

## 1<sup>st</sup> UU Buildings & Grounds Chronicle, 2020.

*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](mailto: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.*

**Refrigerator, Fall Room.** January 6, 2020. The black fridge was reliably reported to be near room temperature in the non-freezer section a couple of weeks ago. I verified that it wasn't very cool. Since then I've set a thermometer inside and begun recording temperature data; on Sunday 5 January, it was 36, about what it ought to be. Lisbet White has measured current draw as normal for a machine of this age (sometimes failing fridges consume extra power, but that's not the case here). Jim Rak recommends cleaning dust from coils, accessible from back of unit, which I'll do. The Fall Room fridge is mostly used for large events and rentals that involve carried-in food, but it is needed on those occasions. No-frills 36"-wide fridges are surprisingly costly. [11 Feb. Temps have been in mid-30s except for Sunday 8 Feb., a 40-degree reading that I'm disregarding because the fridge door had been left partly open for some time.]

**Book Racks on Pews.** January 6, 2020. Diana Mason reported yesterday that she had replaced a hymnal in its rack and the book had fallen through the semi-detached bottom of the rack. This is a fairly common problem, since the racks relied on tiny nails to hold the bottoms on, and after 90+ years it's not surprising that gravity sometimes prevails. Roger LaFontaine and I repaired the failed rack-bottom, plus one other specimen, using small flathead screws and construction adhesive provided by Jim Rak. It doesn't seem like a good expenditure of time and effort to do preemptive repair on all the pew-racks, so we'll continue fixing these items as necessary.

**Work Party 16 Jan.** Present: Jim Rak, Brian Rinehart, Ellen and Lowell Satre, MB.

**Snow.** There was (contrary to expectations) enough snow to warrant getting out the snowblower, which started without any hassle and cleared the sidewalks despite the heavy, slushy snow. All of those in attendance either ran the machine or hand-shoveled stairs, etc. Winter supplies (salt, rubber mat, etc.) inside the Elm Street doorway were put in order.

**Fridges.** The black fridge in the Fall Room was maintaining 40 degrees in its main compartment. We worked on shimming the Kitchen fridge, whose shims had been removed by unknown persons some weeks previously, and used bits of scrap wood and the rectangles of vinyl floor tile to level the unit so that the door no longer swings open. Jim said that he would make one-piece shims to replace the stacks of vinyl bits,

**Boiler Room.** Everyone except Jim went home, and he worked on the long-neglected Boiler Room, removing significant quantities of the gunk that accumulates from periodic pooling of muddy water on the floor. An additional benefit of his efforts was to test the water alarm, which was set off by rinse water.

Given the modest number of persons, this was a successful Work Party; access for the following day's worship service was easier to provide than it would have been if the slush had been left in place to freeze hard; and the Boiler Room was far less gross than it had been for many months.

**Snow, Sunday 17 Jan.** We had a quarter-inch of fluffy snow, which was managed with the big push broom. The rougher wooden broom that is preferable for outdoor work was missing, so the good broom intended for indoor use had to be employed. The outdoor broom mysteriously reappeared in the Illinois Closet a day or two later. **We ought to have crews of two or three scheduled to deal with winter precipitation on Sunday mornings, in the same manner as the Hospitality Teams are organized for Coffee Hours.** It is unlikely that people will rally to volunteer, since it's challenging to recruit people for Coffee Hour, but the Shovel Brigade would be less taxing since we need shovelers only on some Sundays, unlike coffee providers who are required every week. Anyone interested in organizing the Snowperson crews?

**Security.** Early this week, probably Tuesday 16 Jan., I saw a note in the Office about an unsecured Patio door. One of the doors from the first-floor Youth Room turned out to be unlocked, and a Schweitzer Lounge door was effectively unsecured because the door that's supposed to be fixed in place by the locks that fit into the top of the doorway and the concrete floor weren't set. This means that an intruder can just yank on the exterior door handle and pull the two doors open. Since we have no Security Committee, B&G attempts to fill the gap; and to issue reminders that **we'll have a Security Committee after some inevitable break-in.** It would be a good idea to establish such a committee **before** the incident.

**Security, 11 Feb.** When I came to Church this AM to assist with retrieval of chairs borrowed by ACTION, the Illinois Ramp door was not latched. It was nearly closed, evidently close enough

for the door sensor to allow the alarm system to be set. I may just put a handle on the inside of the door to facilitate full closing.

**Lights, c. 7 Feb.** I replaced three ceiling lights and one exit bulb in the RE hallways. We have almost used up the remaining incandescent exit bulbs.

**Work Party, 15 Feb.** Present: Sue Angellotti, Matt Jones, Sarah Lown, Jim Rak, Ellen and Lowell Satre, Bob Seibold, MB.

Got to church c. 9 AM, made coffee, set out B&G pastries, put away some items left out in Kitchen and Fall Room.

I intended to work on the drooping **ceiling tile/light fixture** at the bottom of the South RE stairs, so I found an intact tile (Fall Room--also more tiles in Choir Loft former sound room). Other matters superseded the project, and I later put away the ladder and ceiling tile.

I also checked on a fuse on the **2d-floor RE furnace**, suggested as a possible cause for the failure of the heat. Bob Dieter had suggested that as a possibility in a phone conversation the previous evening. (Jim Rak had already checked that fuse, as it happens.) I called Bob, who promised to visit in an hour or so and did. After a great deal of electrical checking, he determined that there was a failed electrical ground, and detected a wire nut (at the switch next to the 30A fuse on the furnace) where wires had sparked and melted a bit of the wire nut. Lights came on in various places, and the thermostat's numbers and letters reappeared. Bob set the thermostat, determining that we have a defective outdoor temperature sensor, which believed the outdoor temperature (actually in the 20s) was 79 degrees. He will order and replace the sensor. The furnace/AC in question is the York unit donated to the Church from a home being razed for a highway project, and is a heat-pump apparatus; because of the failed sensor, it had been attempting to heat the 2d-floor RE wing exclusively with the heat pump, which isn't effective in extremely cold weather.

Illinois Ave. entry steps were salted, and Bob and Satres dug out the **ice** remaining on the sidewalks.

Satres have cleared of the **book truck** in the Fall Room.

Sue and Sarah replaced the big raspberry-colored letters at the front of the Sanctuary, changing JOY to LOVE. Special recognition is due to Sarah for lugging the tall stepladder (which doesn't fit in the elevator) from the 1st-floor Chair Closet to the Sanctuary.

Matt and Jim scraped off bad **plaster in the Choir Loft** and plastered and primed the walls that have been in poor condition since the former steeple began leaking. (Very interesting to watch Matt, a master plasterer, at work!) A bit more spackling and priming and we'll be ready to repaint an area that has been hideous for many years. It's not a location that many people have

occasion to look at, fortunately, but it will be good to have it in decent condition. Jim was at work cleaning up in the Choir Loft long after the other Work Partisans had gone home.

Another one of the small **square black tables** in Channing Hall was discovered to have lost one of its feet. It is difficult to grasp why someone would think it a good idea to throw away a foot. Someone had crammed a wad of paper under the footless leg to level the table. I've installed a shim with orange duct tape holding it in place.

Sometime in the week before the Work Party took the **large oil painting** of Miles Davis and crammed it into the Channing Chair Closet among the tables. One of the vertical wooden frame pieces has been broken. Anyone witnessing destructive activity should attempt to prevent damage, or at least report who's doing this sort of thing.

The **Choir Loft Former Sound Room** has been a useful place for storage, particularly since the shelf-building that we did a few years ago. Decorations from various holidays that have been stored in the 2d-Floor Supply Closet and various other places have been moved to the FSR and need to be placed neatly on the top shelf--easy if we have two people, one to hand stuff up to the one on the ladder.

A very useful Work Party. Thanks to all.

**Holiday Decorations.** Friday 13 March. Christmas wreaths and a few Halloween items have been rounded up and moved to the former Sound Room next to the Choir Loft, where they have interfered with storage of items from Choir Loft plaster work and other efforts. I was able to recruit a useful person to help get almost all of these seasonal decorations off the floor and onto the top shelf. This was one of those jobs that I could not have done solo, but was not an ordeal with one person able to hand up the items to the person on the ladder.

**Work Unparty 14 March.** Present: Jim Rak, MB. As I write up Saturday's efforts five days later, it seems bizarre that anyone went to Church at all. As the normal in-person Sunday service was moved online in response to the coronavirus, it appeared to me that a Work Party would fall within the permissible range of permitted activities, since we could expect a smaller turnout than usual. So I dithered and failed to send a clarifying reminder to the list of Work Partisans. As the dread level about assemblies of more than one person rose, I called Bob Seibold on Friday, the day before the scheduled Work Party, and he sensibly said that we ought to cancel.

I decided to go in (without donuts) so that anyone who did turn up could be acknowledged, and arrived c. 9:30. I found plenty to do in the Kitchen, where I found some wire racks that I don't recall seeing before and put them in the island compartment with baking sheets, etc. We had just hired a new sexton/custodian who quit immediately, so I dealt with trash and recycling. Working solo, I was able to fume about trash in both paper and plastic recycling containers without offending anyone. I cleaned up a large blob of unidentifiable glop on the Channing floor near the recycling bins, put away a pushbroom that had been left leaning against the Channing counter, and began cleaning up the leaves that had accumulated in the stairwell outside the Fall Room door.

At about 10:20 Jim appeared. We looked at the area on the East (downhill) side of the building and discussed driveway replacement and other topics. Jim had noted rainwater falling from the gutter above one of the HVAC units, but we chose to postpone climbing onto the roof for gutter work. The downspout left of the Cave door had separated from the pipe that it drains into, and Jim was able to adjust and stabilize the connection.

At Jim's suggestion we rearranged the Cave, initially to put the snowblower at the back of the space and the mower and wheelbarrow toward the door. We ended up moving most of the contents of the Cave and clearing some space. A number of wooden lattices, designed to make the single-pane RE windows look as if they had multiple panes, had been heaped toward the back and damaged by shoving heavy objects into them; I took the ruined lattices home for kindling. We rearranged the snow-melting salt-like supply to make more efficient use of space. (Don't buy any more snow-melt for a few years--we have plenty.) We need to make some effort to identify owners of left-behind shovels, etc.; some of the items can be labeled and assimilated into the UUYO inventory if unclaimed. The Cave remains an inherently awkward space, requiring stooping or crawling to access its contents, but it's in better, more useful condition than it was.

It looks as if we'll be avoiding assemblies for a while. I expect that we'll be allowed to get two or three people at a time to do mowing and weeding as needed, but such efforts can be done when someone sees a need. Anyone who wants to help with this sort of thing should please let me know what's going on, so that we can avoid duplication of effort and confusion as much as possible.

Thank you for your support.

**Work Parties, etc., in the Time of Plague.** April 23, 2020. We can probably expect to **Resume Work Parties**, with social distancing, in May. The third Saturday is 16 May, so that will probably be scheduled in the various informative Church messages. At this point it appears that we'll need to deal with the Patio.

Here's the **Patio** situation as it appears to me: For a couple of years we've worked at eliminating the weeds on the north half of the sloped area nearest to Elm Street. A great deal of effort has been devoted to the de-weeding, especially by Kadey Kimpel, Jim Morgan, and me. The target area is too steeply sloped to be planted in grass and mowed, so various ground-cover solutions have been considered. Kadey's most recent proposal has been to plant thyme, which is said to be vigorous enough to resist weed takeovers.

We have to remove the layers of cardboard which were laboriously laid down to kill the weeds, and to plant the thyme. Removal won't be as nasty a process as the installation, which involved pounding in a great many devices to hold the cardboard in place. I'll consult with Kadey on procurement of thyme. The cardboard has disintegrated to the point where there are a lot of fragments blowing around, and needs to be dealt with before fragmented cardboard becomes uglier than the staked-down cardboard. [Kadey is procuring the thyme seed, and she and I may get the cardboard off this afternoon, exposing the sogged newspaper layer which, she says, will have

rotted to the point where seed can be planted over it.] Cardboard and newspaper have been removed.

Other Grounds stuff can be done. Jim Rak has mowed the lawn.

**Other Developments--Cyberstuff.** April 23, 2020. Improvements in the remote-messaging systems have been welcome, but there is a lot of loopy blue cable in the Office, hallway, and Sanctuary, constituting a tripping hazard. Hardly anyone but Joseph (who is young and agile enough to negotiate the cable coils) has been actually in the building during the virus shutdown, but eventually people will return. Tim Raridon and Andy Crabb have devised strategies to get the cable out of the way; Tim and I have worked at stringing cable. Thus far we've drilled one hole through thick brick and spent a lot of effort getting at inaccessible places. [May 10, 2020: The cable has been installed. Tim determined that the apparatus in the Choir Loft shows a ground in the outlet used to power the a/v device, so we've deferred the plan to run a wire outside the building to establish a ground. The big extension ladder has been put away by Tim and Jim Rak; we still have a medium-size extension ladder stuck into the ceiling near the Office door. That ladder belongs, I believe, to the plaster master, and needs to be returned to the Choir Loft area--a 2-person job, since removing it from the hole in the ceiling without damaging the dropped ceiling is a tricky process. [Tim removed the ladder, solo, c. 14 May.]

BIRDS. c. 14 May. Tim and I noted that a birds' nest has been installed in the porch-roof area, near the northern downspout. We agreed that we should wait till hatching and fledging are done before covering the opening that they've taken over. [Jim Rak subsequently identified the hole in the brick as an air vent that rises from the B&G Closet.]

BOILER ROOM. May 10: Jim Rak has been applying goop to the leaky cracks in the Boiler Room floor, and has mowed again.

[Below is the message sent out to the B&G community.] \*\*\*\*\*

Work Party 16 May. We'll try a socially-distanced Work Party. All participants must BRING MASKS and OBSERVE SOCIAL DISTANCING!

We won't attempt much indoor work. Perhaps we can

\*CHECK EXIT-SIGN BULBS and replace any dead ones (they burn all the time, whether or not the building is in use).

\*CHECK WINDOW WELLS, EAST SIDE OF RE WING (look out RE windows; if cruddy, scrape out leaves, etc., from inside classroom using pushbroom and shopvac)

Outdoors:

\*DIG OUT LEAVES AT THE BOTTOM OF THE STAIRWELL OUTSIDE THE FALL ROOM  
[Done]

\*MAYBE CHECK GUTTERS, RE WING (not hard to get at, since Jim Morgan's discovery of the easy route; Jim Rak wants to goop a leaky joint near the RE door nearest to Illinois Ave.).

\*PLANT THYME ON CLEARED HILLSIDE IN THE PATIO AREA (if Kadey has acquired the seed). [About half done]

\*WEED

\*MAYBE GRIND MULCH (if we have enough people to assist in picking up branches for the grinder, and to load the heavy grinder into an appropriate vehicle--my station wagon probably won't be back from the shop)

\*\*\*IF IT'S RAINING, FORGET IT! STAY HOME!\*\*\*\*\*

Cyberstuff, cont'd. May 15, 2020. Tim and I have succeeded in running the ground cable out of the Choir Loft and through the round window in the stairway from the second floor to the Choir Loft. We still have work to do in securing the cable to ensure that it is safe from activities in the Choir Loft.

The medium-length ladder has been removed from the hall outside the Office door and moved to the back of the Sanctuary, where it can stay until work in the Choir Loft is done.

The Church's big (40-ft.) extension ladder has become significantly twisted, and is anxiety-inducing to ascend when it's at or near its maximum extension. Tim is of the opinion that we ought not to replace it with a new, stiffer specimen; I do not understand the scaffolding that he favors, and we need some discussion on the matter. [After some discussion during Work Party, I'm inclined to look for a 40-footer with an extendable leg to accommodate uneven ground. Much to ponder. May 16, 2020]

WORK PARTY 16 MAY. Present: Kadey Kimpel, Gene Pusateri, Jim Rak, Ellen and Lowell Satre, Lisbet White.

I arrived c. 10:40 and made coffee. (No Plaza donuts this time because Plaza hasn't yet reopened; some Aldi donuts and coffee cake were consumed.)

The felt-pen markers were missing from the Kitchen, so I got replacements from the Office.

Gene was first to arrive, and offered to do some mowing. He did all the devil strips.

Kadey arrived early and Jim let her into the PATIO, where she set to work PLANTING THYME. I didn't know that she was at the Church for some time. She set clumps of thyme plants in a couple of rows near the top of the banked area, installing high-grade mulch around them. I tied a rope to the fence so that as she moved lower on the bank she'd have something to grab and prevent sliding down the steep bank. (If I'd supplied a chain, she'd have had a thyming chain.) I also supplied the light stepladder that belongs in the Illinois Closet to provide an additional means of preventing a slide. Nearly half the bank was planted when Kadey ran out of clumps and departed. So the long-awaited final stage of the greening of the bank is well begun.

Before Kadey left, she and Jim cleaned out a lot of miscellaneous crud from the Patio portico. Two bags of cardboard and leaves left there several weeks ago when we cleared cardboard and newspaper from the banked area were hauled out.

Satres arrived on their tandem bike and spent some time discussing the DRIVEWAY near the Illinois door with Jim and me. This followed up on previous on-line discussions of the driveway, which in its current state constitutes a somewhat dangerous approach to the building, and is the ugliest thing on the Church property.

I spent some time with LIGHTING, first opening the square fluorescent fixture in the Kitchen, above the dishwasher. This fixture has two freak u-shaped tubes, and ought to be replaced with a straightforward LED light--not an intimidating task, but one that we haven't got around to yet. When I prodded the first tube, the light revived; I sprayed contacts with electrical contact-enhancing spray and closed it up. In the Fall Room I replaced a straight tube in the fixture nearest to the Kitchen/Fall Room door, and then two tubes in the fixture above the Work Table.

The Work Table, which has a conspicuous label forbidding stuff to be left on it, had a box of candles on it. Candles were moved to the Worship Supply closet, as was another box of candles found under the Work Table.

Jim observed the leak at the primary SUMP PUMP and determined that it's not the pump but the CHECK VALVE that is leaking. He proposed installing the replacement check higher up on the pipe; some years ago when we first installed the two-pump arrangement, I put the check right at the pump, following directions that came with the pump. When one thinks about it, it's clear that the check should be higher up; this should nearly eliminate the spewing that happens when the pump is removed.

Jim checked out the STAIRWELL outside the Fall Room exterior door and got rid of accumulated leaves. Also in the stairwell were two soggy garments (taken home to be washed, and donated to Fish when that place reopens) and two ceramic items (one broken and discarded, one designated for setting at the curb to be picked up by whoever might want it).

Lisbet inspected the Choir Loft and the attic above it, as well as the Cupola. She mowed almost all the lawn, until as she observed, mower and operator both ran out of gas. There remains about ten minutes' worth of mowing to do. (Gas can spout isn't working, and there's no big funnel in



the Cave.) The new little TREE in the South lawn had a perforated tube next to it, having apparently outgrown the protective tube; tube has been moved to Cave.

TO-DO LIST: Usual leftovers from the B&G agenda, above; it's time to get the snow-melting salt out of the Illinois entryway and into the Cave, and to put the Big Holey Mat away; one Exit bulb in Fall Room, probably more bulbs elsewhere; hanging light in stairwell to Choir Loft should be replaced with LED fixture; hanging light in Elm Street entry should be replaced or fitted with a new glass tube to get rid of the nasty broken tube. When my station wagon returns from the shop, I can haul the chipper-shredder to Church to grind the accumulated twigs, etc., for mulch.

B&G SUMMARY: Quite a lot of necessary stuff accomplished; admirable mask-wearing and distancing; an encouraging effort after the lost plague-cancelled April Work Party. Thanks to the determined Builders and Groundlings.

CYBERSTUFF. May 23, 2020. Ground cable, cont'd.--I've ordered smaller clips, which should be delivered tomorrow. Cable has been secured against tangles and trips where it runs under the edge of the Choir Loft risers, and an initial going-over with the vacuum has removed much of the accumulation of crud. We'll clean it up more thoroughly after the new clips are applied to walls and baseboards and the big stepladder returned to the Chair Closet. [June 12, 2020--I've finished what I can do toward securing the green ground wire to baseboards, under door-jamb, under the Choir Loft risers, etc. Eighth-inch plastic wire clips had to be obtained via Amazon; they hold the cable so that it doesn't slide through the clips.

PATIO VEGETATION. June 12, 2020. I have written up these efforts in some detail, and am now unable to find those writings. Louisa may be able to find them, presumably hidden from me by my computer, but has been buried under Treasurer work, arrangements for the Black Lives Matter signs, and so on. The gist of it is that Kadey Kimpel has spent huge amounts of time and effort on the north side of the banked area of the Patio, facing Elm Street, on the north (synagogue) side. Thyme ground cover has been planted, as detailed above; it has not grown as quickly as had been hoped, and Kadey has supplemented it with hostas and another decorative plant. I have purchased a roll of keep-out tape to discourage children and others from climbing on the hillside as the new greenery establishes itself. Something similar to the dense, handsome greenery on the north side of the Patio, facing the synagogue, should be the eventual result. A reminder: the point of all this effort, in addition to improving the appearance of the Patio area, is to render the steep banked area weed-resistant and to make it unnecessary to attempt the dangerous, difficult-to-impossible mowing of the bank.

WORK PARTY, 13 June. We need to

\*Weed the sloped area outside the Channing Hall windows facing Illinois Avenue, where the juniper ground cover is well established but a lot of miscellaneous intrusive vegetation has intruded. (Note that this area, like the Patio hillside, used to require mowing, a task somewhere between exhausting and suicidal.)

\*Remove the big ladder from the Patio. (We can't use the ladder to install the last couple of wire clamps for the Choir Loft ground wire, because of uneven ground. Suggestions welcome.)

\*Spray poison ivy among trees on east side of RE Wing, and in the parking lot across Illinois.

\*Replace at least one exit-sign bulb.

\*Remove the dead u-shaped fluoresceent above the dishwasher and determine whether to get another such tube or to find an LED fixture with the appropriate number of lumens and prepare to install it in place of the fluorescent fixture.

\*Put away snow-melting salt, etc.

WORK PARTY, 13 June. Present: Kadey Kimpel, Amber Munger, Amber's young daughter, Gene Pusateri, Bob Seibold, Lisbet White, Trudee Weatherby.

Arrived c. 9:45. Airpot coffeemaker had been left with grounds in basket. Set up to make coffee, and cold water began running out into basket, messing up grounds; unprecedented, mystifying screwup. Machine was not turned on. Tried again and brewed normally.

Unlocked Channing/Patio door; Patio gate had been left unlocked. Took photo of hostas, etc., on Patio hillside. Kadey arrived and began planting more lariope along top of hillside. Planting project appears to be done at last, and looks very good. Kadey was among the last to depart, c. 3:45.

Gene edged with his string trimmer, then assisted Lisbet, Bob, and me in taking down the ladder from the Patio. I got out the mower from the Cave and Gene used it to deal with long grass in the Patio.

I put away the 6-foot aluminum stepladder that belongs in the Illinois Closet. The fluorescent light over the dishwasher began working about 10 minutes after I got to Church. Replaced one exit-sign bulb in the Fall Room. Lisbet checked out the water meter in the Boiler Room, confirming that there was no ongoing leak; evidently the defective toilet valve in the 2d-floor restroom that inflicted a horrifying spike in the water bill recently remains fixed after Jim Rak's replacement of the valve.

Most of the effort expended during this Work Party was in weeding the sloped area outside the Channing Hall windows, on the Illinois Avenue side. Bob, Lisbet, Amber, and I (with some assistance from Amber's daughter) dug out a great variety of intrusive vegetation, some of which went into the compost bins, some into the big trash bin, and a few larger stems into the grind-for-mulch pile. The juniper ground cover is in good shape, but many weeds had succeeded in poking through the black anti-weed fabric on the hillside. Trudee provided encouragement and camaraderie.

Comparison of these accomplishments with the agenda above will show that some tasks remain undone, but what we did get done would be noticeable even to congregation members who are generally inattentive to the condition of the Building and the Grounds--if we were able to welcome everyone to the Church as in non-plague conditions.

A useful Work Party, heartening in the turnout numbers and in the diligence of our volunteers. Thanks to all.

Maybe next month we can do some interior painting.

**Patio Gate Lock.** June 27, 2020. At Marguerite's suggestion, I have ordered a u-type bike lock which has resettable numbers so that I can keep the same 4-number code that we've been using. I'll take home my old bike chain which has been used for some time; the u-lock should reach around both sides of the gate. It appears to be much easier to read the numbers than on the solid but fussy Master combination lock that we've used.

**Horticulture--Ground Cover outside Channing Windows, facing Illinois Avenue.** June 27, 2020. Kadey has finished digging out the weeds that remained after the Work Party, and has come to some new conclusions as to what to do next in that area. Some of the juniper ground cover that we planted a few years ago had dead, brown arms; Kadey clipped most of them off and discussed their condition with other plant experts. It appears that the junipers are impaired by the black plastic fabric initially spread out to keep weeds from invading the juniper-planted area. (And it seems likely to me that the junipers are designed to spread themselves by running branches along the ground and putting down new roots.)

Four steps should be taken: (1) Remove the black plastic--some of this has been done; I have some hooks that will help to pull up the staples that we used to hold the plastic in place. (2) Apply fertilizer, 10-10-10 or something similar. (3) Apply Preen to slow down weed growth. (4) Apply 2 inches of mulch to feed the junipers. Steps 2 and 3 need doing just once, step 4 every other year. The rotted mulch produced by our compost canisters is suitable for the mulching, as may be the lowest layer of mulch in our pile on the East side of the RE Wing.

The juniperization of the banked area has consumed a very substantial amount of effort over several years, but it has eliminated the grueling and dangerous task of mowing the slope. This improvement has in turn made it more likely that we'll be able to recruit more volunteers to do some of the mowing. At present the tag-team approach to mowing seems to have faded from view; Gene Pusateri has done some mowing, but most of the work has been done by Jim Rak. It's now easier than it used to be to get the mower in and out of the Cave and to start the mower; we need someone to rally volunteers to do some of the mowing, and to emphasize that a volunteer is not obligated to do the whole lawn at once.

Comrades--

No major projects in mind, but we could do some yanking of thistles, etc., attack poison ivy along the East (non-patio) side of the RE Wing and in the parking lot, etc. Believe it or not, the sloped area (Illinois ave/ Channing) has been thoroughly weeded, thanks to Kadey.

We might put up the big ladder in the porch and block off the bird sanctuary near toe porch ceiling; this would permit removing the guano from the ramp/ porch floor.

It has been prophesied that Matt the Plaster Master may visit to improve plaster in the Choir Loft area. If this comes to pass, we can stay out of his way.

If it's going to be 90 Fahrenheit, stay home! I've not been well, and won't be attempting much personally, particularly in the sun.

Thanks to whoever (probably Jim Rak) mowed recently.

**\*SOMETIME IN THE MORNING ON THURSDAY 23 JULY, WE'LL HAVE MASSES OF MULCH DELIVERED. THIS WILL NEED TO BE DISTRIBUTED ON THE SLOPED AREA OUTSIDE THE CHANNING WINDOWS, AND IN THE PATIO. WE'LL NEED SOME REASONABLY ABLE-BODIED PERSONS TO SPREAD MULCH, SO THAT THE MULCH MOUNDS DON'T WIPE OUT GRASS.**

**Work Party 18 July.** Present: Matt Jones, Gene Pusateri, Jim Rak, Ruth Satre, Bob Seibold. Louisa Berger and Sarah King in Office.

I arrived at 10 AM to find Matt already at work on the **birds'-nest problem**. Gene arrived and set up on the porch to distribute Black Lives Matter signs (he later did some edging, wisely staying in the shade.

Bob **weeded**, mostly in the Patio, also avoiding the sun.

Jim and I assisted Matt with the ladder, etc. The downspout was removed to allow access to the hole high in the wall, and Jim cleaned it with brush and hose. A pipe of about 6 inches diameter projected from the hole, and Matt trimmed it off using the Church's angle grinder using up our only available carbide cutting disk). Matt installed a wire-mesh grating over the hole (which we agreed was an obsolete roof-drain installation, replaced some decades ago by the downspout). He covered the mesh with mortar, and the repair is neat and inconspicuous. The bird manure has been removed from the brick with hose and brush.

The result of the guano project, like the weeding, would be unnoticed by most of the congregation, if any of them were visiting the building during the current epidemic. But despite a numerically smallish turnout, we got something useful done. Good show, very good for so hot a day.

Work Party extended into supporting a march or walk in the park across Elm Street by a group called **Women of Power**. The group had a permit to use the park, but the City wouldn't open up the park's restrooms. UUYO agreed to provide restroom access; anticipating a sizeable turnout, we decided to bring people in via the first East RE stair-landing door. Ruth agreed to monitor visitors to assure social distancing. Actual restroom visitors were few, but the demonstration was enthusiastic, and our support was part of enhancing the Church's visibility in the community. Some time and effort was expended in making signs to direct people to the facilities, and I didn't get home till 4:30.

**Mulch.** July 27, 2020. As your B&G Chair prophesied in an appeal to the B&G community, 3 cubic yards of mulch were delivered on the morning of Thursday 23 July. The RSVP group that uses our building for its Thursday morning food distribution was present, but there were no volunteers to assist Kadey Kimpel and me with mulch-management.

About a third of the mulch was dumped in the Accessible Driveway area just outside the Patio gate, and the rest on the South lawn near the three-step mini-stairway. Kadey and I worked till around noon, reducing the pile outside the Patio gate considerably, until heat and fatigue sent us home.

I returned c. 7 PM (see **Security** note, below) and moved more mulch, concentrating on the pile on the South lawn. On Friday I don't recall whether I went in in the morning, but I returned c. 5 PM and found that Jim Rak had mowed and also dealt with a great deal of the big pile on the South lawn. He and I moved most of the remaining mulch to its intended place among the junipers. Kadey and I moved more of the Patio pile on Saturday.

Smallish piles remain, but the sidewalk at the top of the Accessible Driveway is now cleared so as to permit carts, wheelchairs, etc., access to the ramp, and the South lawn pile has been moved off the grass and onto the sidewalk near Channing Hall. The bank that we've been working on in the Patio looks remarkably good, as does the bank outside the Channing windows. Kadey will be neatening the mulch and applying the remaining supply as needed, but there's actually something that I regard as essentially done.

**Security.** July 27, 2020. (Once again: We have NO SECURITY COMMITTEE. We NEED A SECURITY COMMITTEE. I include security notes in the B&G Chronicle, where they mostly don't belong, because there's no proper place for them.) On Thursday, as Kadey and I wore out and gave up in the heat, the food-distribution people were finishing up, neatly putting away their stuff as usual. Kadey left a few minutes before I did, and I staggered out to my car, assuming that the food people would lock up. As it turned out, their last departing person assumed that I was still in the building and departed. So not only was the alarm not set, the main Elm Street door remained wide open, held by its low-tech hook-and-line arrangement.

We learned of this spectacular security breach when a passerby noticed the open door and walked into the empty building, hoping to find food distribution still in progress. At about 7 PM. Our visitor, finding nobody home, went to the Illinois door and rang the bell, which alerted our

treasurer, Louisa Berger, whose phone tells her when somebody is at the door; whereupon I was dispatched to look into the situation. Fortunately, the visitor, who lives at one of the halfweay houses on the North side of the park, was a good citizen and good neighbor, and our expensive audiovisual stuff is still there. To sum up—whichever leaves the building must either be certain that somebody else is still there, or lock up and set the alarm.

**Work Party 15 Aug.** Present: Kadey Kimpel, Jim Rak, Bob Seibold, Lisbet White, MB. Gene Pusateri and Louisa Berger were distributing Black Lives Matter signs, and Sarah King worked in the Office.

I had been late in sending out the notification for the Work Party, and the modest turnout was greater than I expected. I arrived a bit before 10 AM and made eight cups of coffee in a percolator. Found eight glasses and some silverware in drainer and put them away; unlocked the Cave. Later Jim checked out the Kitchen fridge and discarded three partially-filled gallon bottles of spoiled milk (one regular, two chocolate) that someone had put there.

Kadey resumed her trimming of the juniper bushes in the sloped area outside the Illinois Ave. Side of Channing Hall, after trimming on the assorted **greenery** installed in the sloped Patio bank. Lisbet. assisted in this work. The modest remaining mulch piles remain in place, as Kadey is using the mulch in fine-tuning the banks. She has made multiple solo visits to work on the greenery.

I used loppers to remove some vegetation that was challenging the small tree near the SW corner of the building, near the porch. Bob and I trimmed low-hanging branches of the hawthorn (a.k.a. poke-your-eye-out trees in the Illinois devil strip. Bob also pulled down some large dead branches from the big tree north of the Accessible Driveway. He used a Fiskar pole-saw from the Cave, a tool which actually had neither saw nor nippers, since parts were missing. I thought that there was an intact pole-saw when I last looked into the Cave but if we had one, we don't have it now.

Jim had visited a day earlier and trimmed the shoots around the Centennial Tree in the South lawn.

Jim noted that the **control for HVAC** in the 1<sup>st</sup>-Floor RE Wing was flashing a “change filter” signal. I replaced the filter, which had been installed in December and didn't appear dirty. The signal continued to flash. Sarah succeeded in resetting the control; we'll need to watch for a reappearance of the warning signal.

I had brought poison-ivy poison from home, but my sprayer was clogged. I transferred some spray liquid into a small sprayer from the Boiler Room and Bob and I applied it to some weeds, notably poison-ivy infestations along the East side of the Church, among the hemlock trees (minor) and at the back of the Parking Lot across Illinois (major).

Jim used his own ladder (much sturdier and easier to use than the Church's big ladder) to check out the **roof and gutters** of the RE Wing. He swept some small branches and crud from the roof,

reinstalled the piece of gutter-guard that had fallen out during the Winter, and caulked the seam in the gutter just above the HVAC units that had allowed icicles to form and to drop among the costly machinery.

While Jim worked on the roof, I cut up some of the branches that had accumulated near the home-made mulch and mulch-to-be piles. We now have enough branches to make it worthwhile to bring in a chipper-shredder to mulchify them.

Undone item: the agenda included inspecting the **window-well** at the SW corner of the Patio, outside the RE Closet. This still needs to be done, and will require some work to move the mysterious pile of gravel that someone unknown dumped onto the cover of the window-well.

A useful Work Party, enhanced by surprisingly pleasant weather.

**Work Party 19 Sept.** Present: Julia Furman Davis, Kadey Kimpel, Jim Morgan, Jim Rak, Ralph Malmer, Lowell Satre, Bob Seibold, Jim Stone, Mary June Tartan, Lisbet White, MB. (Note: three Jims!)

I arrived c. 9:30 AM, made coffee, pinned a sign on the Elm Street door, and unlocked the Patio gate. I had brought just one dozen donuts, which did not suffice for the unexpectedly high turnout of workers.

I had brought my **chipper-shredder**, but we had two interruptions, one from a chunk of bark that had concealed itself after I last used the machine at home and one from overfilling the bag. The machine spent part of the Work Party being disassembled and reassembled, and only two bags of mulch were produced. This diminished the heap of stuff to be ground, but there's more to do; I left the gadget at Church until I have time to resume mulching. Lowell and Ralph did most of the mulching-making.

Several people, including Jim Stone, Ralph, and Lisbet ran the **lawnmower**. Lisbet refilled the four gas cans, enabling us to resume mowing and mulching. The grass inside the Patio area was mowed, a task which evidently hadn't been done for a while.

The **fence** that we installed in the Patio to keep unsupervised children from falling off the wall onto the concrete floor had sagged and has been removed. We'll need to replace it with a sturdier version before we return to post-plague normality with actual people in the building for services.

Jim Morgan, unassisted, used my hedge-clipper to **trim the bushes inside** the Patio fence. He discovered that one of our 50-foot extension cords was damaged and nonfunctional; I've taken it home to fix. Bob gave me his 100-foot cord, which had been damaged, so I have two cords to fix.

Jim Rak worked on **Channing/Patio doors and windows**, scraping (very bad) paint, caulking, and painting. He's been working on the doors on several afternoons before the Work Party. He

was still at work when I went home at about 4 PM. I'm not sure that we'll be able to get at all the north-side Channing windows—we shall see.

Kadey, Mary June, Lisbet, Bob, and Julia worked at weeding. Much of the mulch that had been piled in a wheelbarrow and on the sidewalk south of the porch has been put to good use.

This was a very successful Work Party, involving two or three times as many volunteers as we've had in the past year or two. Some indoor stuff was deferred, but can be addressed when weather is less excellent. ("Many hands make light work," but we couldn't deal with the non-working Kitchen light near the dishwasher until the replacement u-shaped bulb was on hand. I removed the dead bulb today, 24 Sept., to facilitate finding the right replacement.) [Installed a week or so later.]

Thanks for all the support.

**Work Party 17 Oct.** Present: Mike Hill, Lanore Jones, Ralph Malmer, Jim Morgan, Jim Rak, Ellen and Lowell Satre, Bob Seibold, Lisbet White, MB.

I arrived a bit before the official 10 AM opening time; started coffee, unlocked Patio gate and the gate to the area between our RE Wing's North end and the Temple. Jim Morgan was first to arrive, and hauled my **chipper-shredder** out of the NE RE doorway, where it had spent a month. Generous applications of starting fluid got the machine going. Jim and I, then Jim and Mike ground up accumulated twigs and branches and added them to the mulch pile. Near the end of the day, Jim and I determined that the future-mulch pile, much of which had been sitting for a long while, had transformed itself into black compost, without ever being inside one of our compost bins. The stuff is difficult to shovel, since there are some stringy roots in it, so we'll have to use a mattock or some such implement to dig it out.

Then we have to figure out what to do with it; surely some of it can be applied to low spots in the lawn.

The chipper-shredder was taken to my house at the end of the Work Party, so it no longer could interfere with using the RE door (in case anyone were using the building).

Satres decapitated **daisies** (or black-eyed Susans) around the slogan-showing sign.

Jim Rak caulked and painted exterior Channing **window frames**, worked on sealing RE **roof gutters**, and swept **junk** from the roof.

Jim is arranging for replacement of some rusted pipes in the Boiler Room.

I was not able to observe everything that was done, because I spent so much of my time with the mulch-making, but various parties collected several wheelbarrow-loads of **leaves**, which were



dumped in the enclosed area between the RE north end and the Temple. Lanore and Lisbet moved the wheelbarrow and dumped the contents. I assume that weeding was done, as usual.

We failed to move the pebbles behind the Patio fence out of the way to permit inspection of the buried window well. Also undone was the removal of mulch from sidewalk at the Elm Street accessibility driveway and the sidewalk south of Channing. Perhaps we can clean up these details before we're snowed in.

Jim Morgan is returning to Florida, and we'll miss his valuable presence till next Fall.

A useful Work Party; good fellowship and some necessary stuff accomplished.

Thanks to all.