to grind the corrosion off a hinge; I can't do more than two hinges in a session (under an hour) because even using the dust-mask, the brass-grit is unpleasant to deal with, and it takes time to sweep and wipe up the pervasive grit. If someone would assist by periodically running the Shopvac and wiping down surfaces in the Fall Room, it would speed the process somewhat. Ralph Malmer has demonstrated that I'm not the only one who can grind the grunge from hinges. Ralph is more mechanically adept than most, but anyone equipped with patience and an inclination to do something useful could help deal with the hinges. Our excellent grinder is a link to our Machine Age heritage, and a pretty simple device to use.

Patio Room Lights, Walls, Floor. July 26, 2013. Aey was scheduled to arrive today to install the in-ceiling lights that were salvaged from Channing. I cleared out as much stuff as I could to leave them reasonable access to the ceiling, so the hallway is ridiculously cluttered. [Lights installed without fuss, look fine.]

As disruptive, messy projects go, we are proceeding in a reasonable order, top to bottom; nobody has told me when painting will take place, but I hope that it will be before the floor. Some of the wall was built as part of the Accessibility Project (creating the Handicap Restroom, etc.); that new wall is plasterboard instead of concrete block, and some of it tore when we removed the cove base. We'll have to discuss with the painters how to smooth it out. [Tattered paper from wallboard was smoothed down sufficiently with primer.] No info yet as to choices for wall color; I've spackled all the holes created by removing the divider, plus a few random ones. I've employed a stiff wire brush on an angle grinder to knock off the ridges of paint that built up along the divider edges and the vinyl cove base.

Also no info as to floor. The **heating vents** have been cleaned as well as possible and painted, and are ready to reinstall. Two of the five vents were shut; opening them may help a bit with the difficulty in keeping the room warm in Winter. I've stashed the vents in the Fall Room for reinstallation after the floor is done, so that just in case the floor people (like their predecessors, decades ago) are indifferent to leaving the vents accessible and operable, we'll have the last word.

Patio Room Doors, Walls, etc., cont'd. August 12, 2013. I did a great deal of sanding, especially on **doors**. The cheap Harbor Freight "multipurpose tool" is very useful for getting at inaccessible spots, though the velcro-like material used to attach the sandpaper tends to wear out quickly. The painter—a Bradley, the same person who did most of the kitchen work two years ago—is speedy, precise, and reasonable to work with. He finished up this morning, having worked on Thursday and Friday. The doors look good, considering their age and the abuse that they have taken (the hassle of removing almost all the hardware, because even good painters get some paint

on handles, etc., was worthwhile. A lot of stuff still needs to be put back on. I shined up the last of the hinges today; still need to do at least three of the big exterior solid-brass handles and all of the closer gizmos that go on the tops of the doors to keep them from being caught by gusts. These closers won't shine up evenly when I wire-brush them, so I'll clean off pant encrustations and respray them before reinstallation. Some of the top and bottom latches that hold the southern door of each pair still need fine-tuning and/or cleanup. Thanks to **Gary Graham**, who assisted on three successive mornings with removing, sanding, reinstalling, and fine-tuning a particularly difficult door. All this applies to the **Schweitzer Lounge doors** as well as those on the Patio Room.

The **steel door frames on the Patio Room-to-hallway doors** have been painted with a close match for the old paint on the other 1st- floor RE doorframes. A lot of chipping and damage from tape has been obscured, and the holes where small hasps were installed many years ago to keep the Montessori classrooms safe have been filled with Bondo and painted over.

Walls (concrete-block except for the end where the Handicap Restroom was added) have been painted a minty green. The vertical supports for the high-grade divider were removed (some components trashed, some recycled) and paint ridges along the sides of the dividers were wire-brushed away and primed. A lot of holes were filled and primed. The **bulletin board** has been taken down to be cleaned up (whoever last painted the walls was too lazy to take down the board, so there's paint to be removed from the aluminum frame) and reinstalled. **Floor** remains to be done; new material will be laid over the old battered tile, and it is hoped that at the 17 August Work Party some B&G people and/or RE people will turn up to strip wax from the old flooring. This will be a large undertaking, since all the Patio Room stuff still in the room, *plus* all that was removed and piled in the hallway, will need to be moved Somewhere Else while the stripping and subsequent floor-laying takes place.

Security. August 12, 2013. Last Friday Jim Stone raised the **light over the Illinois door** from the dead. When it failed, I had replaced the bulb without restoring function. Jim determined that there was no power to the bulb-socket, so the new bulb was not at fault (and perhaps the old bulb was ok as well). We took the ballast from the Lowes-bought Utilitech light, which we had installed in March of 2011, to Youngstown Electric Supply. They had no equivalent item, but suggested that we—i. e., Jim—rearrange the wiring in the unit to eliminate the ballast, use a reducer to convert from mogul-base (double-wide) to a regular-base bulb, and use a bulb that like most compact fluorescents has its own built-in ballast. This worked when tried in the kitchen, and when I got to the church c. 6:30 this morning to take off Schweitzer door hardware for the painter, I was able to confirm that the dusk-to-dawn photocell control works *in situ*. Only downside is that we have a new \$20 bulb that we can't use, and can't return because I had labeled it with the date of installation. Probably it will go to ReStore.

Patio Room and Schweitzer, cont'd. 13 Aug. 2013. Spent c. 4 hours at church, 2-6 PM. Reinstalled right-hand stationary interior door handles (PR and Schweitzer), so that the right-hand doors can be pulled shut while being locked. Reinstalled 3 drawer/door handles and towel bar in

Kitchen, following paint touchup and painting of the formerly white end cabinets on the Island. Installed next-to-last cleaned-up hinge; removed last cruddy hinge; wire-brushed it and lacquered one side. Labeled remaining to-dos, Schweitzer South doors. Cleared part of table in PR to provide place to work on bulletin board, which needs removal of tape residue and slopped paint. [14-16 Aug.—Cleaned more door hardware, etc.; wrote up agenda for Work Party.]

Work Party, 17 Aug. 2013. Present: Marguerite De Felice, Clayton Henderson, Roger La Fontaine, Richard Palmer, Lowell Satre, Jim Zupanic. [This list of participants looks substantial, but see below.]

I arrived c. 8:30, opened doors for Farmers' Market, made coffee, and cleaned some door hardware with the bench-grinder. Lowell appeared and he and I moved stuff out of the way in the Fall Room to make room for the **coffee cabinet** to be hauled out of the Patio Room. The high shelf above the Farmers' Market freezer was moved a couple of inches to the right to accommodate the cabinet. We moved the cabinet, using the small wooden dolly; there was room for the coffee cart to park between the cabinet and the freezer. The coffee and chocolate were moved into the relocated cabinet; Ellen Satre, diverted from Farmers' Market coffee duty, helped to organize the contents. (The displaced empty 4-drawer filing cabinet is out in the middle of the Fall Room and needs to be taken away to ReStore.) Among the items moved to make room for all this were four record-boxes of old Pledge Drive and financial records, which Lowell and I put on empty shelves in the second-floor Supply Closet. A note has gone to the Office reporting that these boxes were moved, and where they went.) All this was part of the evacuation of the Patio Room, but because only Lowell and I were on hand, we did not get any of the other stuff moved.

The most urgent task for this Work Party was to **empty the Patio Room and first-floor RE hall**, so that we could **strip wax** in preparation for the installation of new floor tile. I learned the name of the tile person (Greg Snovak) only on Thursday, and called him Friday to discuss de-waxing; so *on Friday* I learned that tile installation had been scheduled, somewhat optimistically, for *Monday*. Thou shalt not disrespect Murphy's Law! In retrospect, I recognize that I ought to have spent Friday night moving stuff myself, but I expected that the extraordinary appeals for help would bring in some people on the Work Party day.

Jim arrived and he and I began moving stuff to the Youth Room across the hall from the Patio Room. Clayton, and then Marguerite, helped with moving items. Clayton, Jim, and I hauled ceiling lights and parts to the Sanctuary Attic, and when we came down from the Steeple Stump Marguerite and I began working on the Patio Room floor, beginning with the Coffee Closet. It was 11 AM or so when we began; we had been further delayed by our inability to find the floor-polishing machine, which was behind the door in the first-floor hall closet. The quart of Armstrong floor-stripper on hand was quickly used up; Louisa Berger went off in search of more. A spray-can of remover intended for use with an unknown machine proved somewhat effective, a paste of Comet cleanser (using one of the far-too-many cans of Comet purchased by someone many years ago) less so. Al offered opinions on what we ought to be using (Spic 'n' Span, as in USN practice in the 1960s) and departed.

The tempo of operations picked up when Louisa brought more stripper, an Ace product obtained at Handyman. (What she got is used in diluted form, unlike the Armstrong stuff, and we may finish up with just one gallon and be able to return the rest.) Richard, who was unable to do his usual double portion of work after his recent hospital stay, carried in the jugs. Once the actual stripping work began, there was room for only three people, so Jim went out to attack weeds, assisted by Clayton. Marguerite and Roger were nearly done with the Patio Room when I left c. 2:15. The hall will have to be done during or after church on Sunday. The failure to finish the floor work, not to mention the larger undone agenda, resulted from the shortage of workers early on. Had there been some additional people to assist in the moving of stuff, we would have begun the actual floor work in time to get the actual floor-stripping under way, find out that we needed more wax-removing potion, and get the job done. Becky Harker had sent out an eloquent appeal to Religious Education people, Diane Thomas had sent out a congregation-wide request for assistance, and we were unable to get the necessary bunch of lifters and haulers early on.

Cont'd., September 8, 2013. The floor-dewaxing work was completed, as noted; unused stripping liquid has been returned to Handyman; and the grueling work has proved to be useless. At least the stripping was declared by the Snovak people to be properly done; but when they arrived on Monday, they determined that the adhesion of the old floor tile was much less secure than they had thought, and spent two days removing the tile and applying fast-drying leveling goop to the concrete. They did very meticulous work aligning and trimming the new flooring in the room and hall, and returned to re-glue some cove base that came loose around the doors.

I have since trimmed a bit around the heating-register openings and reinstalled the registers. The one at the North end of the room was mangled when the Accessible Restroom and Patio Room closet were built some years ago (wall built over the register) and one of the remaining bits of register, inside the closet, was left with a particularly disgraceful jagged edge, which injured my thumb during its cleaning and repainting. Sloppy work can be a long-term curse.

There are some tools, and door hardware for Schweitzer Lounge, remaining on shelves in the Patio Room. I hope to get that stuff out of there when the door-handles are reinstalled. The only remaining items that need wire-brushing and spraying are the **stabilizing gizmos from the tops of the Patio Room and Schweitzer doors**. Once they're done, we can clean up the brass dust and grit from the Fall Room and liberate the table in that room. [Last gizmos cleaned and sprayed Wed. September 11, 2013, and await reinstallation. I've put away the bench-grinder and cleaned off the table, but a whole lot of crud needs to be swept and wiped away before the Fall Room is fully ready for general use. The floor--beneath its coating of grit, wire-brush bristles, etc.--probably hasn't been mopped in decades.]

The **Patio Room Closet** (formerly Coffee Closet) now contains the sturdy gray **dolly** which belongs to Richard Palmer. I hope to build some shelves in the closet to make it more useful for diverse storage. Becky reports that RE doesn't desperately need the storage space, but I expect that the Patio Room RE people will use some of the shelving. The closet should remain

unlocked, since its keys are inconvenient to get at.

The **1st Floor hall closet** had to be emptied for floor work, and some assorted crud has been thrown out or relocated. I can see no purpose for the Hoover canister vacuum that was in the closet, and intend to take it to Fish or ReStore. [Moved instead to Sound Room.] Some items (mostly electrical) from the B&G shelves in the Fall Room have been moved to the high shelf in the hall closet. The rusted steel shelf-unit in the closet has been cleaned up, given a slapdash paint job, and reinstalled, now on rug-lined wood strips that won't scratch the floor. There is now some available space in the shelf-unit.

The **blue library cart** that was in the Patio Room was used as a tool cart during repairs, and has been emptied and wiped down. I am awaiting word from RE as to whether it has a role in the Patio Room RE activities. Investigation has revealed that it belongs to Richard Palmer (purchased from YSU long ago), and was used when there was an effort to sell books at Coffee Hour. If it has no mission at the church, Richard will take it home. [September 11, 2013—Matt has temporarily moved the cart into the Channing closet that serves as entryway to the elevator's engine room.]

Dehumidifier, Children's Chapel (big 1st-floor RE room). September 8, 2013. Yesterday Jeanne told me that the dehumidifier in the CC (big 1st-floor RE room) wasn't working.

I determined that its collection-bucket was full, so it had shut off. I consulted the manual and found no reason why the water that the gadget extracts from the air should be going into the bucket at all; it's supposed to run out the hose, as it has done since installation, and drain into the window well. The hose is clear; I blew air through it.

I'll have to investigate when I can spend some time with it. After I dumped out the water, the dehumidifier seemed to be running normally. I dumped the water c. 3:30 PM, and there was no new accumulation in the bucket when I checked c. 8 PM. [September 11, 2013—Still working normally. Ditto 25 Sept.]

Jeanne also mentioned that someone wished to brighten up the room by painting the insides of the window wells. I see this as a colossally bad idea, since once brick is painted, it needs frequent cleaning and repainting; we do not have enough reliable B&G support to keep this up. It's iffy whether we can get the crud cleaned out of the bottom of the window wells once a year, the better to keep the drains draining. Screening on the top of the window wells has reduced the amount of stuff that falls in, but shall-caliber crud will continue to accumulate so long as we have trees, squirrels, gravity, etc. If the room is to be brightened, I'd suggest lighter-hued curtains on the windows.

Kitchen Ceiling. On Sunday, September 11, 2013, the Kitchen's **dropped ceiling** sagged about six inches in the middle of the room, right above the island. The newish pendant lights stuck out at a weird angle. After removing stuff from the island and looking into the space above the

ceiling, it became clear that two of the wires that held the drop-ceiling framework were no longer secured to the old funky ceiling. Al Pierce, Jim Rak, and others contributed opinions and diagnoses. I went home to get a jack and suitable lumber to hold up the ceiling during repairs; when I returned, Rak had located a joist in the old ceiling, installed two drywall screws, and attached the wires to them. I added some additional wires, securing the framework to large solid steam pipes, and we closed up the job, reinstalling the tiles that had been removed during the operation. We had in the past found similar problems with ceiling supports in the old Channing ceiling; evidently whoever put in the dropped ceiling thought it appropriate to hang the whole works from smooth nails that are very likely to work loose from the wood of the old ceiling. This appears to be remarkably bad practice. We ought to assemble a modest stash of screw-eyes, which can replace the stupid nails with a far more secure system as the rest of the nails fall out over the years. Gravity will prevail in the end.

There is an electrical wire run through solid conduit that has separated (the conduit connector is not only disconnected, but possesses neither of its two screws). The ends of the conduit are separated by about an inch, so there is moderate strain on the wire; this needs to be fixed when the right screws are obtained. [What is probably one of those screws turned up today, September 26, 2013, when the old stoves were removed from the kitchen.]

Fall Room c. 20 Sept. Richard and I cleaned up more of the **Fall Room**, moving stuff off two of the shelves behind the table and removing grit, wire bristles, and assorted guck from cleaning products that were set on the shelves without cleaning, so that corrosive chemicals oozed down the sides and ate the paint on the shelves.

Work Party, 21 Sept. 2013. Present: Jim Zupanic, Al Pierce, Richard Palmer. We reinstalled the last of the exterior door handles on the Schweitzer Lounge doors, as well as all the remaining door-stabilizing gizmos on the Patio Room and Schweitzer doors. No outdoor work was done, as it was raining and we were kept busy finishing up the doors. The last of the hardware and tools have been removed from the Patio Room.

The Great Stench, beginning c. 14 Sept. 2013, and Still Present as of the 26th. An unpleasant smell began to be noticeable, most noticeable in the vicinity of the B&G Closet. I applied various spray deodorizers to no avail, and deployed bleach, baking soda, and some ancient deodorizing granules that turned up in the 1st-Floor RE Hall Closet, leaving the closet door open so that a fan could blow around the clock, perhaps to disperse and attenuate the miasma. Consensus of those who commented on the odor was that it was probably caused by some decomposing animal that had died in or around the closet.

On Sunday morning, 22 Sept., I entered Channing Hall via the Illinois stairway and found that the smell seemed more intense than it had been earlier. I was derailed from addressing the problem in the closet by my distress at seeing the Channing/Patio doors standing open while the radiators banged; someone had opened the doors in an understandable attempt to bring in some fresh air, **without turning down the thermostat, which was set at 68.** The excruciating vision of

hard-begged pledge dollars being pitchforked out the doors at unnecessary cost to the environment was more than I could take. I cannot recall everyone to whom I vented my frustration, but I regret the distress that I'm sure I caused some.

There had been some discussion of the possibility that something was dead in the window well outside the B&G Closet. Since there was nothing I could do in the closet, I began working on the window-well; first I had to cut away some of the vegetation that had grown up since the last time we had checked the well. I had made some progress by the time that the service ended, and had got the plywood cover off. The window-well was dry and there wasn't much crud visible; it seemed that the leaves, etc., could be removed without climbing down into the well, so I got out the big wet/dry vacuum and lowered the hose through the metal grating. At that point the extension tubes fell away from the hose, so climbing into the well was after all unavoidable. Removing the grating was difficult, but Tim Raridon, Al Pierce, and Frank Bishop helped. Tim went down the ladder and used the vacuum to clean up the crud. In the drain he found the desiccated remains of a creature, almost certainly a possum. This could not have been the source of the smell, as it had clearly been dried out for a long time, and it was also clear that the drain goes away from the church toward the catch-basin in the patio area. At least we were able to establish that the problem was not in the window-well. At this point (September 26, 2013) I still haven't got the cover back on the well, but it's clear what needs to be done and if good weather holds, I should be able to do it tomorrow.

I have continued with palliative measures, sloshing generic Pine-Sol and a lemon-scented anti-odor preparation into the holes in the closet walls. On Saturday 28 September I went to the Church around noon to attempt to replace the window-well cover and found Richard Palmer there. He and I discussed issues in the hanging of lights for a forthcoming show in Channing, and hung a cable from side to side. Richard suggested that we expand the hole behind the B&G Closet shelves so as to enable us to see whether there was a corpse in the **inaccessible space beneath the Elm Street stairs**. We emptied the bottom shelf and used our generic Sawzall to convert the hole (c. 1.5 x 8 inches) to 15 x 8 inches. There was no decomposing animal, but lots of junk, some of which we were able to remove with the big shopvac. We took out more than one cubic foot of granular crumbled plaster, and many bits of wood that had presumably been flung into that space during the 1920s construction of the original building. Plaster bits and granular material were deployed behind the gas meter, the better to adjust the contour of the ground and deter weeds; wooden bits have gone to Richard's to feed his woodstove. We covered the enlarged hole with quarter-inch hardware cloth to allow air circulation, in the hope of expediting the decomposition process, wherever it may be taking place. As the weather turns colder, I'll install a wooden cover to discourage air circulation, in the interest of insulation. The result of this effort was to prove another negative: **that's not where the corpse is**. [Since this point, I have found Odo-Ban, and will continue to administer that. There is still some rot {rat-rot?} odor inside the closet, plus the generic-lemon-Pine-Sol smell, as of October 11, 2013.

Doorframe, Channing to Patio. The rotted wood (top of the opening and exterior) has been replaced with poplar, and the last wooden piece of the intended repair was screwed on, 26/27

Sept. 2013; caulked, ready to paint. Ed Schenk, a.k.a. Kitchen Mechanic, who has advised on the repair and who trimmed to fit the two wooden pieces, can now install the aluminum flashing that is to enclose and protect the exterior portion of the doorframe. [Ed has returned to re-measure the door header, and I expect him to bring the aluminum flashing soon. October 11, 2013.]

Porch Roof. September 29, 2013. Yesterday Richard and I stood across Illinois and looked at the roof. It is slate, unlike the rest of the roofing on the building; this is probably why the Groover people who had agreed to redo the flashing changed their minds. The roof slopes toward the building (thus toward the flashing, which has separated from the brick). It seems very likely that water from the porch roof runs down the brick under the porch roof, gets into the wall, and causes the disintegration of plaster. This would explain the mass of granular plaster crud under the Elm stairs in the basement, as well as the persistent conspicuous peeling of paint on the Choir Loft wall. We'll need some professional consultation on this, but it appeared clear to Richard and me that the **porch roof, including the wood beneath the slate tile, needs to be repaired or replaced.** The slate should be preserved as much as possible, as Richard says plausibly that it is costly and in some demand for repairing the few slate roofs that survive.

Squirreling. September 29, 2013. Sometime during the past month or two, the long-lost extension cord that had vanished from the Illinois Closet reappeared. It was in the 1st-Floor RE Hall closet; probably somebody had grabbed it for use with the big TV and had stashed it with that TV. Some tool that had long been missing also turned up, in an unexpected location, during the Patio Room work. On Sunday 21 September nearly all the silverware from the Kitchen drawer was gone, along with its sorting bin; someone had crammed it all into the drawer in Channing. The small plastic bin that Jan Schnall provided for keeping sink-related items in a tidy fashion vanished and was eventually found hidden under the counter. More common than theft or the maddening custom of breaking some item and skulking off without telling anyone or leaving a note is this pattern of squirreling things away so that they cannot be found and used. We've bought unnecessary replacements for things that we do in fact have, wasting scarce funds and—one the lost stuff turned up—wasting scarce storage space. I've tried to label some things, particularly tools and extension cords, as to where they belong; but the labels seem to be read about as often as those on trash and recycling containers. Any suggestions as to how to get people to put stuff where it belongs?

Kitchen. September 29, 2013. New LG stoves arrived c. 3:30 PM Thursday 26 September. Guys installed them; I swept considerable crud from underneath, where old stoves had been (it hasn't been that long since the floor was installed, and the evident rate of crud-accumulation is distressing.) Stoves work. I've put instructions for them in the tin cabinet to their left; other manual and documentation filed in Office. Adam Lee and Jim Converse are to take away the old stoves, though I've been unable to get a response from phone messages to Adam. [Both stoves taken away promptly.] Since then the new stoves were moved back into the Fall Room to permit installation of new kitchen flooring, then moved back to allow cooking. The anonymous tile person who is to replace the pink backsplash tile on the wall behind the stoves was scheduled to do that job on 3 October, rescheduled for 7 October, and has made no actual appearance as of

October 11, 2013.

The new kitchen floor raised the level a bit, and made it impossible to close the Fall Room door. Jim Zupanic helped me get the door onto the table in the Fall Room, and I trimmed it and reinstalled it. Our circular saw's base is bent, and unless it can be straightened, the saw won't be of much use.

New Tools. October 11, 2013. Recently we have acquired a countersink bit, metal shears, and a benchtop Craftsman drill press.

Drains. October 11, 2013. Recently Morris Drains had a struggle clearing the plugged drain beneath the south downspout on the RE Wing side. Their high-pressure water jet failed, and they returned with the **medium-sized rotary cable**, finding that the spout was plugged somewhere within the Men's restroom wall, where it really ought not to go. Evidently the rain-drain system and the sanitary sewer are combined, as would not be expected for the 1960s-built RE Wing.

Dishwasher. October 11, 2013. About a week ago the dishwasher was declared to be inoperative. Jim Rak and I have examined it; probably the internal pump is jammed or broken, as the motor jumps when it gets power. Diane has called the company that repaired the dishwasher a couple of years ago, successfully replacing the thermostat and making the machine much more user-friendly.

Elevator. October 11, 2013. Recent inspection indicated that the fire extinguisher was way overdue (2006) for recertification or replacement. The extinguisher belongs in the engine room, between the elevator and the Chair Closet. Key to that room, which belongs on a nail inside the control-room vestibule, has vanished, making it challenging to get at and deal with the extinguisher.

Door, Channing to Patio, Right-Hand (East). Late Oct. Ed Schenk had cut poplar to replace parts of the **exterior frame above the door**. I dug out the rotten wood, primed and painted the reasonably-sound wood around and behind it, and then trimmed, installed, caulked and painted the new bits. These are both the flat horizontal sill and the vertical front. All of this took longer than anticipated because of weather, distractions, etc. (See above.) After the wood was done, Ed re-measured and constructed the aluminum shielding, and he and I installed and caulked it. Now the rain, which seems to be funneled toward that door with particular intensity, encounters a slightly sloped barrier that directs it away toward the patio, and should keep it from entering and rotting the wood above the door. Cosmetic repair remains to be done, so that the whole door frame is covered with the same white paint; I intend to follow the policy adopted for the regular exterior doors and Channing-to-Patio doors, using the S-W exterior white for the door and framing, inside and out.

The stationary door, which locks into the frame with brass latches at top and bottom, was difficult to lock, and its bottom latch turned out to have been incorrectly installed long ago. It has been

cleaned up and reinstalled, and despite considerable corrosion to its interior parts, now works properly.

First-Floor RE Closet. Late Oct. I have installed a shelf above the door, inside the closet, to provide more space for storage. I hope to continue moving some of the less-frequently used materials, particularly the just-in-case stuff, out of the B&G shelves in the Fall Room. The new shelf does not interfere with moving the big TV in and out of the closet.

Work Party, 16 Nov. Present: Pierce and Zupanic. This meeting was put into the Bulletin by Diane, who followed the third-Saturday rule. I proofread that bulletin, but did not get the Work Party onto my calendar or head, and because the date fell early in the month, amid many distractions and hassles, I failed to make it. Jim worked on the leaves and Al went home, having found no agenda or donuts. Jim consoled me by pointing out that the church was full of a District Youth conference that brought about 80 youth and 20 adults to the premises, but I feel terrible about missing the date. My screwup will obviously inhibit me in ranting about others' failure to show up for future Work Parties. The December Bulletin, which I've just (19 Nov.) proofread, includes a 21 December Work Party, which would ordinarily be skipped on account of the holidays; as penance I'll go in that day and try to catch up on some of the solo work, such as replacing burnt-out Exit bulbs. I don't anticipate that anyone else will, or should, make it.

Damages. November 19, 2013. In the past week persons unknown have **stolen one of the air-pots** used for coffee; **broken the flush handle for a toilet in the Women's Restroom; stolen the hot-water faucet handle from the washbasin in the Men's Restroom; and ripped out of the Kitchen wall the bracket for the First-Aid kit.** I have repaired these problems, except that the air-pot remains missing.

Percolator. Reports of problems with the big (55-cup) percolator had circulated for some time. Richard Palmer and I agreed that there must be a problem with the seating of the stem that holds the grounds-basket, so we devoted some effort to cleaning the stem and the socket where it sits. Fuller info was received from Jim Converse, who said that not only was there a shortage of hot water being forced up the tube (so that some of the coffee in the basket remained dry), but the water itself was only lukewarm. The percolator has been taken to O'Connor's for repair. It remains necessary for serving large assemblies of people, since the new tall drip coffeemaker produces only ten cups per cycle. It cycles in six minutes, but still requires conscientious minding to keep the air-pots filled. [December 15, 2013—Percolator has been **repaired** by O'Connor's, who replaced its thermostat; note from Jim Converse says that it still makes weak coffee, and we haven't had time to do a carefully-measured test. The new tall coffeemaker was observed in operation this morning, and took ten minutes to make very good coffee.]

Dishwasher. November 19, 2013. This has been dead for a while. Jim Rak and I determined that the motor hummed when turned on, so that the problem was most likely not with the motor but with the pump. Professional aid was summoned, and the guy agreed that the pump was bad and ordered the(costly) part; the company failed to receive the part when they ordered it, and then

followed up to re-order only after Diane's prompting; the repairman finally brought the part and determined that a further part was necessary. The unsatisfactory result is that the dishwasher will almost certainly remain unfixed by Thanksgiving Dinner on the 24th. I have heard speculation that someone may have ignored the conspicuously-posted instructions and tried to run the machine without first filling it with water, but this is only speculation and it is not clear that this particular blunder would destroy the pump. [Breaking news! Might get fixed Thursday 21 Nov.!]

Security. November 19, 2013. In the past week and a half we've had an ADT alert because a keyholding member opened the Illinois door without having the security code in mind (if you do this, call ADT—their number is on the sheet of alarm instructions near the keypad). We've also had one of the RE East doors (on the downhill side, facing the home of our friend Bill Sharkey, a.k.a. The Guy with the Dog) left unlatched—this was discovered this morning, so it probably wasn't the fault of our AA tenants, who use that door to go outdoors to smoke.

Security. December 8, 2013. Richard Palmer called me c. 8:45 PM to report that this morning a bat was seen somewhere in the building. Richard had no time to pursue it, and other matters distracted him, so he had just recalled the bat and called me. When the bat chooses to flit about, it will probably set off motion detectors and alert ADT, so I called three Security responders who might get the call, leaving a message for one and speaking with the other two; so if they get the call and the ADT person says that the alarm is motion detector but not any of the door alarms, they can inform the ADT people that there's no need to alert the police. *So long as the bat is likely to be roaming the halls, we should set the alarm by entering the 4-digit code followed by 3*; this will set the door alarms but not the motion detectors. I'll make a note to this effect and hang it on the keypad tomorrow. [December 15, 2013--Decided against posting the note, since it might alert potential malefactors to the fact that motion detectors would be off, and might confuse others. The likely ADT responders have been alerted to the bat issue and know that if ADT calls with a signal that's from motion detector only, without a door alarm, it's probably the bat. In any case, we haven't had the bat alarm for a while; maybe it's moved out.]

Security. December 15, 2013. I've been told that Pat Rosenthal **fell on or near the steps**, maybe last Sunday. I have yet to determine whether the incident took place at the Elm or Illinois entrance, whether there was ice, whether the anti-slip mat or salt were deployed, etc. Too much depends on which individuals show up when; if the first individual on the scene isn't Zupanic or Palmer, we may be in trouble. [Subsequent inquiry reveals that the fall was unrelated to ice, occurred in late Summer or early Fall, and was occasioned by **badly-matched concrete sidewalks** near the curb outside the Elm Street entry. Probably we should have that concrete work done as soon as weather allows, regardless of whether we're able to take care of all the cosmetic concrete work that also needs to be done.]

Heating. December 15, 2013. When I arrived at church c. 9:45 AM today, Matt said that the **heat had been off in the first-floor RE Wing**. He had re-lit the pilot. After the service, during the Cookie Walk, it was determined that it was still cold, c. 45 degrees. I thought that we would need to change the thermocouple on the furnace, but Jim Stone determined that although the pilot

was lit (ergo, no need to change thermocouple), the valve control had not been switched to “heat.” Furnace returned to normal operation, though as we’ve known for a long time, it’s due for replacement—the other two forced-air furnaces in the RE Wing have been replaced and upgraded in the past few years, and the surviving but moribund old one leaks nasty gases and sheds some sort of mysterious flaky brown crud onto the floor.

Paint, Leaks, etc. December 15, 2013. Richard Palmer noted that **paint was flaking on the ceiling of the Elm Street entryway.** I have not yet investigated this. Someone will have to crawl around in the porch attic. There is at present no evidence that the old bad flashing on the porch roof is responsible. We were ready to get that repaired by the slate-roof guy this Fall, but the appropriation was not made and weather closed in. Perhaps the flaking is just the late-appearing result of years of dampness, which long ago made a mess of the Choir-Loft and stairwell walls.

December 23, 2013. Paint was hanging from ceiling in big ragged patches. (See photo on B&G Bulletin Board, 1st-floor RE hall.) I scraped, primed with two coats of Kilz2 latex, painted with old (2009) thick S-W Promar flat white, and rolled with same paint from newly-purchased can. On the North wall there was some flaked paint, less than a square foot, and the quart can of S-W wall paint marked as a good match for the Sanctuary walls covered nicely.

Missing Items. December 23, 2013. Most of the items that disappeared over the course of the year were eventually found in odd locations or migrated back to their appropriate places on their own. We are currently missing the 4-way screwdriver from the Kitchen drawer, again, and one coffee air-pot and one good real-bristle broom have been gone long enough to be declared stolen. [The missing air-pot {#1} reappeared 23 Dec. The missing broom has not turned up. It is/was a straight-handle regular broomcorn with a full-size handle, not the skinny-handle variety.]

Electrical. On 23 Dec., when I went in to round up trash, the north halogen lights in Channing were glowing, having been left on but faded. I turned them up where they’re supposed to be left, and they began blinking erratically, some dimming, some going off, some staying fully lit. I assumed that the stupid fader switch, which has been replaced at least once, had gone bad, but on the 24th the lights were fully on. There are twelve halogen lights on each of the dimmable switches; we need to determine whether the switches are rated for the cumulative wattage. It appears that being left on glowing (and wasting power) may somehow fatigue the switches. Any suggestions from persons more learned than I am in the peculiarities of electricity?

Ceiling Tiles. December 27, 2013. Last night Tim Malone and I replaced 14 of the cruddy ceiling tiles in the Office. Newly-installed tiles (used, from Channing) are marked with pushpins. Original installation of the dropped ceiling and tiles was fairly shoddy—tiles are supposed to have a quarter-inch notch around the edge, so that they will hang down a bit from the metal grid, and tiles that aren’t the regular 2x2 foot size aren’t notched on the cut edges. Above the tiles there’s a major infestation of randomly-placed phone cables from previous eras, and the dirty 6-inch fiberglass insulation (with unpredictable gaps). On the bright side, Tim and I encountered no mouse manure; our periodic rodent problems have been concentrated in places where there’s more

food, casually stored. **Notes for future ceiling-tile work:** clear a modest area at a time; avoid the plastic dropcloth with lots of paint spatter, since the paint crumbs that it sheds are as bad as the ceiling crud to clean up; don't bother with broom and dustpan, use one of the shopvacs with brush attachment plus regular sweeper for carpet. Best ladder to use is the two-step item from the 2d-floor Sink Closet.

Office Lighting. December 28, 2013. Matt has replaced ballasts on one of the ceiling lights with new-style T8, and replaced the cracked lens as well. Says it's not too terrible a job. We ought to go ahead and do the rest of the lights in the room, particularly the 2-foot installations which contain some ghastly pink fluorescent tubes.

Office Walls. December 28, 2013. The ugliest wall is the outside one, which is streaked from years of heating-register grime. Scrubbing it down will probably make it look better, and is in any case necessary to prepare for painting. I hope that we can agree on one of the on-hand paint colors, the better to avoid the accumulation of even more containers of leftover paint in our limited storage space (all nonflammable paint is in the Boiler Room). Whenever we paint the Office, it will be a slow job, most reasonably done one wall at a time because of all the stuff that will have to be moved.