

1st UU Buildings & Grounds Chronicle, 2018.

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

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

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

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

Work Party 10 Feb. Present: Edna Annabel; Jims Rak, Rogers, and Stone; Bob Seibold. The agenda for the snowed-out January Work Party was mostly undone, and we were able to do some of the items on that list.

I arrived c. 9:10, made coffee and set out donuts, and used the hand-truck to move a heavy box of **Equal Exchange coffee and chocolate** to the Fall Room.

Snow deposited during the week had melted down to heavy slush. I had run the snow-blower on Monday and Jim Rak had done likewise Wednesday, so sidewalks and the ramp were fairly clear, but Edna, Jim Rogers, and Bob shoveled manually to clear the Elm Street porch and stairs and to trim the sidewalks.

Rak and Rogers scraped, swept scrapings, and applied **caulking and primer** to flaking areas around the elevator, stairs between the Elm Street doors and Channing Hall, and northwest corner of the Sanctuary wall. One of the spindly vertical supports for the stairwell handrail was found to be broken, and I removed it, cut off protruding nails on the bottom, and glued it together. (It had evidently been broken for a long time, as there was paint in the break; it's been many years since that handrail has been painted.) The glue proved to be inadequate, so I've brought the spindle home for repair. [Reassembled, awaiting 2d coat of paint, February 23, 2018.]

Edna used a razor-blade scraper and Goo-Gone to remove **double-sided tape from the seven Patio doors**. (This tape held signs required by the Fire Marshal about unlocking Patio doors, a requirement that has been rescinded.)

During the week before the Work Party, I had replaced **three exit-sign bulbs**. Frustration with the wasteful, short-lived incandescent bulbs has been a theme for some time (see last entry in *2017 B&G Chronicle*) and I searched online for LED bulbs. A test packet of two bulbs arrived the day before the Work Party, and we installed the pair. Jim Stone agreed that they look OK; each consumes three watts, and replaces a 20-watt incandescent bulb. I'll order some more.

We had hoped to finish the Lisbet List of **electrical switches and outlets that need labeling** as to which circuit-breakers control them. Jim Stone and I identified many of them, but had to leave some for later because our Office Manager, Heather Best, had arrived and was being interrupted in her computer work by the flipping of circuit breakers.

Other incomplete tasks included moving several thousand plastic utensils and some troublesome large items (long donated handrail, etc.) from the Fall Room. Nevertheless, we made some headway on some long-deferred projects, and it was a useful Work Party. No donuts left over.

Elevator. February 23, 2018. State inspector arrived Friday 16 Feb., shut down the unit because of muddle re inspection by Handel (who installed and maintain the elevator). If Handel called earlier to arrange their visit, that call was lost. Sequence of Handel and State inspections was disordered by the major repair of 2016, when the hydraulic cylinder had to be removed and repaired. On Monday 19 Feb., the Handel people came and did their thing and called the State guy, who authorized returning the elevator to service. Adjustments of Office reminders should prevent a recurrence of this problem--which shut down the elevator for one Sunday. A new State procedure that provides an online timeline of repairs and inspections should also help.

Fall Room Outlet. Sunday 18 Feb, 2018. My appeal for help at Coffee Hour induced Mike Mastropietro to assist (i. e., do most of the work) with diagnosing the problem behind the extension cord at the left of the shelf-unit on the Kitchen-facing wall. We removed all the heavy stuff so I could unscrew the unit from the wall and pull it out, and found that the extension cord was not plugged into a nonexistent outlet behind the shelving. In fact it was not plugged in at all, since someone had unplugged it from the outlet behind the black fridge. We have power to the extension cord again. What remains unknown is why someone went to the trouble of moving the fridge to unplug the extension cord. [The cord was used on Saturday 23 Feb. to power the bench-grinder, whose wire brush enabled two of three recently-purchased keys to be rendered useful.]

Drain Issues. February 23, 2018. While I sat in Channing watching the Handel elevator people do their inspection on the 16th, I heard water trickling behind the pew where I was sitting. Removal of the radiator cover revealed half an inch of standing water below the radiator, and more water coming in through the brick wall. I called Morris Drain, assuming that there must be a blockage in the drain right outside that South-wall window, where a big downspout moves rain from the roof into the drain system. The Morris people came Thursday afternoon, 22 Feb., and found no problem with the drain. Evidently the hard rain on Sunday and Monday 18/19 Feb. had

exceeded the drainage capacity and created enough backed-up water to soak through the wall. The Morris guys regarded this as normal. I'm less cheerful about it, since water that gets in under the Channing floor (beneath which are 2x4s resting on dirt/mud) will eventually re-create the rot that cost us a great deal of money and disruption a few years ago. But even if we installed a sump well and pump, there's no place in that area to blow out the water from the occasional deluge.

Cave. February 23, 2018. Lisbet has suggested that the big air ducts along the ceiling of the Cave beneath the Office should be sealed with mastic to reduce air loss and eliminate smells from the Cave from making their way via the RE Wing furnaces to the office. (Disturbing odor of raw gasoline, from fueling snowblower on Sunday, had brought attention to this previously unnoticed problem.) So masticating the Cave ducts will be on the Work Party agenda for 10 March. We'll hope that there's no heavy precipitation to interfere with moving a lot of stuff out of the Cave to make room for the work to be done.

Window, 6-8 March 2018. On Tuesday morning, 6 March, Heather found glass on the floor and determined that it had come from the window high on the wall outside the Kitchen door, near the Channing Hall doorway. When I arrived, Heather said that a Youngstown police officer had visited and had concluded that one BB shot had broken five of the six glass panels in the upper window panel. The BB hole had been there for many years (a reminder of when vandals and other problematic persons were apt to be armed with relatively harmless BB guns rather than AR-15s). Damage was obviously caused by a hand-sized rock which lay outside the window; it had inflicted a gouge and had broken one of the vertical wooden mullions, causing enough twisting of the mullions to break the five panes.

Andy Crabb advised summoning professional aid, but I thought that since the window, on the outside, was at a convenient height and required no ladder work, I should do the repair and save us some money. Andy is a wise man. I spent most of Tuesday fighting with the first pane; I had mismeasured, and the replacement glass was a quarter-inch too wide. After I procured right-size panes, the work became easier, and I finished up at dusk on Wednesday. I'll neaten the caulk on some warm dry day.

This window had been skillfully re-caulked sometime between the 1920s and now. Very old caulk exposed to sun dries out to become a line of funny-shaped pebbles that fall off on their own. This caulk had hardened to rocklike solidity and adhered tenaciously. Some lessons learned: (1) Heat-gun doesn't soften really hardened caulk, at least in cold weather. (2) The multi-purpose vibrating tool had a hard time with this stuff, and when the screw holding the cutter blade comes loose and vanishes forever into the juniper shrubbery, the tool becomes utterly useless. (3) Angle-grinder will rip into the caulk, but is not easy to control. (4) When it's expected to freeze, you can't use the latex caulk that's easily and neatly applied with a caulking gun. (4) Old-school DAP 33 caulk can be too stiff to adhere to wood, right out of a brand-new-off-the-shelf can. (5) It is impossible to use the old-school caulk without thinking of the Far Side cartoon in which God figures out how to make snakes. (6) It helps to put the DAP caulk in the microwave. (7) Juniper shrubbery is not improved by being trampled for two days. (8) Most outdoor projects would be done more expeditiously if sudden snow flurries did not interrupt.

Work Party, 10 March 2018. Present: Louisa and Martin Berger, Marguerite Felice, Jim Rak, Bob Seibold, Ellen and Lowell Satre, Lisbet White. As I looked over the to-do list, I wondered if we'd have enough jobs to occupy everyone if we had a substantial turnout. As it happened, we had lots of people, lots of stuff done, and a good deal of work left over for later.

Lisbet **applied mastic** to the HVAC intake duct in the Cave (see above, 23 Feb.). We determined that the larger duct is, oddly enough, the exhaust from the Kitchen hood above the stoves. Lisbet found a bag's worth of loose duct tape and insulation, and also noted a couple of puzzling holes in the ductwork. We'll have to get Dieter in to explain what goes where. A vigorous current of cold air was coming into the Cave from one of the puzzling holes. Bob and I returned the snowblower, mower, and wheelbarrow to the central aisle of the Cave.

Jim, with assistance from Bob, worked on the **downspout from the Sanctuary roof** (see above, 23 Feb.), replacing the Y-shaped plastic junction and a broken section of plastic pipe. This may alleviate the water-intrusion problem noted above.

Satres sorted through **old sheet music** that had accumulated for many decades on the stair-landing leading to the Choir Loft, hauling out a great amount of recyclable paper.

Marguerite worked on the street-side wall below the handrail in the stairway from the Elm Street entry to the landing, en route to the Choir Loft, scraping and **sanding cracked paint**. Her efforts revealed a stretch just above the baseboard that could not be sanded or patched because the **whole plaster wall had disintegrated**. The area has been prepared for further work and cleaned up. Finishing the job will be similar to the tedious work done a few years ago on the wall just outside the Elm Street doorway to Channing Hall. Our orbital pad sander died in the process of the wall work; I've taken it apart at home and declared it a goner. Marguerite also vacuumed the long-neglected Office carpet.

Louisa and Bob cleared the way to move a **small filing cabinet out of the closet in the Minister's Office**. I assisted, using our newish hand-truck. Cabinet is now in the Office, where it can be put to use. Bob and I also reattached the mirror inside the closet door.

Most of the major items on the to-do list got done or got closer to being done. Two donuts were left over, and were consumed by the B&G Chair lest they dry out.

Tools. 13. March. Replaced pad sander, which died during the recent Work Party, with another Harbor Freight one of those (not a great tool, mostly because of its annoying nonstandard-size pad, but cheap); also new multipurpose vibrating tool (old one unusable because its odd gadget-holding screw was swallowed by shrubbery--see above, 6-8 March). I'll take the screw from the new one and try to find an equivalent so that the old buzzy tool can be put back into service. Also bought some fresh **tile cement** to use when we can get to the loose floor tiles near the mailboxes.

Cave Ducts. March 16, 2018. The mysterious ugly openings in ductwork have been examined by an expert from Dieter; it's confirmed that they are irrelevant and may be closed off without harm. Dieters will do this minor job when they have time.

Storm Windows for Sanctuary. March 16, 2018. Herb Soss, from Ace Lumber, visited this morning and measured. He will write up a proposal for transparent panels to cover the insides of the eight big windows. This improvement has been on the B&G wish list for many years, and I've been advised that we may well be authorized to do it. Storms should reduce heat loss through the big single-pane windows, reducing energy waste and saving the Church a lot of fuel. [Still awaiting quote April 4, 2018.]

Parking Lot. March 16, 2018. Herb recommended two reliable asphalt companies to deal with the crumbly and uneven surface of our lot. I'll try to get estimates next week; maybe we can face our next winter with an easily snowblown lot. [Met with one paver 29 March, another scheduled for 30 March.] [April 4, 2018. We've received one bid, still waiting for the other one. It's unsurprising that the first bid is distressingly high, since the lot needs leveling and that requires a lot of expensive glop. There's no point to decorating the present surface with several cans of X-10, because much of the present surface resembles cat litter.]

Pew Rack. March 29, 2018. Broken hymnal rack was reported a couple of weeks ago. These racks are assembled with small nails, which tend to work loose and let the bottom of the rack fall down. They're sometimes repaired with additional little nails, often with the result of splitting the wood. In this instance, I've removed all the nails from the bottom, glued the split ends, and reassembled the rack using a screw and rectangular washer on each end. This is probably the way to fix the rest of the racks when they eventually come apart.

Boiler. April 4, 2018. Inspected, passed 3 April. One pipe needs replacement, as it has enough internal corrosion that it's "weeping." This may as well be deferred till summer, when the boiler may be shut off for a while without inconvenience. Inspector says that it will be ok to install a wooden handrail on the steps. (Handrail had been recommended on a previous inspection, but I was reluctant to use a flammable material in the boiler room, where flammable stuff is discouraged, for obvious reasons.)

Work Party April 21, 2018. Present: Edna Annabel, Cheryl and Galen Elser, Lisbet White, Bob Seibold, MB.

I arrived c. 9:30, started coffee c. 9:40, noted lights on and other issues in the Kitchen record book, and set out donuts.

Cheryl painted chipped **handrail spindles** on the stairwell inside the Elm Street entry. She noted the filthiness of much of the woodwork and walls around the handrail, particularly near the B&G Closet door. I've worked in the area for years and had managed to avoid noticing the crudiness (what can have splashed so high to leave those marks?); we'll address that mess at the next Work Party if not before. I have prepared some of the material for repairing the hole in the plaster in the stairway.

Lisbet and Edna took out six **floor tiles** in the second floor near the mailboxes and replaced three of them. One section of the concrete floor was partially covered by a thin layer of some durable

substance which we attempted to remove. The Church owns two multipurpose vibrating tools, neither of which has the screw necessary to hold the cutting blade. Lisbet and Edna spent some time looking for one in the juniper outside the recently-broken window (see above, 6-8 March), where one screw vibrated loose during window repair. This was a reasonable effort, as we had sun and visibility, in contrast to early March, but no screw was found. Our newer tool also lacks its screw. I'll seek replacements. We used a variety of items to apply weight to the floor tiles while the glue dries. [May 6, 2018--Screws found, 20¢ apiece at Youngstown Bolt on Meridian. Lisbet has cleaned up some residual cement, and the floor looks much better, not to mention less trippy.]

Bob and Galen worked outdoors, dealing with fallen twigs, leaves, and other **debris on the lawn**, mostly on the Elm Street end of the yard, including the greenery around the big white sign.

Cheryl and I moved a great many **plastic eating utensils** from the Fall Room to the former Sound Room, liberating considerable space on the Fall Room shelves and floor.

We did not get to the **Exit-sign bulbs**, of which at least five are dead. I had saved this task for the Work Party, hoping to instruct people in the bulb-replacement process, but we were distracted by other tasks. More of the new LED bulbs, which consume 3 watts instead of the 15-20 watts used by the short-lived incandescents, have been ordered, and will be installed as old bulbs fail. The bulbs are a safety matter, and need to be done promptly. [May 6, 2018--haven't received bulbs yet, and I haven't figured out how to complain to Amazon. Andy and I installed all five of the bulbs that we had on hand on a recent Sunday.]

A useful Work Party, though not very efficient at consuming donuts. Coffee Hour will benefit.

Hole in Wall. May 6, 2018. I worked last week on attaching a wooden strip to the brick behind the rotted-out wall behind and above the baseboard in the Elm Street stairway (see above). Jim Rak applied plaster over the screen stapled to the wooden strip today. We should be able to add a bit of spackle to smooth out the repaired wall and reinstall the baseboard.

Demolition. May 6, 2018. The crumbling building across Illinois is no longer a building. Rubble is to be hauled away in the next week. The heap of bricks and other stuff looks much better than the building did.

Next Work Party, 12 May. The usual sorts of tasks await.

Work Party, 12 May 2018. Present: Jim Rogers, Satres, Bob Seibold.

Satres resumed their work in the **Choir Loft**, begun at last month's Work Party, and finished clearing out a 5-drawer **file cabinet** that had been stuffed with old sheet music, etc. The cabinet remains in the Choir Loft, and may be moved to the Office. They also carried the oscillating **fans** to Channing Hall, in preparation for the annual migration of Sunday services downstairs.

Jim cleaned **railings, etc., in the Elm Street stairwell**. Some of them still need sanding, but they are nearly ready for repainting.

I replaced one **exit-sign bulb**, having received more of the new-style LED bulbs, which use 3 watts to produce more illumination than the old 20-watt incandescent bulbs. The LEDs are also expected to outlast the incandescents.

Bob trimmed low eye-poking **branches** on the thorny trees that the city planted some years ago on the Illinois devil strip, and **weeded** outside the Illinois doorway and in the sloped area outside the South windows of Channing Hall. (Despite predictions of heavy rain, it was sunny and hot outdoors.)

Bob, Jim, and I moved **ceramic mouldings** (removed during the flooring replacement several months ago) from the second-floor restroom and deployed the bits along the sidewalk East of the RE Wing. This material had been on the hallway floor for far too long. I had hoped to harvest bricks from the long-overdue demolition of the crumbling building across Illinois Avenue, but the bricks were required for filling in the basement. We'll eventually use whatever is available to make borders for the sidewalk to discourage mulch and crud from drifting onto the sidewalk.

I removed wooden cabinet doors from the Channing Hall remodeling from the Fall Room. These doors were imperfect but had been saved as spares in the event of damage to the cabinets. A few were saved in the Choir Loft, and a few others had significant cracks in the wood and have been taken away to be fed to a woodstove next Winter.

A minor but useful Work Party. Thanks to all who took part.

Mowing. June 16, 2018. We've had some success in getting volunteers to mow, so that Jim Rak isn't stuck with doing it all the time.. Unfortunately while Ralph Malmer was mowing, a rear wheel came off the mower. This is a good, newish self-propelled mower, and missing, never-found parts included power-transmitting hardware. The mower is therefore in the shop. For the moment, the Berger mower is in the Cave; I used it on the 13th or 14th. [Church mower fixed; Jim Rak said that it seemed less energetic than before repair, but I used it to mow the weeds in the Patio yesterday and it seemed to work ok. (July 8, 2018)]

Outdoor Handrail. June 16, 2018. There have been requests for supportive railings at the small stairway on the inner sidewalk (from the Illinois entryway to the Elm Street porch. The Board has authorized professional installation of railings, which should be up soon. [Done.]

Tree Plaque. June 16, 2018. Sometime in the past month or so, the metal plate identifying the larger tree outside the Illinois doorway (that's the tree that was tilted by heavy machinery during the Steeple repairs and removal) was removed along with its rotting wooden back, and replaced by a neat new plastic plaque donated by Karen Lapidus, a former RE Director. The new sign is mounted on a small metal stake that needs to be pounded more securely into the ground. I neglected to put this pounding on the June Work Party to-do list, but will deal with it soon.

Work Party, June 16, 2018. Present: Ralph Malmer, Jim Rak, Jim Rogers, Bob Seibold, Trudee Weatherby, MB.

Jim Rak and Ralph spackled, sanded, and primed the **Elm Street stairway hole**, which now has its moulding in place again, and painted the primed portions of wall. At some point the whole section of wall should be repainted, but it looks quite good now, after months of work. Jim's magic sander, with vacuum attached to control dust, was also used on the **wall to the right of the Illinois Closet door**, which has been in damaged and under-repair condition for some years; the wall has been primed for later repainting. (Earlier stages in this repair included useful efforts by Tim Raridon.) These long-awaited visible accomplishments constitute a significant accomplishment for our tactical approach of doing things with available volunteer skills and energies--unavoidably sporadic and protracted, but relatively easy on the budget.

Weeding involved Bob, as usual, and Jim Rogers. Both suffered considerably from sun exposure, working in the Parking Lot, the Patio, and elsewhere. Jim had come intending to set up the Children's Art Show in Channing, for display at our first downstairs Service the following day, but deferred the art installation in deference to the wedding to be held in the evening, after the Work Party and Farmers' Market had concluded. Bob detected poison ivy in the Patio, so I used the poison ivy poison there and at the back of the Parking Lot, where the ivy that was thoroughly blasted last year had come back to the extent that some of the ivy clearly aspired to the status of trees.

Trudee worked on keeping track of who showed up and who worked at what.

I used the Church's angle grinder to **amputate the ring** cemented into the ground as part of the unsuccessful effort to un-tilt the Children's Tree (see above), so the ring is no longer a hazard to mowers.

I had prepared **labels for trash receptacles**, intended to encourage people who remove trash bags to replace them, but manage to get only a couple of labels installed. I'll trim the labels down and get more and better clear tape; this is a project that isn't ideal for the interruption-rich environment of a Work Party.

We didn't make progress on the handrails, on moving hoses outdoors where they're needed, or on carrying some stuff out of the Fall Room; more to do in July. Nevertheless some important work got done, including all the beastly weeding--which most people don't notice until it's neglected and someone is devoured by giant thistles.

A useful Work Party, accomplishing quite a bit while working around furniture and materials arranged in Channing and the Kitchen for the impending rental wedding. Thanks to all.

The **kid-protection mini-fence** in the Patio had collapsed along its south portion, because of the unavailability of deep dirt in which to drive the stake; today I secured that end with a screweye into the mortar on the building. July 8, 2018.

Air Conditioning in the Office has been inadequate for some time. I have established that the HVAC unit that serves the offices has controls properly set and is moving some cooled air. I've also made a cardboard directional vane to move air from one of the Office floor vents from

behind the desk against the wall (and cleaned and painted the metal vents). It may be some time before Dieter can check operating temperature of the AC unit. Outdoor temperatures above 90 degrees are a big help in detecting shortcomings in the AC system. July 8, 2018. [Mike from Dieter investigated the problem on 17 July, and determined that the Office machine was low on coolang; he charged it up with new refrigerant gas and found that a coil was leaking. Coil has been ordered, AC is working for the time being. July 21, 2018.]

Elevator. July 21, 2018. The elevator ceased working after the service on Sunday 15 July. Trudee Weatherby was briefly stuck in the elevator car; she climbed the stairs to the Illinois door and her motorized chair was carried up by four people. She drove the chair to her home downtown. The Handel elevator people were summoned and determined that the lock for the Channing Hall elevator door was not working; they returned with a new, expensive part on Thursday 19 July and returned the elevator to proper working order.

Work Party 21 July. Present: Edna Annabel, Martin and Louisa Berger, Andy Crabb, Marguerite Felice, Kadey Kimpel, Jim Morgan, Jim Rak, Lowell Satre, Bob Seibold.

Only a few of the items on the agenda were accomplished, but a great many other tasks were done. Rain had been predicted but did not materialize, and the comfortable weather made it possible to do more outdoor work than usual, and to keep doing it for longer periods.

Marguerite replaced two **exit-sign bulbs** (east-side RE door, north). By the time all the old 20-watt incandescent bulbs are replaced with the new, brighter 3-watt LEDs, lots of people will be expert in bulb-replacement. Then the LEDs will last until everyone has forgotten how to change the sign bulbs. Marguerite then went outdoors to weed.

Edna worked for a long time on the inner wood door of the 1st-floor Women's restroom, making progress toward getting the door-edge reduced to allow proper closing. (The new Harbor Freight pad sander uses normal quarter-sheet sandpaper; it's much more convenient to replace the paper than on the previous gadget, which is now worn out and trashed.

Andy and I partially disassembled the **dead printer** which has sat for some time on a cart in the Sanctuary, eliminating the printer memory in order to prepare the printer for disposal. By the time we were done, the recycling center was closing, so the printer carcass was moved to my car trunk for disposal on Monday. This process restores our ability to use the cart for other purposes than supporting the dead printer.

Jim Morgan hacked away weeds in the Patio and trimmed the front bushes (along the Elm Street fence), with assistance from Lowell and others in carrying away clippings. (Lowell had mowed on Friday.) It is much easier to maintain the greenery now than the first time Jim and I spent two brutal weeks battling the jungled-out patio vegetation. Jim and Bob also trimmed some low-hanging branches on trees in the yard and devil-strip.

Jim Rak used his string trimmer on **grass and weeds**, ceasing only when he ran out of fuel. Kadey and Bob weeded. (Kadey has also been conducting briefer raids on the weeds on random

weekdays.) Kadey also used a wheelbarrow to move ceramic edging (removed during the floor work in the 2d-floor restroom) and add it to the rubble in the hole that has replaced the derelict building across Illinois Avenue.

In the early afternoon, we were surprised by the arrival of a truck and trailer from All-Secure. About a week after the Board and Endowment Committee had authorized construction of **protective cages around the outdoor HVAC units**, Marc Henry and colleagues had fabricated the cages, which they installed. **[We're reminded that it is embarrassing that we have no electric outlet on the East exterior wall or in the Cave. Ran a cord from the Office through the window.]** Cages are firmly attached to concrete.

A useful Work Party. I do not recall seeing the vegetation in better order. Thanks to all.

Work Party 18 August 2018--Summary.

Present: Edna Annabel and friend, Linda Mohn, Jim Morgan, Ellen and Lowell Satre, Bob Seibold,. Martin Berger.

Jim and I changed **fluorescent tubes in the Fall Room**, in both lights at the East end of the room. These are old-style R-12 fixtures. The northern fixture hadn't been worked on since the installation of HVAC tubing above the Coffee Cabinet, and proved to be very difficult to get at. The already-cracked (and yellowed and embrittled) plastic lens cracked more and had to be replaced with the next-to-last lens on hand in the Boiler Room. The inaccessible and troublesome springs were left unconnected, since if the lens falls loose the pipes should catch it. We also changed an **exit-sign bulb** above the Fall Room door to the outdoor stair.

Jim replaced the **toilet seat in the Women's Restroom**, which apparently was broken for some time before anyone notified B&G.

Satres inventoried and arranged **Equal Exchange** coffee.

Linda rearranged the **Hospitality Team bulletin board** in Channing and worked on **weeds in the Patio**. Bob and Jim also weeded and trimmed. I noted that the poison-ivy tree in the Parking Lot appeared to be definitively dead, presumably as the result of repeated spraying.

I scraped a yellow blob, perhaps glue or clear sealer, from one of the stainless-steel carts.

Another productive Work Party.

Work Party 15 Sept. 2018.

Present: Jim Rak, Satres, Bob Seibold, MB.

A difficult Work Party, mostly because of multiple events at the Church. We had a very large, elaborate wedding and a correspondingly lavish reception, which involved moving furniture out

of Channing Hall and blocking some hallways. The Kitchen and Fall Room were full of stuff and activity. The B&G Headquarters/donut room was moved to the Board Room. Some effort went into advising wedding-involved people as to where they might find things that they needed.

Apart from the donut-and-coffee component of the Work Party, we were limited to outdoor work. Fortunately the weather allowed us to do some of that.

Satres used loppers to **trim branches** (tasks that they've been perfecting during their missions in national parks) so that they the woody bits can be fed to the chipper-shredder when we get one at the Church. I didn't bring my grinder because it's heavy, I have issues with vehicles, and there was nowhere to leave the machine at Church. (Sometimes we've parked it in one of the RE East entryways, but everything was jammed up with wedding-related items.) In any case, the Future Mulch is now ready to grind.

Bob, as usual, **weeded** diligently. I went home and got my chainsaw to deal with a very large oak branch that had fallen in the space East of the RE Wing. The limb had landed on a wire that is almost certainly a phone line and pulled a box away from the Church wall, where it had been attached to the brickwork with plastic screw-anchors. The end of the branch extended across the top of the Rodef Sholom fence. I cut away one segment of the branch, about a foot long and 5" thick, in order to relieve the pressure on the wire, which now hangs slack. Phone service hasn't been affected, and it seems likely that the wire is from some former connection; inquiries will be made. Jim spotted the point, high up in the tree, where the branch had broken away.

Window Damage, Again. October 3, 2018. Yesterday, sometime between 6 PM (when Heather left the building) and 7 PM (when people from the AA group arrived), someone smashed three of the small glass panes in the hallway window East of Channing Hall, across the hall from the Kitchen. One of the damaged panes had been smashed and repaired in the episode of 6-8 March 2018 (see above in this Chronicle), and the other two had been intact for decades. There was no evidence that the would-be invader had entered the building; alarm was properly armed and had not been set off.

The AA person who discovered the abundant glass fragments and blood spatters called Louisa, and she and I went to the church and notified the YPD, who filled out a form and departed after a few minutes' examination of the scene. I cleaned up glass bits and blood inside the building, using broom and vacuum. Early-arriving AA people gave valuable assistance. Joseph was notified of the incident and came to the Church; he and I trimmed a piece of plywood paneling to make a temporary covering for the window, which was secured with screws from outside the window.

This afternoon I worked on the window, removing broken glass and caulk. I got one of the panes replaced before running out of daylight. We had four panes left over from the repair efforts in March, and I got one of them installed. I considered replacing the broken glass with Lexan-type acrylic, which is very difficult to break (as in Patio doors that used to be attacked frequently before we had the Patio fence and the alarm system), but decided to use the panes on hand in the interest of a speedier repair.

The on-hand panes are a bit wider than they ought to be, so it takes some effort to trim the wood mullions, but one of the vacant pane-spaces is almost done, and if we have no rain tomorrow I should be able to finish the repair then. I propose to reinforce the window with a **metal grating installed on the inside**. It won't be conspicuous from outdoors, and nobody looks up at that window from the hallway. (When I explained the attempted intrusion in March, everyone's response was "What window?") If a miscreant is looking into the window from outdoors, the grating should make it look like an even more unpromising entry point than it already is.

We'll need to do some cosmetic work, getting the putty properly applied, primed, and painted. We also need to attempt to obscure the blood-spatter on sidewalks, and to scrub--and probably repaint--some of the indoor wall near the window. We don't have a Work Party till the 19th, so I'd welcome some volunteer assistance before then.

This repair should be easier than the one in March because there were no wood mullions broken, it's not snowing, and I won't be using semi-petrified window putty.

This problem should be considered by the Security Committee, if we had one.

Work Party 13 Oct. 2018. This one was directed by Jim Morgan, who agreed to run the show when I had to be away. I don't have a roster of who showed up, and cannot find the paper that was given to me after my return. So: oral tradition filtered through uncertain memory. (November 15, 2018).

We can be certain that Bob Seibold and others did some work on weeds and other vegetation.

Jim Rak cleaned up and greatly improved the caulk and paint on the repaired window (see above).

The square bistro tables in Channing have at last been tightened up. (On 11 Nov., one of the RE kids showed me a floor-protecting insert from a bistro base, which I reinstalled; unfortunately another one on the same chair was missing, probably having worked loose and been discarded by some unenlightened person. I've applied an ugly duct-tape patch to keep the table from gouging our wooden floor.)

Work Party 17 Nov. 2018. Present: Edna Annabel, Margaret Felice, Roger La Fontaine, .Ralph Malmer, Jim Rak, Bob Seibold.

Edna, Bob, Ralph, and others spent some time helping set up tables for the next day's Church Thanksgiving repast. B&G stayed out of the Fall Room and set up our agenda, coffee and donuts in Channing.

Removed three empty boxes from 2d-floor Supply Closet and recycled them.

The day was relatively dry, so Jim got a lot of leaves dealt with.

Ralph and Edna worked on the peeling paint in the **Choir Loft**, concentrating on the wall facing the stairs from the loft. Ralph discovered some dampness in the wall, and Jim ascended to the attic/steeple basement, where he found some **seepage** through the brick wall that served as the base for the late lamented steeple, and will serve to support the cupola when it arrives. He spent a long time applying hydraulic cement to fight the seepage. It seems likely that there is a problem with the flashing at the junction between the shingled roof and the brick structure. **Nobody from our Buildings and Grounds Committee is going to climb on the high, steeply-angled roof to work on this problem and we shall have to resort to professionals and hope for a dry day.**

We had hoped to cover the scraped area with primer, but ran out of time. There is a lot more scraping, priming, and painting to be done, inside the former Sound Room and on the stairway side of the Choir Loft door.

On the brighter side, Edna discovered a splendid **big wooden cutting board** in the Kitchen. She was helping put away items in support of the turkey workers, and found the custom-made cutting board in a neat previously-unsuspected niche in the island cabinet which is, coincidentally, labeled "Cutting Boards." It has been there since the island was constructed some years ago during the Kitchen renovation.

Work Party 15 Dec. 2018. Present: Bob Seibold, Martin Berger. Kadey Kimpel and Louisa Berger were present for non-B&G activities.

Low turnout probably results from seasonal distractions; in the past we've usually skipped the December Work Party, but this year Bob wanted to do one in the hope of a dry day that would permit cleaning-up of leaves. (And we did have a nice dry day!) I made it only because our Treasurer and my wife reminded me that it was scheduled.

I spent some time on **Kitchen cleanup**--three dirty airpots were on the counter and one percolator was missing its carafe. I found a carafe in the Fall Room and labeled it to match the unnumbered percolator that had "DC" marked on it. Clocks on the stoves were off (c. ten minutes slow) but no Power Failure indicators were on. Kadey and Louisa agreed on transferring a small cake (both petrified and moldy) from the fridge to the compost container.

I removed the motion-activated light from the vestibule of the Women's Restroom, replaced its six AA batteries, marked the replacement date and added hints for removing the light from the wall, and reattached it. [I have since replaced the batteries in the Office drawer.]

Bob and I moved the hoses from the RE Wing East side and the Patio and carried them to the Boiler Room to warm up and permit draining and coiling for Winter storage. The longer hose has major kinks and may require replacement in Spring.

I assisted Bob with **leaf-raking**. Jim Rak had reduced the leaves by running the mower over the lawn on several previous visits, mulching them into fragments small enough to merge into the grass, but the area around the big tree on the Elm Street lawn was too deeply buried in leaves for mulching in place. We used the wheelbarrow and dumped leaves into the fenced area on the

North end of the RE Wing. The padlock on the gate to the dumping ground was well lubricated but its combination was very hard to read. I worked over the numbers with a wire brush to brighten them.

As we were working on the lock I noticed that the **North RE door** was ajar. I was distressed that the new **SOS alarm system had allowed the system to register as armed when a door was unsecured**, but found that there had never been a sensor installed on that door when the old ADT alarm system was installed. So, the problem isn't the fault of SOS, whose installers did what they were paid to do and connected to all the existing door-sensors. This blunder needs to be rectified.

[The door itself was almost impossible to close, thanks to damp-caused swelling of the door. I brought a belt sander on the next day, Sunday 15 Dec., and ground off as much as a quarter-inch of wood. The copper sealing strip on the jamb was so badly damaged in places that parts had to amputated with the multipurpose buzzy cutter. The door isn't properly fixed because the spar varnish that needs to be applied to prevent further dampness and swelling requires 50-degree temperature and 6-8 hours of drying time.]

Bob and I finished the leaf-collecting. I noted that the piles of mulch and future-mulch branches to be ground had been **buried under branches**, and will prepare and hang signs indicating where the mulch material belongs.

As we moved leaves to their resting place I noted that the Trash and Recycling receptacles were overfilled and that unprotected plastic bags of refuse were on the ground, vulnerable to critter assault. Further investigation revealed major violations of Trash/Recycling policy by renters, and required that I spend over an hour removing garbage from recycling bags, washing recyclables that had been slimed, etc. I took home some recyclables and trash to add to our household devil-strip collections, and have written up the incident for the Church Office [which has since discussed the problem with the renters and made a deduction from their security deposit].

Four donuts were left over and labeled for Coffee Hour on the 16th. Back to normal Work-Party turnout and activities in the New Year, I hope. Thanks to all who have helped during 2018. Happy Festivus.

Handrail, Sanctuary. December 18, 2018. There have been requests that we install a railing to assist persons who find it challenging to get from the Sanctuary floor to the raised area that contains the pulpit, etc. Marcellene Hawk-Mayhall, our musician, had said that a simple rail attached to the side of the pulpit would suffice, but I did not get around to making that simple installation. Ralph Malmer and David Jones have since decided on a more solid approach, with tails on both sides of the stairs, and the Board has approved their project.

Handrail, Sidewalk. It has also been suggested that we should have a single railing on the devil-strip where the short bit of sidewalk leads to the Illinois Avenue stairs. I'll try to get an estimate for this.