

1st UU Buildings & Grounds Chronicle, 2019.

New info added at bottom of document. To find particular topics, use Search or Find function. Please advise B&G Chair (Martin Berger, saabmb@yahoo.com) 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.]

Chronicle entries are composed by B&G Chair (MB) unless otherwise noted.

Work Party 19 Jan 2019.

Present: Susan Alexander, Edna Annabell, Louisa Berger, Martin Berger, Randy Cox, Marguerite Felice, Jim Rak.

Despite ominous weather predictions, only 3 to 4 inches of snow had arrived in the morning. (More came later, in afternoon and overnight.) I had set up coffee, labeled some abandoned items found in the Kitchen and Channing Hall, and opened the box of donuts by 9:45, and expected that nobody would turn out because of the expected snowstorm; Marguerite was first to appear. She did some shoveling and began sweeping the upward-bound stairs from the Elm Street entry. She may have done more elsewhere, but worked self-directed as she does when weeding in warmer seasons. Louisa found places to put away most of the stuff that had been left on the table in the Fall Room, and then went to work on Office duties.

As others arrived, our snowblower and hand-shovelers **cleared the walks** quickly. [Everything was buried anew under more snow the next morning, but digging out then was easier because we had removed the first layer.] Now we have more people who know where the snowblower is kept, and how to get the machine out of the Cave, start it, and run it.

Edna and I replaced an **exit-sign bulb** in the Fall Room and reinstalled a plastic lens that had been hanging down from one of the Fall Room ceiling fixtures. Edna vacuumed the Office and some other spaces that aren't on our cleaning service's menu of tasks.

Several people assisted with coiling and hanging up one of the **hoses** that had been carried into the Boiler Room a couple of weeks earlier and left on the floor to warm up enough to coil and put away. The other hose, cheap and badly kinked, was discarded. Now when we need to get at something stored in the Boiler Room or deal with some crisis there, the hoses won't be a tripping hazard.

Of the several long-undone items on the B&G to-do list, **handrails** was the only one that was actively addressed at this Work Party. The short handrail on the East side of the Illinois entryway was doable in the time available, once Jim found the brackets that had been buried under a layer of rags in the Fall Room. A piece of leftover or donated wood railing was installed under the window and above the radiator so that there's now a solid rail to grab onto while going in or out the entryway. Other handrails were discussed--in the Illinois stairwells, to provide a solid grab on both sides of the stairs, and also in the Boiler Room. The latter was recommended by a Fire inspector, and is tricky to set up because of pipes and other obstacles. Randy is acquainted with a variety of materials, building-code standards, and procedures with which we haven't been aware. I look forward to many interesting discussions as we consider possibilities, resources, etc.

Jim had brought in some **waterproofing cement** a few weeks ago, and he and Randy applied some of that in the Boiler Room around the bottom of the stairs leading down from the Kitchen. There has long been water infiltration there, constituting much of the inflow that keeps out sump pumps busy. We shall see how effective the cement is in reducing the inflow. I left the Church c. 12:55, leaving Jim and Randy still at work.

Randy noticed **water leaking from the corner of the Porch Roof**. Someone will have to crawl into the roof and look into this when it's warmer.

All in all, a very useful Work Party, far exceeding expectations. A promising start for B&G 2019.

Four donuts were left for the next day's Coffee Hour.

Water Problem. 12 Feb. Shortly after a meeting began in Channing Hall, c. 7 PM, I heard water gurgling inside the South wall, near the elevator door. I removed the decorative screen over the radiator niche and determined that there was indeed water gushing through the exterior wall, below the insulating/reflective shield behind the radiator. The radiator itself was not the source of the water; I could not reach the bottom of the radiator compartment, but the air in the niche was cold. The water did not spill out onto the Channing floor, and apparently was running beneath the floor onto the dirt/mud surface beneath the wood that supports the floor. Unable to

do anything about the water, I returned my attention to the meeting. The noise from the water abated, resumed, and abated again.

We cannot see anything in the dark, and cannot climb ladders in slippery conditions to investigate outside, but my guess at present is that the downspout outside the window/radiator area is involved. Outdoor temperature had been above freezing for a day or two, before which there had been a hard freeze; perhaps water from the roof had been blocked into the roof gutter and/or downspout, and released by thawing. A tall column of water would generate enough force to overload the drains.

Several weeks ago Jim Rak worked on the downspout, which has been known to come apart. When weather permits, we need to examine the spout and drains, and may need to have some professional work done on the wall and the drainage system. [Two blockages were unstuck with high-pressure water by Morris Drain. Water under the floor seems to have caused some warping of Channing floorboards.]

Work Party, 16 Feb. Present: Edna Annabel, Louisa and Martin Berger, Michael Harvey, Jim Rak, Jim Rogers, Ellen and Lowell Satre, Bob Seibold, Lisbeth White.

Satres cleaned wax drippings from candleholders, Edna cleaned and sanded the wood under the West window inside the Illinois vestibule (now ready for priming and painting) Some overdue cleaning was done.

Most of the collective effort was spent on the above-listed water problem. One exterior drain (outside the vestibule window) was clogged and overgrown with weeds; it was cleaned out using the big shopvac and determined hand work (Michael being the guy in the hole and doing the dirtiest work). Rak's electric snake failed to deal with the clog, which is lower than the snake could reach. We installed screening to reduce future clogging, but will have to bring out the drain-clearing service. It is unclear how the drainage from the porch and old-building roofs is routed underground. When the drain is cleared, we should have little trouble with rain and snow-melt overwhelming the drain system and forcing its way into Channing Hall.

A lot of hard work done with not much to show for it thus far, but we learned some things about the water problem. A useful Work Party. No donuts left over.

Downspout, Illinois Door. February 24, 2019. On Friday 22 Feb., I was notified that the spouting at the right side of the vestibule had come apart. I was able so shove it back into place, but noted that the apparatus that I had previously made to prevent the lower part of the spout from sliding downward had been torn apart. (Presumably human damage--raccoons don't eat aluminum.) I'll repair the gizmo and contemplate additional measures to prevent attacks on the spout.

Cupola. February 24, 2019. The long-awaited cupola arrived and was installed on Monday 18 February. Flashing around the base was completed on Friday 22 Feb. Internal bits (sound and

light) will no doubt take a while, but it is comforting to have the post-steeple stump topped by an appropriate structure after about five years of flatness. Apart from attendance at numerous planning meetings, B&G involvement in the Cupola Project has been modest. Sometimes it is a good thing to watch competent professionals do work that is far beyond the capabilities of B&G.

Tree. February 24, 2019. Heather reports that when she left the office late this windy afternoon, one of the trees along the East side of the Church had fallen and was leaning against the RE Wing, near the spot where the Trash and Recycling bins are stored. (Randy Jones told me some years ago, if I recall correctly, that the trees are hemlocks, and of about the same mid-1920s vintage as the original Church building.) I'll take a look tomorrow afternoon. [Tree was smaller in diameter than its fellows, and thoroughly dried out, obviously having been dead for some years. It was easily cut up and carted away.]

Work Party, 16 March. Present: Louisa and Martin Berger, Marguerite Felice, Michael Harvey, Jim Rak, Jim Rogers, Ellen and Lowell Satre.

I got to Church at 9 AM, made coffee, and moved from the Fall Room table to Kitchen a bag labeled "Hospitality #4." I also put away some dishes and mugs left in Kitchen drying rack and replaced the battery in Kitchen wall clock. (Someone had evidently noticed that the clock wasn't running, removed the dead battery, and re-hung the batteryless clock.) I also removed from the Boiler Room the electric heater deployed during a particularly cold period to prevent freezing of condensate lines and shutoff of the RE furnaces.

Louisa worked in Office. Jim Rak, Harvey, and I installed the heavy steel **grille over the window-well** at the SW corner of the building, near the porch. We trimmed quarter-inch hardware cloth to keep leaves and other crud out of the well and attached the screen to the grille with wire provided by Jim. The steel piece that supports the rear of the grille should be trimmed and painted to neaten up the installation, on some warmer day.

Jim and Harvey also ascended to the **roof** of the RE Wing and swept branches away, checking the gutter drains and using Jim's long-reach lopper to reduce the number of branches hanging over the roof from the trees on the East side of the RE Wing. Silicon caulk was applied to some minor shingle damage. The roof-fixers reported an unexplained tangle of wires, evidently left by someone doing wire work during the months since we were on the roof.

The lopping of overhanging limbs produced an increased **mess of branches on the ground**. We had intended to grind into mulch limbs already piled along the East side of the building, but our plan of hauling Gary Davenport's chipper-shredder failed because the machine was not willing to work. My shredder (older and less powerful than Gary's) couldn't be fetched because my ramps had been taken to Gary's.

The state of the **mulch pile** remains disordered. Someone in the Fall had covered the ground-up, ready-to-use mulch with branches and weeds, and a further deposit of branches had been deposited atop both the Mulch and Future Mulch piles. Some of the accumulated stuff to be

ground may be transported to Gary's for grinding, since the branches are lighter than the machine, but we had no time to pursue that option. (My station wagon is out of commission at the moment, and when it is ready to return to work we may move more branches.) I had prepared signs to label the mulch and branch piles, but it's difficult to get to the wall because of the mess, and we ran out of time.

Harvey, both Jims, and I visited the new **Cupola** in search of the multipurpose ladder that had disappeared from the Fall Room. We measured to determine how much length is required for a proper firmly-attached ladder for Cupola access; someone will have a suitable extra ladder of 12-foot length. Our ladder was returned to its proper location in the Fall Room.

Satres checked the **exit signs**, replacing three bulbs and reinserting one bulb that was dark because of insufficient tightening. They also found closet space for some items that had been in the Office.

Jim Rogers cleaned windowsills, etc., in Channing Hall (discovering candle wax on one of the trim ledges facing the Patio). Marguerite cleaned staairs from Channing to the Elm Street entry, and swept the Office, which isn't on our cleaning-service's agenda and gets little attention. Jim and Marguerite departed while I was outdoors or in the Cupola, so I'm not fully aware of their efforts.

A useful Work Party, accomplishing some fairly grueling tasks that won't be much noticed by the Congregation as a whole. All donuts were consumed.

Thanks to all participants.

Work Party, 13 April. Presdent: Louisa and Martin Berger, Harvey, Jim Rak, Jim Rogers, Bob Seibold, Lisbet White.

Jim Rogers, Harvey, and MB replaced 4 **fluorescent tubes in Men's Restroom**. We still have quite a stash of the old-style 20w tubes. Every replacement of tubes inspires longing for the eventual transition to LED fixtures that will use far less power and require less frequent replacement of bulbs.

The same group moved an empty **5-drawer file cabinet** from the Choir Loft area to the Office, and moved the 3-drawer cabinet to make room for it. Considerable time was expended in attempts to deal with weird design, strange drawer-dividers, mis-assembly from decades past, etc., on the 5-drawer file, which was modified to imperfect but functional status. Having enough drawer space will facilitate reorganization of the paper files and disposal of many unneeded items. [Rails for hanging folders were purchased and installed later in the week.]

Outdoor Work. Bob battled against **weeds**, as usual, and Jim Rak used a blower to remove dead leaves from shrubbery and from corners where a winter's worth of winds had stuffed them. No progress was achieved vs. the large accumulation of twigs, limbs, etc., in ill-sorted heaps

along the East side of the RE Wing. [A depleted fuel can was refilled and returned to the Cave early in the following week.] **Cardboard** was taken away and recycled. Most of the **snow-management** stuff (salt, rubber mat, etc.) was stowed in the Cave.

Efforts were complicated by the need to work around a meeting in Channing Hall; the B&G HQ was moved from the usual Fall Room to the posher but less conveniently-located Board Room.

A useful and necessary Work Party, accomplishing some useful tasks. Thanks to all.

Security Issues. April 21, 2019. [The Church has no Security Committee, and probably won't have one until we have a break-in or other attention-getting incident, so observations on Security are included in the B&G Chronicle for lack of another place to put them.] SOS Security, which has installed the new door-monitoring and fire-related apparatus, has put sensors on the northeast RE Wing door (nearest to the synagogue) and on the Fall Room exit door, eliminating two unmonitored and vulnerable points of entry for potential malefactors. A useful, long-overdue improvement.

Ditto, 25 April. Got alarm from SOS c. 5:30 AM. Met police; no sign of intrusion. Alarm tripped at the new sensor on the Northeast RE door, which was open. Probably door was pulled tightly-enough closed to satisfy the sensor, and then was pulled open--probably by a would-be intruder, since it wasn't windy. Door is still tight, but will close and latch if pulled firmly. Latch needs to be taken apart and lubricated, as it closes slowly--not exactly a proper snap.

Lawn Ruts, same date. Jim Rak had reminded me of the need to deal with the ruts that were left by heavy equipment during the Cupola installation, and I had reminded Jon Locketti. I met Jon c. 8:30 AM and we worked on the ruts. Jon had brought ten 40-pound bags of dirt, which did not suffice to fill the ruts; we chopped with spade and mattock at the grass and dirt that extended over the Elm Street curb and used the material hacked off. (**Grounds note: there ought not to be a two-inch mat of grass/dirt above the curb, and we should modify the profile of the devil-strip dirt along the Elm Street curb.**) We also moved the contents of two of the three compost bins to polish up the filled-in areas. Compost is excellent, and the high caffeine content produced by all the coffee grounds should wake up the lawn. The tire on the metal wheelbarrow was very low; I reinflated it on the 26th. It will probably need a tube, or at least a patch.

Dishwasher, 13 May. Dishwasher wasn't working on Sunday 5 May. Motor ran when appropriate controls were switched on, but no water was spraying. Tech (Allen) came Tuesday 7 May and determined that the pulley and pump were dead. Cost for the pump is \$1342, for pulley \$103. Parts were ordered, and were expected in 7-10 days. [Why don't we just get a new machine? Because a household dishwasher takes about an hour to run a load, and the commercial-grade unit takes about a minute and a half. Anyone who can't fathom the difference is invited to help operate the dishwasher at any Coffee Hour after the repair has been made. We have several people who know how to work the dishwasher, but it's always good to have more. A new dishwasher of the type that we have would cost somewhere between \$14,000 and \$17,000.]

Mower, c. 8 May. Jim Rak, who has been doing almost all the mowing (and who needs to share the job with somebodies else), reported that the mower had died. I took it to a repair shop, where it was pronounced not worth repairing--no compression in the motor. I need to retrieve the corpse from the shop so that Jim can get another autopsy performed, and we need a new mower. Jim and I will decide on a replacement. The Toro mower was only about three years old, and ran fine till it didn't. [Further developments, May 19, 2019: Jim retrieved the mower, he and Phil rigged a different spring in the fuel-system works, and the mower revived enough to cut more than half the lawn. It then quit again, and my mower had to assist in order to finish the mowing. A potential donated mower is now said to be in need of repair and suitable as a backup, maybe.]

Porch Pillars. May 19, 2019. In preparation for this year's OhioCan event (drug-epidemic rally for survivors and bereaved), I went to Church Friday to assist with hanging the large banner that ihas for the last few years been strung between the southernmost porch pillars. Last year we installed screw-eyes in the pillars to make the banner-hanging easier; this year we found that someone had removed the screw-eyes and I was obliged to drive unsightly nails into the wooden pillars. I am at a loss to imagine why someone would have gone to the trouble of removing the screw-eyes. The cord that we used last year was missing from the banner, and I got good nylon rope from the Fall Room instead; the rope is now missing.

Work Party, May 18. Rain was predicted, and the Work Party limited in where we could do stuff because of OhioCan and the return of **Farmers' Market** to the Church. My e-mails to B&G workers noted these likely problems and may have contributed to the lightness of the turnout.

Present: Martin Berger, Louisa Berger (in Office), Heather Best, Kadey Kimpel, Jim Rak, Bob Seibold. I arrived about 8:30 AM, made coffee, set up headquarters in the Board Room (one of very few rooms not used for OhioCan activities), and attached a new **hose** to the spigot in the Patio. No sprayer head, but Jim or I will probably find an extra one at home. **[There's one in the Fall Room that needs to be installed on the new hose.]**

As expected, we spent most of our efforts on the Northeast corner of the Church, working on the **RE Wing door** and the mess of branches left from previous trimming work. I had spent some time with a small belt-sander and other tools, removing swollen wood that had made the door almost impossible to close. Jim did additional trimming with a circular orbital sander and an angle grinder, removing some material from the bottom of the door. Eventually Jim's angle-grinder disk shattered, wounding his hand. He went off to another engagement with his hand stuck together with some of the Church's band-aids. I applied Deft to the sanded portions of the door in order to reduce absorption of water and renewed wood-swelling. The door shuts fairly well now; the latch still needs work, as its tongue does not pop out unless the crash bar is lifted. The door needs priming and painting, soon.

Jim had helped me move my chipper-shredder to Church on Friday, and with assistance from Bob and Heather, we ground up two loads of **mulch**, removing most of the branches that had been piled atop the pile that is supposed to consist of ground-up, finished mulch. (Heather

had to leave after determining that dust from the grinder was causing respiratory distress. Her departure plus Jim's wounding represent the highest casualty rate in recorded B&G history.) When we get the rest of the un-ground vegetable matter off the mulch pile, we'll have a proper place to put the large quantities of mulch that will result from grinding the rest of the limbs, stalks, etc. (Most of the future mulch has been trimmed with loppers so that it can be fed to the machine without choking it.)

The signs designating MULCH and FUTURE MULCH that I prepared a month or two ago are still uninstalled, because the piles of stuff are too unstable to stand on while affixing signs to the building.

Kadey arrived as Bob and I were closing down operations and helped put away stuff. She and Heather have discussed improvements to be made along the East side of the building once the rest of the branches are cleared away; in addition to blasting poison ivy and removing weeds, the hostas are to be rearranged and mulch deployed around them. People may be invited to adopt and care for particular hostas. Kadey also hopes to deal with the horrendously neglected and jungled-out square in the Patio.

Mower. June 8, 2019. After protracted delays while the dead mower was autopsied, replacement options considered, etc., we purchased a new Honda self-propelled mower. It seems to work fine thus far, and is less hassle than hauling my mower to Church. I used it yesterday and today. The hardwood ramps built for getting the snowblower in and out of the Cave work well for storing and unloading the mower.

Dishwasher. June 8, 2019. Sometime in late May the pump for the dishwasher arrived and was installed. Heather asked the installer whether there was any indication that we had done anything to cause the part's failure; the response was that it had just got old and worn out. I can sympathize with that.

Mulch. June 8, 2019. I have made a few visits to Church to use my chipper-shredder, which has been sitting inside the Northeast RE door. It is slow work, since the many branches to be ground up are widely dispersed and some of them seem to have evolved to be a nuisance to grind. In addition to the well-known thorny pokeyoureyeout trees on the Illinois devil-strip, there's something that appears to have been designed by Dr. Seuss under the influence of bad chemicals, and needs to be cut or broken into small bits before it will go into the grinder. If we had one person to assist, the grinding process would go about twice as fast, and I could take my chipper-shredder home.

Work Party, 15 June. I'll send out a reminder soon. It would be nice if we could deal with some issues beyond the same piles of vegetation that have constituted a mess since last Fall. It would be useful to have string trimmer to deal with grass and weeds around signs, utility poles, etc.

Work Party, 15 June. Present: Edna Annabelle, Joseph Boyd, Margaret Felice, Roger La Fontaine, Jim Rak, Bob Seibold, Martin Berger..

Building: I got to church about 9:15 and cleared off the work table in the Fall Room. A crock pot and many other items had been on the table for several weeks; flower vases were put among similar items, and the box of potato chips in small bags was moved to the top of the fridge. I also made coffee and broke down two Equal Exchange boxes left in the Fall Room.

Roger and Edna moved the **name-tag rack** to Channing and Joseph and Roger cleared out tables left up in Channing, creating space for chairs to be arranged for the **first downstairs service** of the season. Chalice and lectern were deployed.

Grounds: Edna blasted **poison ivy** and weeded. Bob and Marguerite weeded and Roger mowed. Bob cleared crud from drains along the south (Illinois Ave.) side of the building, incurring a one-bandaid wound as he reattached mesh with the staple gun.

Jim moved brush to consolidate it for chipping-shredding and patched damaged **concrete**. I ran the shredder, grinding two bags of mulch and eliminating nearly all the long-neglected brush. Bob helped get the shredder into my vehicle, so it no longer occupies the landing inside the northeast RE door. The signs indicating which pile is mulch and which is future mulch are still uninstalled.

Roger mowed--another positive review for the new mower.

In all, a useful Work Party, distinguished by efficient use of time and effort. Thanks to all.

Grounds, cont'd. July 11, 2019. Since the Work Party, Kadey has weeded and Edna has wielded her string trimmer. I mowed Monday and Tuesday, 8/9 July (**mowing** hadn't been done the previous week, and the lawn looked shabby on Sunday 7 July). I noted that in the Patio, the north (synagogue) portion of the **steeply-sloped area** that leads up toward the fence/bushes line is difficult and somewhat dangerous to mow despite the biggish, engine-driven rear wheels of the new mower. I've consulted with Kadey, who agreed that we ought to eliminate the grass on that difficult sloped area and plant an appropriate ground cover (pachysandra). I'll devise pegs to hold cardboard in place and begin using cardboard on hand to get the process started. The southern bank (toward YSU) is already covered with mixed greenery and doesn't require mowing. If we can make mowing a somewhat less taxing process, we might be able to recruit more people do it.

B&G Closet. On Monday 8 July I discovered that the **B&G Closet** (below the stairs leading from Channing to the Elm Street entry) had been flooded--probably a bit more than an inch. This probably reflects a blockage in the downspout outside the closet, or an incursion of leaves into the window-well. I believe that we checked the window-well in the Fall, but we need to look at it again. I'd prefer to do this with another person. [Jim Rak has removed more crud from closet

floor and left a fan running to evaporate more water, Looks better in the closet than it has for years, but there's still a bit of puddle on the floor. July 20, 2019.]

Exit-Sign Bulbs. I've ordered more LED exit-sign bulbs. Menards had one of the sizes last year but doesn't have any now. The 2-watt replacements cost about \$5, or about the same as the 15- or 20-watt incandescents, and should last a great deal longer.

Projects. I've checked in with our source for **Sanctuary storm windows**. He had been delayed by searching for large sheets of polycarbonate, which he has now found. I hope to get an actual quote soon, for Board consideration. The terrible **driveway to the Illinois entrance** still needs to be done; the projecting manhole cover endangers vehicles, and the ragged, part-concrete drive is disgusting. I've spoken with Rev. Gary Frost, who's still working on getting the property across Illinois going, and he said that he'd be ok with our striping the asphalt-crumb lot where the ruined building was taken down. At present, on a Sunday with high attendance, some of that lot is unusable because people park so as to block access to other vehicles. If we do the yellow-line thing we may get some degree of cooperation and have more actually-usable parking space.

Sloped Area in Patio, Facing Elm Street. Kadey and I worked Monday and Tuesday, 15-16 July, and sprayed vegetation-killer, which we overlaid with newspaper and corrugated cardboard. Kadey bought staples made for such purposes at Harbor Freight; we used a lot of them but more remain in a box in the B&G Closet. Plan is to lay mulch over the cardboard, sometime after a Dark Age finishes off the vegetation, and then plant ground cover that shouldn't require mowing. There are some ideas as to how to keep the mulch from sliding down the cardboard-covered surface. We have many offers of free pachysandra for when we are ready to plant.

Work Party, 20 July. Present: Marguerite Felice, Jim Rak, Bob Seibold, Lisbet White,, MB.

A small turnout, which was reasonable in view of predicted and actual high temperatures--a good Work Party to miss. It was cooler than expected at first, thanks to an early fierce thunderstorm, which soon boiled away. Interesting that some of those who did make it did so despite considerable distance and storms.

Marguerite was first to arrive, and began cleaning up in the Patio. (A Sweet Sixteen party was scheduled for 4 PM, and its organizers intended to use the Patio, so we started there.) She had to leave early, because of a car crash involving her husband Roger La Fontaine. Bob began weeding in the low area along the South (Illinois Ave) side, where crabgrass had established itself among the juniper ground cover. Apart from a brief diversion to assist me with the Mulch signs (see below), Bob broiled for far too long.

Jim used his string trimmer to clean up weeds in the Patio.

The Mulch signs that I made several months ago were finally secured to the wall above the Mulch and To-be Ground piles along the East side of the RE Wing.

I replaced one bulb in the 2d-floor RE hallway and attempted to deal with the nonfunctioning fluorescent light in the Kitchen ceiling near the dishwasher. The fixture has two U-shaped 40w bulbs which are a freak and probably hard-to-find item, and should be replaced by an LED to replace the fluorescents and use about 10% as much electricity. Jim reinstalled the tubes and they worked., so the LED upgrade can wait.

The missing trash can from the 2d-floor RE hall was found in Channing Hall near the elevator and moved to its proper place.

Missing in Action. Two of our excellent 6-way screwdrivers, which we obtain free from Harbor Freight when they're the freebie item, are missing. A few weeks ago I bought three new converters for using 3-wire cords in 2-wire outlets, to replace items that have been disappeared from the Kitchen tool drawer. I believe that such disappearances of useful and necessary items are generally not the result of deliberate theft, or poltergeist activity, but of inattention and confusion.

This was a successful Work Party, producing some minor accomplishments in the face of wretched weather. Some donuts were left for Hospitality Committee.

Tripping Strip, Channing Hallway, 2 Aug. During prep for the Staughton and Alice Lynd event on the 3d, I was called about the aluminum transition strip between the Channing wood floor and the tile in the hallway leading to the RE hall. The strip had been nailed in, but had risen about 3/16 inches, two inches from the right (South) door jamb, where the nail had gone into the junction between two wooden floor-planks. The strip has been ironed out with a hammer and two nails replaced with 1 3/8-inch drywall screws (countersunk into the aluminum). Seems solid.**Coffee Apparatus. 3 Aug.** While assisting with dishwashing, etc., at the Lynd event, I discovered that we were short two or three airpot carafes. I assumed that they had been broken and surreptitiously pitched out, or stolen, and ordered two new carafes online. On Sunday, 4 August, I learned that two carafes had been taken home a week earlier so that an oversupply of coffee shouldn't be wasted.

Here's a summary of the airpot-carafe system. We have had several of the glass-lined carafes broken in the years since Matt introduced the generally satisfactory airpot system. Carafes have been bought from different suppliers, which is why the carafes and their stems are numbered in yellow paint so that the parts will match up and work. The glass-lined carafes can be bought for a bit less than \$20. The all-stainless ones cost around \$30, but are far more likely to survive being dropped. The airpot carafes are stored on the metal cart that lives to the right of the stoves, and the pump units are supposed to be stored in the same-numbered carafes. The serious carafes (with pump action) are the only ones that work with the airpot coffeemaker. They should NOT be taken away from the Church. (They are subject to falling over in the car and are not leakproof.) The smaller insulated carafes, including the white plastic jug labeled "hot water for tea," that must be tilted to pour their contents, should be used to take surplus coffee home.

Toilet Seat, Women's Restroom. 3-4 Aug. A responsible member of the congregation notified me on Saturday that there was a broken seat in the Women's restroom. It must have been at least partially broken

for some time. Saturday's report was the first that B&G was notified. I bought a replacement seat Saturday afternoon and installed it Sunday morning.

Kitchen Refrigerator – Icemaker. 3 Aug. During the Lynd event, someone messed with the icemaker and left ice all over the freezer compartment. When I cleared away the ice, with assistance from Jeanne Tucker, the icemaker did not resume production of ice, and I have no idea why that might be. The wire bail that senses the height of the ice supply was duly set to run. Some resumption of ice making had taken place by the morning of Sunday 4 August; this will have to be monitored, and if production doesn't return to normal, a fixer will have to be summoned.

Work Party 17 August. Present: Jim Morgan, Bob Seibold, MB.

We began by moving Channing tables and chairs, left in nonstandard locations after a rental activity, to clear space for a Religious Educating meeting. (Afterward we--mostly Bob--set up chairs for the Sunday service.)

Rain was anticipated, so Jim and I concentrated on **Patio vegetation** first. We trimmed the bushes along the fence facing Elm Street, using the multiple-use ladder to good advantage. The bushes had been trimmed thoroughly last summer, and were not as difficult to manage as at some times in the past. Some vegetation mixed in with the bushes was lopped and removed.

The sharply-banked area inside the hedge, on the north side of the Patio, looked untidy because some of the cardboard laid on to kill vegetation in preparation for planting ground cover had been torn away. Jim suggested that we use some of the ceiling tile that has been moldering and taking up space to add a layer above the cardboard, and we did so. [Kadey Kimpel has since said that it's almost time to plant pachysandra, and thqt addition of the ceiling tile was unnecessary. For the moment, the bank looks less cruddy than it did, and will in any case the tile will soon melt. We'll solicit donations of pachysandra and install the plants through holes cut in the tile/cardboard layers.]

Someone had asked that we **mow** the level area of the Patio, which we did. We now have a pair of steel ramps, which should facilitate moving the mower into and out of the Patio, but I forgot to get them out..

Bob **weeded**, mostly along the sidewalk near the south (Illinois Avenue) side of the building.

I replaced a bulb in the 2d-floor RE Hallway, and one in a Channing Hall ceiling fan. I also spent considerable time in the Office unclogging our paper-shredder.

As Work Parties go, this one lacked memorable accomplishments but got some necessary work

done. Thanks to both of the loyal volunteers.

Work Party 21 Sept. 2019. Present: Marguerite Felice, Tim Ingram, Kadey Kimpel, Roger LaFontaine, Jim Morgan, Jim Rak, Bob Seibold, Martin Berger.

I arrived c. 9:20, set up coffee and donuts in Fall Room, and put up signs directing people to the Work Party HQ in the Fall Room.

In the **Patio**, I began clearing space for moving the black plywood **stage-floor sections** out of the portico, where they had been stored for some time. I had heard rumors that unspecified persons (still unidentified) wanted to trash the stage parts, which had been unused for a long time. The trash and recycling cans had been trashed--someone had removed the plastic bags that are supposed to be used, and both cans were partially filled with crud that appeared to have been there for some time, and the recycling container had been moved out from the portico to permit rain to sog up the contents. Tim arrived, and with the assistance of Bill, a young man who was at the Church in connection with Farmers' Market, managed to move the three heavy sections of stage to the Channing Chair Closet. The larger of our two Harbor Freight dollies was useful in this effort.

In order to move stuff into the Chair Closet, we had to move considerable stuff out of the way. The chair-caddies are easy to move (though one of them had chairs flung onto it in disorder), but against the right (south) wall of the Chair Closet quite a bit of crud had been crammed in: notably a large bulletin board (which was covered in thumbtacked items from several years ago and was falling apart) and a lot of random cardboard.

The stage sections were fitted into the resulting space, as they used to be each Fall when we had many outdoor events in the Patio. I installed a supporting cord to prevent the sections from toppling over, and the chair-caddies were put back in the closet.

The **Bulletin Board** was put back together, and after the Work Party was over, Diana Palardy and I carried it to the 1st-floor RE Youth Room.

In the upper Patio, the **sloped section of lawn** between the sidewalk and Rodef Sholom had been covered with various materials to kill grass and weeds and prepare for planting of pachysandra ground cover (see previous entries). Originally Kadey and I covered the area with newspaper, and at the August Work Party Jim and I applied an additional layer of ceiling tiles what were crumbling and being ugly in the portico, the better to suppress flapping of the newspaper. Some people have complained that the ceiling tiles will leach unspecified nasty chemicals into the soil, so this time we removed the ceiling tiles (saving the pins shaped like small, very narrow croquet

wickets), loaded them into my car, and delivered them to an industrial dumpster that we have been allowed to use for some years. Kadey intends to plant pachysandra (which some individuals have promised to donate) at 8-inch intervals punched through the newspaper layer. The plan is that the pachysandra will expand and take over, and the bank will no longer be a grassy thing that requires mowing, nor an unsightly mass of weeds.

While Bob and I were away flinging tiles into the dumpster, a hunk of the **old steeple** was cut up. I had been saving it as a memento of the steeple--one of the columns that fell off on its own before the eventual removal of the steeple. The hunk of steeple had been put in the Board Room to remind the Board that gravity would eventually win out in a messy way if nothing was done about the crumbling steeple. I need to label the remaining bit of steeple and stash it somewhere out of the way.

Some of the **black-eyed susans** were moved away from the front of the Wayside Pulpit sign. There is some disagreement as to whether they should be relocated to the square patch of dirt surrounded by concrete in the Patio. Their propensity to expand their area, as demonstrated around the sign, would seem to be contained by concrete in the Patio.

Outdoors, Bob **weeded** as usual and trimmed some menacing eye-poking branches from the hawthornes in the Illinois Ave. devil strip. Marguerite and Roger trimmed and mulched around the **crabapple tree** near the Illinois door. Kadey and Tim amputated shoots around the "Children's Tree" on the other side of the lawn outside the Illinois door.

Tim noted the delamination of the **bottom portion of the plywood exit door from the Fall Room**. The door was installed to replace the original rusted-out steel door; at that time the door company's estimator assured us that the plywood door would hold up fine, and the installer shook his head. The installer was right. Tim and I will cut away the bottom 4 inches or so of peeling plywood, apply sealer, and install a corrosion-proof metal layer in its place.

A fine Work Party. If we always had this many diligent, competent people show up, we'd be in a better world, at least at 1105 Elm Street.

HVAC. September 26, 2019. As the summer fades away, we've got the air conditioning working again in the RE Wing. The downstairs AC was set at the thermostat to keep it from turning itself on when there was nobody around; the upstairs required a new part and new coolant. The boiler, which has had unsightly oozing, seeping pipes, is now at last scheduled to be fixed so that it won't fail or fail an inspection and be shut down in the Winter.

Kitchen/Coffee. October 1, 2019. On Sunday, 29 Sept., there was a problem with the airpot coffeemaker. As it was reported to me, water came out the back of the device and the Hospitality team made coffee with the percolator and/or the small drip devices. I have since spoken with Susie Beiersdorfer, who was attempting to make the coffee and verified that the water emerged from the stainless-steel machine. Yesterday I tried to reproduce the problem and could not. I removed the back plate (10 screws) and partially removed the black plastic top.

When I poured water into the top of the machine, there was no leaking--not from the top, not from the three tubes inside the tower. No leaks anywhere. I ran two airpots' worth of water through the machine, with and without the back plate attached. Still no leaks. My initial guess, that someone had used the short carafe (# 1) labeled "not for use with tall coffeemaker," but Susie said that the #1 carafe was out because it was used for serving coffee made with the small percolators and had not been used with the airpot machine.

Susie's initial hypothesis was that water came out the back because someone had left the machine full of water, so that when additional water was added it sloshed out over the top. She said that water had been dumped out before a second attempt, which also produced leakage. My current guess is that not all the water was dumped out. I'll try to observe the initial coffeemaking before next Sunday's service. I hope that we don't have to buy a new machine. [October 14, 2019-- Airpot coffeemaker has been run successfully many times, with no leaks. Seems to be clear that someone put in water and left it that way, without running it or taping a note--perhaps "water ready"--to inform others that they ought not to pour water into a full contraption. The unhappy influence of the "Car Talk" Secretary of Information, Donatello Nobody, appears once again. It's odd how when somebody discovers a new blunder, it becomes a fad for a while.]

Black-Eyed Susans. Most of the handsome flowers in front of the big metal Wayside Pulpit sign have been dug out and relocated to the square dirt-patch in the Patio concrete, thanks to Marguerite Felice, Gary Davenport, Jim Rak, and Mary June Tartan. Now the sign isn't obscured. I hope to wire-brush the rusted bits of the sign and apply primer before our next Work Party, so that we can do a recoat of the white paint.

Alarms. October 14, 2019. The SOS alarm system went crazy yesterday, refusing to allow itself to be armed, claiming that the "Back East" door was open. The sensor at the Northeast RE door is battery-powered, and the battery seemed to have plenty of charge. It is possible to override the refusal to arm. Service call to be scheduled.

Boiler. October 14, 2019. Jim Rak reports that the person who is to repair the seeping pipes (Paul) has ordered a part and will commence repair when that part arrives.

RE Office Door. October 17, 2019. Mystery Wallis, our RE Director, reported problems with 1st-floor RE doors and, more urgently, the RE Office door. This morning I found keys for the downstairs RE doors, had two more copies made. (Some years ago the original lockless latches were replaced with Kwikset locksets.)

It is not clear how the RE Office door was locked and messed up. Mystery says that she never turned the toggle to lock. Her predecessor, BeckyAnn Harker, never locked the office door. It was not a problem with the key setup; the “inside key” turned as it should, but the tongue did not move when the knob was turned. After I removed the window panel (amazingly, without breaking the wooden framing) and reached inside to determine that turning the locking toggle on the inside had no effect on the latch, I got out the box of old keyless latches to study the workings of the old (c. 1969) gadgets, which are very different from standard latch hardware. Evidently the clever connection between knob/shaft and tongue had disconnected itself from the tongue assembly. (The knobs had been loose, and that slop probably allowed the disengagement.) Jim Stone, who years ago had mastered the weird locks, assisted in analyzing the problem, but since we were unable to work on the knob, etc., from the Office side, we had to amputate the hallway-side keyed knob. We replaced it with a conventional lockset that Mystery had previously purchased. A prolonged and frustrating effort.

RE Office AC. October 17, 2019. The air conditioner in an RE Office window needs to be removed and put away. A useful thing to do at the forthcoming Work Party.

Work Party 19 Oct. Present: Marguerite Felice, Tim Ingram, Jim Morgan, Jim Rak, Bob Seibold, Mary June Tartan.

I arrived c. 9 AM, started coffee, put away items left out in Kitchen, and set out donuts. (Jim Morgan brought more donuts.) The successful (80+!) tree giveaway did not interfere with B&G activities and Farmers’ Market had moved a block South, so we didn’t bother setting up in the Fall Room.

Jim Morgan and I moved the big **lighted chalice** that Richard Palmer built several years ago from Channing Hall, where it had appeared. It had migrated into several different locations, most recently the Religious Education Office, where Mystery did not wish it to remain. We put it into the 2d-floor Youth Room (a.k.a. “Buddha Room”), behind a piece of furniture. There are a couple of bits of illuminated tubing that aren’t working, but the chalice was an eye-catcher when deployed and ought probably to be repaired and hung on the porch again. If it’s not going to be used, it ought to be disposed of, since it seems to require frequent laborious moving.

I had put on the Work Party agenda the task of removing the **window air conditioner from the RE Office**. This had been installed during the summer when the air conditioning wasn't working on the RE 2d floor. and is unnecessary now that the heating and cooling of the floor have been sorted out. Someone, probably Mystery, had already uninstalled it from the window. Jim M and I put the window AC in its place in the 2d-floor Supply Closet, after moving the box of files that someone had shelved next to the sign reserving that space for the AC unit.

Bob **weeded** diligently, as usual.

Marguerite and Mary June dug out more black-eyed susans from the area around the **big steel Wayside Pulpit sign** and replanted most of them in the Patio. I had hoped to clean up rust on the sign, now that surrounding vegetation had been cleared, but I expected that it would be too cold at the Work Party to allow any painting. The sunny day warmed up surprisingly quickly, and Jim M, Tim, and I were able to attack the rust more vigorously than in any previous sign-repair that I can recall. Primer and primer-finish paint (provided by Jim Rak, were applied, and the sign was left with its door open to dry thoroughly before closing the door on the following morning. [October 20, 2019--there is more work to do on the sign; I've removed much of the overspray and errant brushmarks from the plastic window, but some defects in the plastic door's design need attention, and the triangular black lettering area above the door needs to be removed, cleaned, and repainted because masking tape has lifted some of the cruddy black paint. Not a big deal, but tedious to do.]

Jim Rak worked on the **gutter** at the South end of the porch roof, He reported that there were holes in it, and spent a long time on the big ladder, applying some sort of special tar.

Probably next month's Work Party will spend much of the available energy dealing with leaves. there will certainly be an abundance of stuff to do. The October Work Party has been a useful one, and unlike many of our efforts, has actually accomplished something that many of the Congregation who don't take part in our maintenance and repair activities might notice.

Thanks to all.

Cupola Lights. November 16, 2019. About two weeks ago someone noticed that the cupola's illumination had gone dark. Church Office referred the problem to Tom Beck and Brian Kuzma, who had set up the lighting, and Tom noted that there must be a circuit-breaker flipped, since there are several distinct lights and they were unlikely to fail all at once. We have no records, apparently, of how the wiring was set up. I eventually recalled, dimly, that the Cupola lighting had been drawn from the relatively new wiring associated with the Elevator. I found nothing specific in the assorted breaker labeling, apart from the general label for Elevator in Box A. On

14 November I climbed into the Choir Loft attic and could find no fuses or breakers there; when I tried to climb higher, into the Cupola itself, I was foiled by the latch on the access hatch.

I reported my failure to Tom and Brian, who visited the Cupola on the 15th, found a GFI (Ground Fault Interrupter, I believe) breaker in the higher regions, and reset it. Lighting is restored. We need to write up procedure for getting into the Cupola and dealing with the lights.

Motion-Detector Light, Men's Restroom. November 17, 2019. The Men's and Women's Restrooms have small anterooms between the hallway doors and the doors to the actual restrooms. Matt Alspaugh found battery-powered lights to illuminate the anterooms while a patron enters from the hall, and these devices work ok, apart from the once-sticky tape that attaches the lights to the anteroom walls. I've attached the light on the Men's anteroom to the wall with a plastic insert and screw drilled into the mortar. Light in the Women's restroom presented a slightly more complicated task because someone had disappeared a plastic piece of the light that serves to attach it to the wall. Wire attachment device made.

Work Party November 17, 2019. Present: Louisa Berger, Cathy Kajut, Jim Rak, Lowell Satre, Bob Seibold, MB.

I arrived c. 9:30 AM with Lowell, who carried in two Equal Exchange boxes of coffee, etc. I started coffee and we began to work on the **leaves**, which were not too thick on the ground. Lowell ran the mower and succeeded in mulching many of them so that they blended into the grass. Denser concentrations were piled in the wheelbarrow and distributed in the caged area north of the RE Wing, where they may help to suppress weed growth. There were branches and flower stems in untidy heaps on the East side of the RE Wing. Branches suitable for chipper-shredder processing into mulch were trimmed and put on the future-mulch pile, while larger items went into my car for conversion into kindling, (The Church's loppers were found in the Illinois Closet, hidden behind buckets.)

We found some of the Winter-prep items, including the Holey Mat for use outside the Illinois Door on snowy days. Salt and shovels still need to be brought out of storage and deployed in time for the first blizzard of the season.

Cathy and Louisa cleaned out the Kitchen **refrigerator** and, I believe, the fridge in the Fall Room, in preparation for holiday food service. Freezer portion of the Kitchen fridge still needs some work. (That freezer has been messed with, causing the icemaker to be shut off at times and to dump extra ice on the floor of the fridge. Not clear how this problem might be resolved.)

A useful Work Party, successfully countering the annual leaf deluge. It's rewarding to have a cadre of volunteers who concentrate on the work that needs doing.

Alarms. Early-mid Dec. We've had a series of alarm codes that registered as "FRONT DBL DOOR." After several efforts and phone conversations with SOS, it has been determined that part of the problem was that the codes were switched, and the errant sensor was not the Elm Street main doors, but the Handicap-Access Elm Street door, which has been renamed "RAMP DOOR" in the control programming. I had replaced the stubby weird 3-volt battery in the main door recently, and during the current series of hassles I replaced the battery in the Ramp Door. All seemed to be fixed until the alarm message came up again, and we got the SOS alarmist to visit on the 19th. He added a spacer on the mounting of the sensor, on the theory that a bit of plastic will protect the gizmo from the cold of the outdoors. He also switched gizmos so that the keypad and the SOS office show correct information as to which door is open. No new alarms from the Elm doors as of December 23, 2019.

Alarms. We got the SOS alarm notification c. 9 PM on Friday the 20th. Louisa, who can monitor the Illinois door (camera and sound) on her phone, found some members of one of our rental groups opening and closing the door; there was a motion alarm activated as well as the door alarm, and enough commotion was produced that SOS notified YPD and I had to go to church and meet the officer. No intruders, no danger, just human error and consequent hassle. Someone needs to make contact with the Responsible Grownup of the group and review procedures. **(This is another of our occasional reminders that since we have no working Security Committee, B&G is often obliged to deal with alarms, etc. Perhaps we'll have a Security group after the serious incident that seems likely.)** [31 Dec.--SOS guy confirmed that batteries are good. He put a shim behind the sender to protect it from outdoor cold air that might affect its operation, though it wasn't really cold that day. Seems to work ok now.

Tree. 19 Dec. One of the hawthorn (a.k.a. poke-your-eye-out) trees in the Illinois Ave. devil-strip had a broken limb hanging down to interfere with cars parking on the street. I was able to amputate the branch, using the saw on my Swiss Army knife. Two pieces of limb are next to the East RE sidewalk, awaiting dissection into pieces suitable for mulch-making and kindling.

Work Party, 21 Dec. Present (briefly): Jim Rak, MB. We ought not to have scheduled a Work Party so close to the holiday; in some previous years we've skipped the December Work Party, and should do so in 2020. I expected few if any workers to appear, and did not bring donuts or make coffee. I arrived at 10:50 AM, replaced one Exit-sign bulb, bagged dirty towels and rags for washing at home, and made a sign declaring that the Work Party was cancelled for lack of a quorum. As I was about to leave, Jim Rak appeared. He said that he'd deal with leaves for a bit

and meet any late-arriving volunteers.

Restrooms. December 23, 2019. The seat on the toilet in the first-floor Accessible Restroom broke when it performed a regular, normal, gravity-propelled drop and met the tank sometime today. New seat purchased from Lowe's and installed.

Cleaning Supplies. 29 Dec. Big dustmop in Illinois Closet had fallen aslant, blocking access to closet. The clever hanger that was supposed to hold the mop in place had broken; it has been replaced with a big finishing nail, which fits in a hole through the mop-handle. Two rakes need to be moved from closet to Cave.

Benediction. December 31, 2019. An interesting year for B&G; frustrations aplenty, but some useful jobs done, thanks to admirable support from our volunteers.