

## **UUYO Buildings & Grounds Chronicle, 2023.**

*New info added at bottom of document. To find particular topics, use Search or Find function in Word. Please advise B&G Scribe (Martin Berger, [saabmb@yahoo.com](mailto:saabmb@yahoo.com)) of omissions and other errata.*

*As of sometime in December 2022, the Buildings & Grounds Committee has been reconfigured: Jim Rak and Matt Jones are Co-Chairs, and I am serving as Scribe or Chronicler, maintaining this Chronicle as a record of what B&G has done, attempted, and considered. We have received no formal notification of the Board about this arrangement, but will proceed on an ad-hoc basis.*

*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 Scribe 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 answers. 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 Scribe (MB) unless otherwise noted.*

**Work Party, 21 Jan.** First Work Party of 2023 is scheduled for the 21<sup>st</sup>, 10 AM as usual. We can probably deal with a small paint-peeling issue on the ceiling of the Elm Street vestibule—an indoor job that can be done despite likely hostile weather.

**Vacuum Cleaners.** 6 Jan. We have two upright carpet sweepers, both elderly but functional. They are currently stored in the 2d-floor RE hall, near the restroom door. The Hoover uses paper filter bags, which are stored in the Fall Room on shelves to the right of the exit door. The Bissell was found to have a broken belt in December, and the replacement belt broke; new manufacturer-made belt has been installed.

**Boiler.** 13 Jan. Matt Jones, Jim Rak, and I met with Tom Turnbull, of Alcon, on Thursday, and Matt and I spent all day yesterday with Tom and two of his colleagues [Tim Poponak is one of them]. We observed as they tested and analyzed the ongoing problems with boiler controls. We have ended up with a replaced signaling device (“contacter”), transformer, and thermostat. As of this morning, the system seemed to be working as it should. (Programming the new thermostat

will require some learning; Matt got today and Sunday set up, working through the minuscule print of the manual, but the remainder of the weekly schedule remains to be done; I can barely see that the manual has words in it.) [15 Jan.--Thermostat turns out to have been misrepresented or misunderstood, as it does not allow programming of individual weekdays; it has since been suggested that we get one that can be programmed remotely. Stay tuned for further developments.]

Sometime in the Spring, additional work will be done (assuming Board approval) to replace igniters and flame tubes. Essential elements of the current evaluation of our boiler system: (1) The boiler itself, and the pipes and radiators that convey steam heat throughout the Old Building, are ok. (2) Electrical apparatus that turns the boiler on and off is subject to corrosion and ageing, particularly in the chronically damp environment of our Boiler Room, and needs to be monitored and some of its components replaced every decade or so.

When the boiler system is working properly, we tend to ignore it, notably in what should be weekly bleeding during the heating season to prevent crud buildup. If we are more attentive, we should be able to rely on the system until more advanced technology becomes more affordable and reliable, so that we'll be able to consider heating options in a reflective and rational manner, when we're ready to approach a large expensive decision, instead trying to solve our heating problems in panic-driven crisis-response mode

I have divided the Office files on HVAC into three folders, one on the Boiler, one on the three furnace/air-conditioning units that process the air in the RE Wing, and one filled with material that is not identifiable as to what it's about. If nobody can determine what the contents of the third folder are, stuff should be recycled to eliminate confusion and clutter. It would be useful to establish the practice of labeling items, when they're filed, as to date and to which apparatus they refer.

**Work Party, 21 Jan.** Present: Matt Jones, Jim Rak, Lisbet White, MB.

Matt scraped, primed, and painted the **peeling ceiling of the Elm Street entryway**, and discovered a bit of peeling paint on the north side of the foyer near the doors. That bit has been scraped and primed, and awaits some finish coating.

Jim cleaned the wet, cruddy floor around the **boiler** and applied sealing cement to reduce water intrusion into the Boiler Room. He will add further cement when this sealer has hardened. Jim was still working when I left at 1:40 PM. Some broken concrete pieces have been removed from wherever they were in the Boiler Room.

Lisbet cleaned and organized the **under-sink area** in the Kitchen, disposing of much mouse manure.

I replaced two bulbs in RE Hall ceiling lights. These bulb-replacements have become less frequent as we move from curly fluorescents to LEDs; I believe that all the incandescent bulbs are long gone.

Gene Pusateri had noted that only two of the four small bulbs (probably halogen) in the Channing Hall central ceiling light were working. I found that one was missing; another one lit up when I began to extract it from the fixture. Jim will seek replacement bulbs.

Replaced paper filter bag on one of the **vacuum cleaners**. (Yes, the machine is old enough to use paper filters.)

A useful Work Party, thanks to our reliable volunteers.

**Boiler, continued.** 29 Jan. Jim and Matt have worked with the new thermostat and appear to have succeeded in programming it. Jim reports that Sarah King has mastered the remote-programming feature. Tim from Alcon has replaced an igniting device on the burner; he reports that Weil-McLain continues to sell essentially the same boiler that we have used since late 1996. This suggests that although it does not represent cutting-edge technology, neither does the boiler require immediate replacement as inherently obsolete.

**Tools.** 29 Jan. I have discarded the old theoretically rechargeable drill that no longer will accept charging and have taken its two dead lead-acid batteries to be recycled. Because of infrequent use, we should probably rely on old-style corded drills for storage in the B&G Closet, and bring in new-generation cordless ones as needed for projects. I'll try to improve labeling of tools as to where they belong, in order to reduce the tendency of tools (e. g., Shopvac-type canister vacuums) to migrate.

**Refrigeration.** 29 Jan. Jim Rak proposes unplugging the black refrigerator in the Fall Room to save electricity. (That fridge has been reported as failing to maintain temperature, though whenever I've checked, it's been cooling properly.) There's seldom much stored in it, and the Kitchen fridge has room for what we normally use; the Fall Room unit can be plugged in whenever we have extra stuff to keep cool. {Subsequently plugged in and left plugged; re-unplugged 18 Feb.]

**Agenda for 18 Feb. Work Party.** 11 Feb. What we actually do depends on availability of materials, weather, volunteer turnout, etc., but here are some possibilities, in no particular order. (1) transition strip between 2d-floor RE hallway floor and restroom; (2) weather-seal, Illinois doors vertical joint; (3) intermittent small leak in ceiling water pipe, Fall Room near coffee cabinet; (4) caulk around metal patch on Fall Room exit door; (5) sand/prime rust Fall Room exit door-frame exterior; (6) discuss paint color for Fall Room exit door exterior; (7) replace oddball bulb in Channing Hall center ceiling light; (8) insulate heat pipes in Cave; (9) door-bottom sweep/sealing strip, Channing-Patio door; (10) lop branches from dead bush near compost piles; (11) compose/print/attach signs for all closets, etc., containing circuit-breakers; (11) deal with

wind-blown trash, lawn and gutters (12) attach little drawer-cabinets to wall inside B&G Closet. Matt will deal with minor plaster issues in Elm Street entryway, detected during last month's painting.

**Work Party 18 Feb.** Present: Matt and Nate Jones, Jim Rak, Bob Seibold, MB.

I arrived c. 10:30 AM, made coffee, and dealt with disorder left after the previous night's meeting (garbage in clearly-labeled recycling bin, paper-towel holder emptied, etc.).

Jim did some concrete-patching in the Boiler Room, and he and I worked on **insulating the closure on the Illinois Avenue doors**. The strip that we applied sealed the gap on the vertical strip between the doors, but interfered with closing the doors; some sanding will be required.

Jim had obtained replacement halogen bulbs for the **center ceiling-light in Channing**. One spare bulb has been labeled, and stored in the 2d-Floor Supply Closet, in the "Weird Bulbs" box.

Bob tightened screws on several **handrails** in the stairwells inside the Elm Street entry.

Matt and Nate worked at perfecting the priming of **Choir-Loft walls**. They have had some years to dry out after being damaged by water leaking from the old steeple. The Jones team was still at work when I left the Work Party.

I had procured a door-bottom sweep for the Channing/Patio door that has a visible gap at the bottom, and the sweep is in the B&G Closet for future installation. Some of the other agenda items are one-person jobs and will probably be done before the March Work Party.

A useful Work Party; thanks to all who took part.

**Roof.** 22 Feb. Jim and a roofer discussed the situation yesterday. Weather prevented closeup examination, but the impression was that the roof is not in immediate disintegration mode. A closer look will follow. [Done, estimate to follow.] This roofer recommends metal as a more durable alternative to shingle (a "50-year roof"). Finish on the roof material is not especially slick, and the metal would cost about a third less than shingle.

Additional visits from roofers are expected.

Jim and I cleaned out some junk in the Illinois Closet and Fall Room; much remains to be done.

**Recycling Bin, Sanctuary.** 28 Feb. The small blue container for paper recycling at the back of the Sanctuary has been replaced. No idea how the old one had both handles torn apart—a solid, good-quality Rubbermaid item.

**March Work Party.** 25 March. (Early notification) plus update 22 March.

1. Date—Work Party will take place on 25 March, not the usual 3d Saturday, because of an all-day meditation event. Good to get this info early instead of late or never.

2. Agenda—Will include scraping, priming, and perhaps repainting the East wall of the big 1<sup>st</sup>-floor RE room (across the hall from the Patio Room). RE Director Kathleen Hogue has noted cruddification of paint; no black mold observed, but the dampness-related paint damage needs to be addressed. The dehumidifier had not been unplugged and its drain hose was functional when I checked yesterday. Paint damage normally occurs in summer when air is damp, and/or when somebody unplugs the dehumidifier. Might get some prep done before Work Party. [No such prep done as of 22 March.]
3. Big item: Cleaning. The cleaning of the building had become less frequent, so crud was able to accumulate; the Board is now considering different cleaners. So the Work Party will need to do what we can to clean up the building for the moment. We'll have a list of things that need to be done.
4. Jim wants to try to open another of the Sanctuary windows.
5. The space on the southeast corner of the Sanctuary, behind the video screen, has been checked out for insulation issues, and a light has been left on. We need to get into the space (by removing the lattice screen) and consider issues of insulation, air circulation, etc.
6. In the B&G Closet, under the stairs from the Elm Street door to Channing Hall, I'd like to attach a wood backing to the wall and hang the two small drawer-cabinets containing small hardware. One person required to hold the wood in place during the procedure.
7. Perhaps more paintwork in Choir Loft.
8. Refreshments will be on hand for builders and groundlings.

Martin Berger, B&G Scribe

**Work Party, 25 March.** Present: Marguerite Felice, Elaine Habeger, Jim Rak, Bob Seibold, MB.

Jim repaired the Kitchen sink faucet, restoring the cold-water supply. An additional part will be needed to perfect the operation of the faucet.

I used a power wire cup-brush to remove crumbled paint from the East wall of the big 1<sup>st</sup>-floor RE Room. There was even more bad paint than had been anticipated, and a great deal of dust

was created. (We now know that the smoke alarm works, as it detected the airborne crud.) We swept up a lot of paint crumbs and other dust. Jim applied primer and removed the cardboard used to protect the floor. [On the next day our RE Director, Kathleen Hogue, and RE students did more cleaning, making the room cleaner than it has been for years.] Paint files in the Office document the tint for the wall paint, which was applied in 2012; I'll get matching paint mixed and we'll do a finish coat.

The cleaning service having ceased operations, Elaine vacuumed the Sanctuary and did additional cleaning, as did Bob. Restroom supplies were replenished.

This was a useful and necessary Work Party, which dealt with the most urgent tasks on our agenda. More of the items on the to-do list will have to await the April Work Party when we can hope for a higher turnout.

**Security/Door.** 1 April. Alarm c. 4 AM--"Rear East Door." Louisa got message from SOS alarm; she deactivated the alarm to avoid an unnecessary police call. No movement inside the building. We assumed that the problem was most likely high wind rattling the door and setting off the door sensor. It was extremely frustrating that neither of us can drive right now because of medical orders, so I couldn't go in and check it out. Louisa called Matt Jones, who visited the church and verified that the door was not tightly closed. After he pulled on the handle from outside, the alarm code vanished. Thanks to Matt.

The latch issue on that door (1<sup>st</sup>-floor/2d-floor landing nearest the synagogue) has been recognized but not resolved for some time. The striker on the crashbar doesn't pop out with appropriate vigor; even when spray lubricant is applied; probably an internal spring has failed. We need to take the crashbar in for repair, and to replace it if necessary. The door latches if closed firmly, but probably only persons who have repeatedly had to respond to alarms are motivated to close it with sufficient vigor. I've got another week or more of no-driving, so I probably won't be able to deal with the issue right away.

**Work Party, 15 April (Announcement).** (I've begun including the announcements in the Chronicle.) The Third Saturday is coming up. We don't have to move our meeting because the meditators will be done at 10 AM, at which time none of the B&G crew will be there except for those who are also meditators and the old guy who makes the coffee for the Work Party.

The usual items will need attention. Don't know what, if anything, has happened with the cleaning of the building.

It's probably safe to move the salt and other snow-season items out of the way and stash them neatly in the Cave.

The RE door nearest the synagogue needs attention, to the cruddy door-bottom, cruddy exterior, and latching mechanism. I'll bring sawhorses (as some will recall, the ones that used to be stored in the Boiler Room were disappeared sometime in the fairly-distant past) so that if we have to

take the door off we'll be able to lay it flat and work on it. This is important because if the door isn't firmly latched, the sensor calls the alarm people and/or the police, and somebody has to deal with the fuss in the middle of the night.

The segment of RE Room wall that was cleaned and primed but not finished with new topcoat needs to be done. Easy job, especially if there are two people to help move the shelves out of the way.

Jim has four rolls of insulation to be hauled up into the space behind the video screen in the Sanctuary, and needs to check controls and current for the vent fan high in the attic above that area.

In general, items that were undone last month are still undone.

**Work Party, 15 April (Summary of efforts).** Present: Elaine Habeger, Matt and Nate Jones, Jim Rak, Bob Seibold, MB.

Joneses were at work when I arrived c. 9:40 AM. They **painted the Elm Street vestibule**, using tan paint that Tim Raridon had donated some time ago. (Need to get specifics on tint, etc., for B&G records.) Area had been sanded and primed previously; looks good.

Elaine began **cleaning** at 10 AM and continued until well into the afternoon. We still have no regular cleaning, and a good monthly treatment at Work Party leaves a month of cruddification between cleanings, in addition to using valuable time and effort from the effective but smallish number of B&G volunteers. The pile of evergreen crumbs at the front of the Sanctuary is now gone.

**Salt and snow-shovels** have been put away in the Cave and Illinois Closet respectively. The floor inside the Illinois Avenue vestibule has been well swept following the removal of winter-specific supplies items, but ought to be repainted.

Randy **mowed**. The mower was slow to get started but ran fine in its first outing of the season. The **snow-blower** has been moved to the back of the Cave, after being employed zero times during our unusually mild winter.

Bob raked leaves and twigs that cluttered the lawn and piled his accumulation on the future-mulch pile on the East side of the RE Wing, ready for grinding when the chipper-shredder is deployed.

Jim and I worked on the **crashbar on the northeast RE door**, which has caused maddening alarms because of failure to latch tightly. I had worked on the latch on Friday, assisted by Tim Raridon, and had removed the crashbar and wired the door shut while the latch marinated in spray-lubricant. Two people were needed to reinstall the crashbar, and Jim and I managed to get it on, where it works much better than it did. We spent a lot of effort sanding and scraping to ease the closing of the door. (I still think that removing the door to facilitate smoothing and sealing of the door-bottom would be a good move, and will be happy to work on that if anyone

wants to help get the door off and on again, but the door closes much more readily than it used to.) Jim and I tightened the top hinge's connection to the jamb, and Jim adjusted the tension on the spring closer. Now if the door is opened and released from a foot or so of opening, it will latch properly. Still possible to leave it partially closed and insecure; no such thing as foolproof.

A very productive Work Party; thanks to all.

Marrtin Berger, B&G Scribe

**Agenda for 20 May Work Party, adapted from the appeal sent to potential Work Partisans:**

Again, we'll have to devote some B&G effort to basic cleanup--sweeping, emptying trash, etc.

DOES ANYONE KNOW WHAT HAS BECOME OF 3 OR 4 AIRPOT COFFEE CARAFES? THEY WERE MISSING LAST SUNDAY. Most if not all of the current airpots have stainless-steel liners, so unlike the older glass-lined specimens they're unlikely to have been broken and concealed by the guilty. [Carafes reappeared.]

Branches piled on East side of RE Wing still need lopping to get the bigger parts out of the way and ready the thinner pieces for shredding into mulch. No point in hauling my chipper-shredder to Church until this is done. [Done; see below.]

The RE exit door on the East side of the building, nearest to the synagogue, has been worked on and now latches as it should. The other door, nearest to Illinois Avenue, seems to have gummed up so that it doesn't shut easily, and will require work. (I may be able to deal with the problem before the Work Party.) Both of these doors need painting on their exterior sides--a somewhat fussy job because of the many small panes. [Undone.]

The exit door from the RE Room really needs exterior paint, to protect the metal plate that we installed to cover the delaminated bottom of the door. Need to determine type and color of paint. [Initial effort after Work Party; see below.]

Floor in Illinois Avenue entryway should be painted; need to determine what paint to use. This would be most conveniently done when the building is unoccupied, but could be done in halves. [Undone.]

Still need to sort RE Closet contents, make inventory list, attach wood piece to wall, attach little hardware cabinets, etc. [Undone.]

Need to deploy insulation in cavity behind big video screen at front of Sanctuary (some agility required). Jim Rak has sorted out where insulation needs to go. [JR unavailable for 20 May effort.]

Mowing/weeding to be done as weather permits. [Weather did not permit.]



Lisbet (Board President) reports concern at recent Board meeting about potential collapse of retaining wall in Patio. This needs to be discussed. (Seems to me that the brick wall will topple very slowly, and not immediately; short-run response should be reconstruction of the fence that we installed atop the wall, and has been partially undone—why and by whom is unknown.)

**Work Party, 20 May.** Present: Matt Jones, Jim Rak, Ryan Stryffeler, MB.

I arrived c. 9 AM and made coffee. Kitchen was in good order after the previous evening's activity.

Matt sanded the edge of the South RE stairwell exit door, and I applied Deft sealer. No outdoor painting was doable because of rain.

Matt, Jim, and I put away plywood bases for performances, returning them from Channing to the Chair Closet, and moved concrete blocks from the Channing floor to the Patio. We also moved the two propane patio-heaters into the Patio Room from the semi-sheltered area on the West side of the RE Wing.

Noted that Jim Rak had acquired and installed the long-sought **cover for the overhead pipe** in Channing, near the elevator. Made and installed a small sign, to be replaced with a proper laminated one, urging weekly draining during heating season for the steampipe drain near the elevator.

Jim proposed to drill into the concrete floor of the Patio, next to the **leaning wall**, to install a vertical barrier to further leaning. This would be a temporary effort to limit and measure the gradual tilting of the wall, and to allay anxieties about the eventual (and slow) fall of the wall. Nobody seems to know who removed the protective fence that had been placed atop the wall to prevent under-supervised children from playing atop the wall and falling onto the concrete floor of the Patio; agreed that some sort of fence needs to be reinstalled.

Ryan and I broke up branches in the East side of the RE Wing, preparing them for grinding into **mulch**. When my vehicle is back on the road and I can get a person to help load my chipper-shredder into it, the branches can be converted into mulch. (Branches were conveniently brittle, unlike most of the material that we accumulate.)

Found **snowplow ramps** outside Cave and put them away.

Swept Kitchen with broom, vacuumed Sanctuary carpet, emptied trash cans, dealt with paper towels, etc., in restrooms.. Still no cleaners, so B&G needed to fill the gap, if only in a fairly cursory fashion.

Jim, Matt, and Ryan installed **insulation** somewhere above the Sanctuary speaker-loft, behind the video screen.

A useful Work Party; thanks to the hardy handful who contributed their efforts.

Martin Berger, B&G Scribe.

22 May. The lawn has been mowed, presumably by Randy Tullis. It couldn't be done during the Work Party because of rain.

22 May. In the late afternoon following the Work Party, I returned and applied a coat of gray exterior paint (recorded in the Paint folder) to the outside of the **Fall Room exit door**. It looks better than it did, but will benefit from a second coat. The new paint reveals several bulging sites where the laminated surface of the wooden door has separated from the solid wood core. These lesions were not noticeable under the previous, darker paint. Probably they will not spread rapidly, though the door, which for that exposed location ought not to have been made of wood, will eventually require replacement. On Sunday 21 May I applied two coats of Krylon spray primer to rusted areas in the steel door frame; today (Monday) I brush-painted the door frame with Rustoleum Smoke Gray. This will require a second coat.

5 June. I visited the church this morning to check on trash and recycling, and found that the **toilet** in the Men's restroom was running. The chain that connects the flapper valve to the lift arm had come off; I reconnected it and secured the connection with a twist-tie. No replacement of parts is required, but there will be some damage to the water bill.

5 June. Noted yesterday (Sunday) that the **icemaker in the Kitchen refrigerator** was not making ice. Moving the arm that turns it on had no effect. Need to check manual, and probably summon a repair technician. The icemaker was an add-on to the Amana fridge, and has died on some previous occasion. [Remedied Friday 9 June: Repairman who replaced the icemaker unit in October 2017 determined that icemaker was ok, and not operating because cold water at sink was shut off pending acquisition of necessary repair parts for sink faucet. Probably my fault, since I installed line to fridge in 2011 and connected the icemaker line downstream from the sink cold-water supply valve. Problem had never manifested itself previously.] On the plus side, I was able to find info on fridge, etc., in Office files, and I've rearranged and purged Kitchen files to make it easier to find stuff.

10 June. Yesterday we had a consequential visit from the **Boiler-inspection** people. In the past this inspection has been concerned with the Boiler, and has been fairly routine. We did not know that the inspection process was connected with our insurer, Church Mutual. Evidently Hartford Steam Boiler, which has conducted the inspection for years, does so on behalf of the insurer, and notifies the state that the inspection has been done, whereupon the state sends us the inspection certificate to post in the Boiler Room.

This time the inspection was conducted by John and James, who did not give last names (James appeared to be a trainee). John left a card, sans names, from Hartford Steam Boiler. We are to receive a writeup of the inspection, with photos. We passed the inspection, but have several items that need attention, presumably before next year's inspection. Some of these are entirely new to us, and some will require significant rearrangements and work on the part of UUYO.

We need a **handrail** on the steps to the Boiler Room. It can be wooden, and must extend down to the second step from the floor. (Not a big deal; we have brackets on hand, and some wood handrail.)

We may not leave anything on the **steps** down to the Boiler Room. (Plausible safety concern.)

The **pipe** that runs across the back of one step is undesirable, but acceptable if **painted yellow**. (Doable.)

**Nothing may be stored within 3 feet of the Boiler.** (Despite the removal of all oil-base paint from the shelf-unit next to the Boiler, more than a decade ago—indeed, the shelf-unit itself needs to be moved—unacceptable even if empty!) (Major inconvenience; shelf-unit and contents can be moved to the raised area next to the forced-air heating ducts for the RE Wing, but a lot of stuff needs to be moved to make room for the shelves which contain latex paint, etc.)

**Nothing may be stored within 3 feet of the main power line/breaker box in the Illinois Closet.** This includes the extension cords hung next to the box and the stuff on the floor under the box. (More need to rearrange or get rid of stuff.)

Need **right-angle connector and pipe** attached to safety valve on the Boiler (on the side of the Boiler farthest from the Kitchen). Valve is labeled “safety” and is near a similar outlet with a pipe that extends to about an inch from the floor. (Easy, when pipe diameter is measured.)

**Work Party 24 June.** Present: Elaine Habeger, Jim Rak, Lowell Satre, Bob Seibold, Brian Stryffeler, Randy Tullis, MB.

I arrived c. 9:30 and made coffee. Used canister vacuum from Fall Room to clean up dust, etc., on Boiler Room steps (left from installation of two wood supports for handrail on previous day). Removed spider from Kitchen sink. Dumped moldy contents of Kitchen compost container in bin outdoors, rinsed Kitchen container. (Spigot on East RE wall in poor condition, hose connection likewise.)

Jim and others arrived; installed **handrail on Boiler Room steps**.

Elaine arrived and worked mostly on **outdoor greenery**, later joined by Bob. Randy appeared and mowed.

Jim, Brian, Lowell, and I removed paint and other items from the **metal shelf-unit** in the Boiler Room and cut down the shelf-unit to enable reinstalling it in the raised portion of the Boiler Room. This process required working around a pipe near the ceiling. Eventually Lowell and I returned most of the paint to the shelves, discarding some ancient and dried-out containers. (We have more of the Sherwin-Williams exterior white than I realized.) Many items that were stored in the area now occupied by the shelf-unit need new locations.

Some progress was made in the Illinois Closet, which is more crowded than it was after moving stuff 3 feet away from the main electrical breaker-box. A lot of usable plastic containers were discarded to create space.

Scrambling to unearth tools for surgery on the shelf-unit revealed some duplication and much disorder in the Buildings & Grounds tool inventory. Reorganizing stuff so that we can find it is a high priority for future B&G efforts.

Some unfinished business, but a remarkably productive Work Party. It may be the case that having more useful people show up makes it more likely that we'll get something done.

Thanks to all.

[Insert WP message/agenda.]

**Work Party 15 July 2023.** Present: Matt Jones, Jim Morgan, Jim Rak, Randy Tullis, Bob Seibold, MB.

I arrived c. 9:15 and made coffee. Jim Morgan appeared soon afterward, bringing additional refreshments and ensuring a surplus of items for the ensuing Sunday's Coffee Hour. I made a run home to get my good lopper, and Jim began **trimming the bushes next to the Patio fence**. Jim had concluded that our approach should be shifted from leveling off the tops of the bushes with the electric hedge-trimmer to shortening bush branches at a lower level; among other results, this approach made it unnecessary to deploy ladders and strain to reach across the line of bushes. Jim was able to move in among the narrowed bushes and could work without spending time and effort securing himself to the fence with rope.

I hauled many wheelbarrow-loads of trimmings to the pile on the East side of the RE Wing, where much of the material will require further trimming to make it suitable for the future-mulch pile. I also found and applied poison-ivy killer to two smallish infestations among the bushes.

Processing of the amputated branches will take some time, because even after the bits are trimmed to permit grinding, I can't move my chipper-shredder to Church until work is completed on the vehicle that I need to move the shredder.

Randy, who had mowed the lawn on the previous day, arrived and mowed the **grass in the Patio**. Others assisted in moving the mower back up the stairs to the Patio gate. Randy also used the clipper on assorted foliage in the Patio area.

Matt and Jim Rak did **exterior painting**, on the East-side Sanctuary windows and the Minister's Office windows. Matt was able to use the Little Giant-type ladder to reach the lower Sanctuary windows, which had been hastily and superficially painted a few years earlier. Some further work was needed on window caulking—probably there since the Old Building construction in the 1920s—but the exterior windowsills were not rotted. Nobody could recall how ladders had been managed to get at the Minister's Office windows when we last worked on them, but at least half of them are repainted. All this work was done with new paint, a combination primer-surface

coat that Jim Rak has purchased. The fairly abundant older exterior white will be used on the more readily accessible portions of the building.

Bob **weeded** in the sloped area along the East side of the Old Building, and was still at it when I left, c, 1:45 PM.

Nobody had learned what part (“a connector”) had been replaced to fix the **Office air conditioning** a week or so earlier. Inquiry to follow.

Jim Rak examined the toilet flapper-valve in the **second-floor restroom**, where a leak had been reported. We did not have a flapper-valve on hand. Inquiry to follow.

I moved the **big-screen TV** from the 1<sup>st</sup>-floor RE Hall closet, where it had been stashed during a well-attended memorial earlier in the week, back into Channing Hall where it has been used during downstairs Summer services.

Everyone was engaged in the above efforts, so there was nobody with time and/or energy to attend to **cleanup** (still no provision for regular cleaning).

Other items on the Work Party agenda remained undone; I’ll try to deal with the small door near the Illinois Closet where we’ve moved Cardboard recycling. Needs to be done before the dragging door ruins the floor.

An extremely useful Work Party, thanks to skilled and diligent participation. It helped that despite high temperature, the sun was filtered through some overcast, and it didn’t rain till evening. We were fortunate this time.

Thanks to all.

**Cardboard Recycling.** 16 July. Before the Sunday service, Galen Elser helped me remove the small door from the Organ Engine Room to the left of the Illinois Closet door. Hinge pins came out readily and the door was laid out on the Fall Room work table so that my small belt sander could take some wood off the bottom of the door as Galen held it in place. Some years ago, the area outside the Illinois Closet was covered with square cork tiles matching the Sanctuary floor; so long as nobody ever opened the Engine Room door, contact between the door-bottom and the tiles was not a problem, but moving the cardboard-recycling box into the engine room meant that drag from the door would soon damage the tile. A rare example of an easy task that did not transform itself into a major hassle.

**Electrical. 25 July.** While vacuuming in the Sanctuary this morning, before a memorial service, the outlet nearest to the organ keyboard went out of service. This outlet is controlled by the S-11 or S-12 breaker on the old Box S that controls the Sanctuary lights. Breaker wasn’t flipped, and did not respond to flipping. Tim Raridon reports that the outlet has been unreliable for some time. I ran extension cords from the little room behind the pulpit. Someone with electrical skills needs to look into the breaker.

**Ice.** 25 July. On Sunday (23 July) we had no ice water at Coffee Hour because someone had flipped the icemaker control up to shut off icemaking. I reset the control, and icemaking resumed; this morning before the memorial service I found that icemaking had continued beyond the filling of the ice container, producing an excess. So using the icemaker requires active human intervention—turning on the device when the bin is empty, and turning it off when the bin is full. Whenever we need to replace the fridge (not soon, I hope, because these appliances are costly), this particular Amana model will be long gone from the market, but it is to be hoped that either we get a machine sans icemaker, using manual ice-cube trays, or one of the many refrigerators whose icemakers routinely work as they are intended to.

**Refrigerator.** 25 July. Yesterday I visited V&V Appliance Parts to seek a replacement rail to support the refrigerator bins, at the bottom of the non-freezer upper zone of the refrigerator. Jim Rak had prophesied that the piece would be costly, and he was correct--\$57 for a modest piece of plastic. It had broken because of feeble design and material, subjected to excess weight on the shelf above the bins. (If this rail didn't break frequently, V&V wouldn't keep the parts on hand.) Poor design plus lack of common sense in loading the fridge is expensive.

**Water Use/ Toilets.** 8 Aug. On Sunday Tom Smotzer and Gary Davenport reported post-flush running water in the 2d-floor restroom toilet. I test-flushed, and the tank filled slowly and shut off. Gary said that he had verified that the toilet shut off normally after a test-flush. I'll replace the flush gizmo; flapper-valve is crusted with minerals but seals; will replace that component also. Lisbet has been observing water-use with our new monitoring gizmo, and reports a 2-gallon day when apparently nobody used the building. **[Lisbet reports a recent encounter with the 2d-floor toilet in which the flapper valve failed to seat properly, though it isn't crusted with crud. Need to replace flapper valve. Jim Rak says that he has replaced the flush mechanism already.** 20 August.]

**Alarms.** 8 Aug. Yesterday c. 4:30 PM SOS left me a message about an alarm. I went to church, found nobody around, and was unable to reset the alarm. Called Louisa, who said that Tim Raridon had experienced difficulty in setting the alarm. Alarm message reported fault in relay. The relay in question is the gizmo on the wall outside the 2d-floor Sink Closet, a.k.a. "repeater or "sender." On the cryptic "SOS Sensor Designations" list, the item is #12. The device enables the alarm system to communicate with the sensor on the North RE Door, designated by SOS as "Back East Door< or # 13 on the list. (We changed from ADT to SOS security in part because ADT was disinclined to provide an alarm for that door.)

SOS sent Cliff to deal with the problem on 16 August. He determined that the battery in the relay was good and confirmed that the relay worked. He adjusted the positioning of the relay inside its plastic shell on the door, and confirmed that the door closure was tight and not subject to rattling in place. (We spent a good deal of effort smoothing out the door-closing and the working of the crashbar tongue on that door a few months ago.) Cliff worked with the SOS office to match up communication between the wall relay and the door sensor, and the system was functioning correctly when he departed.

Reconsideration of labels of the alarm zones would be useful and I'll put it on the agenda for our next Work Party.

## **Work Party 26 August. (Agenda.)**

Work Party deferred from the usual 3d Saturday because of scheduled conflicting events.

Things to do:

1. Evaluate terminology on the SOS list of security zones. This requires 2 people to distinguish between the two “Basement Hall Motion” zones (#4 and 5) and to reconsider replacing unclear designations of other zones to correspond with what we actually call those areas of the Church. Maybe we could persuade SOS to change the labels on the zones.
2. Deal with sticking doors, East Channing-Patio doorway. This will require removal of at least one of the two doors and sanding the bottom edge, sealing the sanded area with fast-drying spar varnish, and painting the sanded area with exterior white paint. Might be able to get both inside and out painted. Big sawhorses (from Beth Foster’s former house) are in hallway inside North RE door and can be used to support door during painting.
5. Paint whichever Channing/Patio doors are most in need of repainting. Lots of windows are also in need of fresh painting, especially on the exteriors; not about to run out of paintwork to do.
4. Diagnose faucet in New RE Office/ former Patio Room. Water fountain and spigot are supplied by the same flexible pipe; one works and the other doesn’t.
5. Fall Room Exit Door—add foam insulating strip. (This morning Jim Rak—aided by bright sunlight--noted that the wood door is warped, creating a quarter-inch gap between lower door and frame.)
6. Install wood panel in B&G Closet, to permit mounting of hardware drawer-box. 20-minute job if some sturdy person will hold the wood in place while pilot holes are drilled; impossible if no such assistant is available, as has been the case for several months.
7. Weeding, as usual.
8. Probably still some branches to be trimmed to facilitate conversion to mulch, whenever I can get my chipper-shredder to Church. (My station wagon unavailable because of major repair/transformation in progress.)
9. Check window-wells on East side of RE Wing, use brooms and/or shopvac to remove crud if necessary.

No doubt there are more to-do items that I haven’t thought of; let me know if you’re aware of any. (Cleaning is now being well handled.) Downside of being a former B&G Chair is that I’m even less likely to be advised of stuff, but we’re gradually figuring out how to take care of what needs to be done. Thanks for your support.

**Work Party 26 August.** (Things done.)

Present: Jack Auman, Marguerite,

DeFelice, Elaine Habeger, Matt Jones, Roger La Fontaine, Ralph Malmer, Jim Morgan, Jim Rak, Lowell Satre, Bob Seibold, Ryan Stryffeler, Randy Tullis, MB. (There may have been others; I was too busy and too frazzled to keep track of who was doing what.)

I arrived c. 9:30 AM and made coffee, set out refreshments, etc., and unlocked the Channing-Patio door. Noted that the toilet-unclogging plunger was gone in the Men's Restroom and retrieved it from the Accessible Restroom. Found cardboard from packages of Ziploc bags in paper-recycling and put cardboard in Cardboard Recycling.

When people began to arrive, Lowell and I got the sawhorses from the **northeast RE doorway** and took off the right Channing-Patio door, which had become difficult to open and close, and laid it across the sawhorses. I had to go home to fetch my small belt-sander, which I had forgotten, and when I returned more workers had arrived and chosen things to do.

Lowell and I sanded the bottom of the door, rehung the door to check closing, unhung the door, reinstalled it, unhung and re-sanded it twice more, and finally sealed the door bottom with fast-drying spar varnish before finally reinstalling the door. Unfortunately it remained hard to close, and will have to be worked on again. The brushy draft-guards are part of the problem, and may have to be relocated. We did not get the door repainted.

Jim Rak and Ryan succeeded in removing the **leaky pipe** that runs across the boiler-room steps, using a big pipe wrench, a length of pipe (found in the Cave) for leverage, and my propane torch, which I had to fetch from home. Jim was to obtain a replacement pipe, cut to length and threaded.

Elaine, Ralph, Jack, Jim Morgan, and Ralph were seen dealing with **assorted vegetation**, probably including branches broken by a recent windstorm. Elaine cleaned up the UUYO sign. Randy mowed, Bob weeded.

Matt scraped and painted exterior windows on the Channing Patio side.

Jim Rak had examined plumbing in the New RE Office (see agenda) and believed that one or more shutoff valves had clogged internally. Dissection would be required.

Some other items on the agenda remain to be dealt with, but quite a lot was accomplished. An official from the Cityscape program visited in the early afternoon and praised the appearance of UUYO's building and grounds. It's rewarding to know that some of our effort is not only necessary but noticeable. This was a fine Work Party, impressive in turnout and in useful effort. Thanks to all.

MB



**Water Waste, 2d-Floor Toilet.** 5 Sept. Sunday after the service (2 Sept.) Lisbet reported a \$400 water loss. Someone had summoned Matt and Lanore Jones, who shut off water to the 2d-floor toilet, which had been heard running. Lisbet had wiped away crystallized crud and removed some flakes, which might have interfered with closure of the flapper valve. I brought the shopvac from the Fall Room. We removed considerable junk from the tank. Shopvac remains disassembled, in order to dry out. Lisbet detected a bulge in the rubber gasket around the bottom of the vertical tube, and believes that it is big enough to interfere with closure of the flapper valve. The chain connecting the flush handle to the flapper valve is too long, but I am not sure that there is enough slack to allow the chain to get trapped inside the valve and prevent closure. For the moment, the toilet is labeled “Do Not Use” and the water valve remains shut off. (Followup 10 Sept.) Checked toilet, flushed and observed twice; worked ok. Discussed with Lisbet and Jim Rak—Jim reported that he had trimmed away the bulging bit of rubber. I removed “Out of Order” sign.

**Work Party coming, 16 Sept.** This will be the 3d Saturday, and we’ll be on our theoretical schedule. Most of the items to do will be leftovers from August’s Work Party.

**Work Party, 16 Sept.** Present: Jack Auman, Marguerite Felice, Matt Jones, Linda Mohn, Jim Morgan, Jim Rak, Bob Seibold, MB.

I arrived c. 9 AM, made coffee, unlocked the East Channing/Patio door, and put away some dishes. Jack was first to arrive, and headed out to weedwhack. (I was unable to move around much, or to lift anything, so my ability to see what people were doing was limited; I assisted mostly by finding tools.) Jim Morgan went out to lop unruly vegetation.

Jims Morgan and Rak worked at length on the sticking **Channing/Patio door**, removing a weatherstripping piece, sanding, and finally concentrating on a hinge that was dug out a bit and repositioned. The door’s operation has been greatly improved, and some sealing and painting should finally resolve its problems, solving longstanding and particularly frustrating problem.

Linda dug into a chaotic mess of diverse disposable plates, etc., that had been crammed into the cabinet next to the Kitchen refrigerator and sorted a huge assortment of paper napkins. Marguerite was doing cleaning, and got out the smaller shopvac from the Fall Room. I had neglected to reassemble that sweeper after leaving it to dry out from the toilet-tank cleaning (see above, 5 Sept.), and someone has partially reassembled the shopvac. Marguerite and I put dealt with the resulting mess in the sweeper and put it back together.

Jim Morgan had brought a birthday cake, and the Work Party participants ate most of it in celebrating Jim Rak’s birthday.

Jim Morgan and I applied insulating foam to the Fall Room exit door, reducing the gap between the warped wood door and its steel frame.

Matt and I installed in the B&G Closet the wooden panel that I had prepared several weeks earlier, and attached the two small drawer for hardware, etc., units that have been in the way for several years. One of those mini-cabinets had sat atop the coat rack in the 2d-floor hallway, and

had disappeared; Kathleen Hogue helped to locate it in the 2d-floor Supply Closet. Sorting small items into something resembling reasonable order will be tedious, but no longer impossible.

Bob weeded, as usual.

Jim Rak was preparing to deal with rain gutters when I left, c. 1:30 PM.

A useful work party, producing actual long-delayed progress on several fronts. Thanks to all!

MB

**Boiler Room.** 19 Sept. I have applied two coats of Rustoleum bright yellow to the **pipe that crosses the stairs** to the Boiler Room. Boiler inspection is pending, and we need also to deal with the vertical drainpipe.

**Elevator.** 19 Sept. State inspector visited today, declared everything ok.

**Work Party, 21 Oct.** I assume that we're on for this date, as it's the third Saturday of the month. I haven't worked up an agenda yet, but I need to notify the Workers of the World (or of our corner of it) that I probably won't be able to attend; I'm scheduled for hernia surgery on the 24<sup>th</sup>, and my activity is limited until some weeks after that date. So somebody else will have to keep track of who showed up and what got done. I'll write up the relevant info on the Work Party's accomplishments, gratefully, for the B&G Chronicle afterward.

**Illinois Closet.** I've made a sign for the closet, specifying that no stuff may be left within three feet of the circuit-breakers, so as to encourage compliance with the edict from our insurance provider. The sign is not pretty, but it's conspicuous (black lettering on bright yellow) and nonflammable. Signs are often ignored, as all of you are aware, but some persons may heed the warning, and our effort to enforce the no-crud zone should demonstrate our effort to comply with the edict.

**Lights, Office Ceiling.** Sarah King, our Office Administrator, has resigned. Sarah was averse to bright ceiling lighting, and the fluorescent tubes above the Office desk were turned off. (The ceiling light nearest to the door quit working, and I left it unfixed.) Our new Office Manager, Michele Huston, prefers a well-lighted work area, and Jim Rak is going to revive the ceiling lights. The fluorescents should be replaced by more efficient LED lights, which will require much less frequent replacement of bulbs, but we'll probably settle for replacing/reinstalling fluorescents for the moment. Eventually all fluorescents will need to go the way of the long-gone old incandescent fixtures, but "eventually" is unlikely to happen any time soon.

**Second-floor Restroom.** We have a new toilet, which should put an end to water-bill disasters.

**Elevator.** The small elastic hooked cables that are needed to keep the inner folding doors where they belong when the primary doors are open (especially important when wheelchairs are being elevated) have lost their elasticity. I have not found replacements of the necessary length. Suggestions welcome.

**Work Party 21 Oct.** (Agenda—mostly stuff left undone at August and September Work Parties.)

Evaluate terminology on the SOS list of security zones. This requires 2 people to distinguish between the two “Basement Hall Motion” zones (#4 and 5) and to reconsider replacing unclear designations of other zones to correspond with what we actually call those areas of the Church. Maybe we could persuade SOS to change the labels on the zones.

Paint whichever Channing/Patio doors are most in need of repainting. Lots of windows are also in need of fresh painting, especially on the exteriors; not about to run out of paintwork to do.

Diagnose faucet in New RE Office/ former Patio Room. Water fountain and spigot are supplied by the same flexible pipe; one works and the other doesn't. (This plumbing has been examined but not fixed.)

Admire the new toilet in the 2d-Floor Restroom.

Weeding, as usual.

Probably still some branches to be trimmed to facilitate conversion to mulch, whenever I can get my chipper-shredder to Church. (My station wagon still unavailable because of major repair/transformation in progress.)

Check window-wells on East side of RE Wing, use brooms and/or shopvac to remove crud if necessary. This procedure is to be done from inside the building, since gratings atop window-wells are securely attached.)

Sort small hardware bits in mini-cabinets in B&G Closet so that each drawer contains a category of its own. Requires patience, some new labels, and a table to work on.

**Someone please write down who shows up and what gets done (or attempted). I'll arrange the info for the ongoing B&G Chronicle.**

**Work Party 21 Oct.** Present: Ryan Cornelius, Marguerite Felice, Kathleen Hogue, Ralph Malmer, Jim Rak, Bob Seibold, Ryan Stryffeler. (Thanks to JR for reporting attendance and activity to enable me to record the Work Party that I could not attend.)

Marguerite had begun editing **greenery** earlier in the week, and continued that process, trimming the black-eyed Susans obscuring the monthly-message sign and assorted vegetation around the Illinois entry. Bob weeded, as usual, and continued that effort after everyone had departed.

Tables and chairs in Channing Hall were put away and wall decorations returned to their places.

Barriers were installed to contain **insulation** scheduled to be blown into areas above ceilings.

Jim brought in an LED light to replace the dead fluorescent unit in the Office ceiling. To be installed later.

**Thermostat** in Channing was reprogrammed. The outdoor **ash receptacle** was found in the Patio and set up outside the Illinois entrance to accommodate a recovery group now meeting in the building. Needs some sand ballast.

Jim reported a problem with the sump **drain** in the Boiler Room; water from the sump-plus-roof-drain near Cave door appears to be partially obstructed; needs diagnosis and likely unblocking.

**Update, 29 Oct.** Jim has installed the **LED replacement light in the Office**. The single tube produces a bit more brightness than the original pair of fluorescent tubes did before the old fixture died. The translucent cover conceals the details of the installation, and the new light is satisfactory to those who work in the office. Jim will obtain and install an identical LED replacement in the fixture above the desk, so that the pair of ceiling lights will match.

I have rigged a replacement elastic-cord setup to hold the vertically-folding inner doors of the **elevator** open. (Without a retention device, the inner doors tend to move into the space of the opened doors, interfering with wheelchairs, carts, etc.) The repair involves duct tape and is not elegant, but holds the doors open. I have been unable to obtain elastic cords of the right length to do the door-management in an elegant manner; if anyone knows of a source for elastic cord, please inform MB.

**Update, 5 Nov.** The **boiler** that heats the Old Building (Sanctuary/Channing Hall) did not light up this morning. Jim Rak checked the boiler and found that its water level was low; apparently the low water level caused the thermostat to shut down. Function was restored; Jim will try to determine why the water level was low. Search for the thermostat manual revealed some anomalies in the labeling of files in the Office cabinet, and filing has been modified.

The inadequate bulb in one of the Channing **ceiling-fan lights** has been replaced with a 60-watt-equivalent LED bulb. (I had previously used the weird puny bulb that was the only one in the Supply Closet small enough to fit inside the globe.)

I have repaired the **hymnal-rack** on the rearmost pew on the south side of the Sanctuary. The compartmented hardware box recently installed in the B&G Closet still needs more sorting, but it made it easier to find the appropriate screws for the repair.

The hanging **ceiling light** in the Illinois doorway landing ceiling needs a new glass globe. Our cleaner, Brittany, reports that when she used an extension-rod duster to remove crud from the light's supporting chain, the globe fell to the floor and smashed. Evidently the globe's screws had not been adequately tightened, so the light-globe constituted a booby trap. We need to find a replacement globe. The fixture itself is ok (better than its predecessor). I don't recall where we got the fixture.

Brittany noted that a ceiling light in the hallway outside the Office is hanging low, because its ceiling tile is sagging. This is ugly but not in danger of collapsing, and should be dealt with

when we have time to cut and install a different tile. Another ceiling light, in the 2d-floor ceiling at the top of the Illinois entry stairs, has unsightly dead bugs in it and I can't get the glass cover out. It's a different design than the rest of the RE Wing ceiling lights.

### **Agenda for 18 Nov. Work Party:**

1. Install new pendant light in Illinois Ave. entry. Purchased at Bermann's going-out-of-business sale; no replacement globe available for old fixture. New item has 3-bulb setup, bulbs accessible from above without disassembling fixture. Replacement will be challenging, requiring two people on ladders with perhaps another on 2d floor to hand people stuff as necessary.
2. Deploy anti-slip mat, salt, and shovels at Illinois and Elm doorways. Mat should be in Fall Room atop fridge, salt in Cave, shovels in 1<sup>st</sup>-floor Illinois Closet.
3. Trim branches, if necessary. I've brought lopper.
4. Mow/mulch/bag leaves as necessary, if it's not raining.
5. Paint Channing/Patio door(s) as needed.
6. Weed, if weather permits.
7. Check exterior drains in window-wells on East side of RE Wing (accessible from big RE Room). If drains are obstructed, clean from inside RE room; use shopvac. [Checked; ok.]
8. Check drain outside RE Closet (accessible, with difficulty, from window-well).
9. Determine how to protect drains outside South side of RE Wing, where protective mesh has apparently been squashed.
10. If anyone involved in planning tomorrow's Thanksgiving activities appears to supervise, assist in setting up tables, etc.

### **Work Party 18 Nov.**

Present: Elaine Habeger, Marguerite Felice, Matt Jones, Jim Rak, Bob Seibold, Ryan Stryffeler, Randy Tullis, MB.

Jim and Mat installed the new light fixture in the Illinois foyer.

Elaine, Ryan, and Jim dealt with leaves. Bob weeded.

I flattened cardboard boxes and took them to a recycling bin.

Matt, Jim, and Ryan removed items from the space above the Sanctuary ceiling, clearing space for fiberglass insulation to be blown in.

Elaine and Marguerite assisted with setup for the following day's Thanksgiving dinner.

Matt, assisted by Jim, inspected the chimney at the East end of the Old Building and determined that the cement top of the chimney is badly cracked and crumbling. Matt will repair it in the Spring.

A productive Work Party, and an occasion for thanksgiving.

**Update, 10 Dec.** The **insulation** has been blown in. Jim Rak has used his leafblower and the mower to deal with the last of the **leaves**.

**Work Party Agenda, 16 Dec.** We have sometimes skipped the December Work Party because hectic holiday-season activities cut into Work-Party attendance, but Jim has noted some things that may be doable despite small turnout. Some barriers may be installed to keep the blown-in fiberglass insulation in place, and foam strips may be deployed to seal openings in the Sanctuary windows. A larger vertical strip may be installed at the opening between the two big Elm Street doors, to permit adding a foam strip between those doors. If temperature permits, some overdue painting can be done on the bottom of a Patio/Channing door.

**Work Party, 16 Dec.** Present: Elaine Habeger, Marguerite Felice, Jim Rak, Kate Ross, Bob Seibold, Ryan Stryffeler, MB.

I arrived c. 9:15 AM, made coffee, opened the Fall Room, and began dealing with items left in that room. I had been in the previous evening and removed junk from the clearly-labeled, grossly junk-piled work table, enabling me to paint the wood strips that Jim had brought in earlier. I bagged and labeled containers, crock-pot parts, etc., that had been left on the Fall Room table and Kitchen surfaces.

Kate arrived first, surveyed the Fall Room, and recommended scrapping two percolators that had been dead for a year or more. Elaine appeared, and the two cleaned up the exterior stairs from the Fall Room emergency exit. Later Kate swept the debris-littered floor of the Channing Chair Closet, and the two installed some foam sealing strips on the Sanctuary windows. Marguerite was doing something useful, but I was too busy to see what it was.

Jim arrived, later joined by Ryan, and we worked on the Elm Street entry doors, removing the old vertical strip and replacing it with a new one that provides a larger overlap to reduce cold-air intrusion. We had hoped to line the new strip with a foam strip, but the strip proved incompatible with proper closing of the south door. Gap was reduced via caulk, and we removed the unused receptacle for the old latch, which had allowed a good deal of cold air to get into the building. Jim and I made a wood plate (with plastic-foam insert) to cover the resulting cavity; when caulked and painted, the fill-in is inconspicuous and no more ragged than the surrounding century-old wood door. Jim and Ryan also installed an insulating door-sweep on the bottom of one door.

Jim had hoped to install a similar vertical strip on the Illinois Avenue door, but time and fatigue prevented further activity. When I left, c. 3 PM, Jim had repainted some battered areas on the Elm doors, and was painting the lower portion of the Channing-Patio door.

Bob raked and removed at least two wheelbarrows' worth of leaves from the Elm Street lawn, and was still at it when I left.

A useful Work Party that took advantage of the unseasonably warm weather and surprisingly good turnout; a good conclusion for 2023 Work Party efforts.

Martin Berger, B&G Scribe