

Construction Update Bulletin Board

A Record of the Renovation of St. Paul's
Episcopal Church, 1991-1992

Lionel E. Deimel

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Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

To the Head of this Parish
and the Good People of St. Paul's

Preface

One Sunday in October 1991, I overheard a conversation at St. Paul's about recent plate collections being less than normal. I became concerned that the chaos and inconvenience of the newly begun construction might keep parishioners away from St. Paul's. I had also been concerned that we at St. Paul's did not communicate with one another as well as we might.

These thoughts led me to make a proposal at the monthly Parish Council meeting the next night. I volunteered to create and maintain a *Construction Update Bulletin Board* during renovation if the Rector and members of Parish Council thought this was a good idea. They did, I was dubbed Construction Update Coordinator, and the process of figuring out what a construction update bulletin board was and how to put one together had begun.

Between Monday night and Saturday afternoon, I collected information, chose a format for the text, and collected the necessary office and art supplies for the project. St. Paul's cleared a bulletin board near the church office and provided me with a mailbox and a copy of the Building the Vision logo. By Sunday morning, when Fr. Pickering announced the bulletin board in church, there were posters about it all around the building. And, of course, there was the bulletin board itself, decorated in red and white, with a box for comments and suggestions. The next week, a notebook of previous postings was added.

Over the next 30 weeks, I updated the bulletin board weekly and occasionally placed mention of it in the *Messenger* and Sunday bulletin. Throughout the period, information about construction at St. Paul's could be found in the same place, though the cork board itself was removed for several weeks, and notices had to be placed directly on the wall. The bulletin board had to be redone also when the cork of all the bulletin boards in the lobby and undercroft were covered with gray fabric.

This book provides a record of all the posts that appeared on the Construction Update Bulletin Board from October 20, 1991 to May 17, 1992, as well as the posters

that were placed from time to time around the building. Everything is reproduced here full size and without editing, except for shifting the position of the text on the page to provide an adequate left margin for binding. I think the format used best communicates a sense of what parishioners saw over the life of this project.

I would like to thank Fr. Pickering and the members of Parish Council for encouraging me to take on this project. Thanks are also due to the people of St. Paul's for their support, suggestions, and readership. Many people provided me with the information needed to produce the bulletin board each week, and my gratitude is extended to each one of them. My primary source of information was Paul Schreibeis, construction superintendent for Landau Building Co. Paul was always cooperative and patient with me. I cannot thank him enough, and I will miss our weekly conversations. I would also like to thank my wife Betty and son Geoffrey for their help in setting up the bulletin board that first week and for their occasional assistance in subsequent weeks. They were very understanding of the time I spent on this project that might otherwise have been devoted to family matters. Finally, I want to thank Lynda and David Kusuma, who took responsibility for the bulletin board during the one week I was out of town.

Lionel E. Deimel

May 1992

Introduction

In 1990, St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Mt. Lebanon, Pennsylvania, began a capital fund drive called "Building the Vision." The goal of this drive was to raise approximately two million dollars to make renovations to St. Paul's, fund a mission church, and purchase a new organ. Approximately 1.1 million dollars was actually raised, and renovations to the church were begun in 1991.

What follows is a record of those renovations, as told on a *Construction Update Bulletin Board* that was updated weekly from October 20, 1991 to May 17, 1992, a day of celebration and rededication at St. Paul's to "Celebrate the Vision." As such, this is not the definitive history of the "Building the Vision" campaign. It is to be hoped, however, that this volume will become a useful part of the corporate memory of the parish.

The period during which the bulletin board was maintained was both difficult and exciting. The renovation was more disruptive than most parishioners anticipated, but the results were equally unexpected. The physical plant of St. Paul's was transformed in a wonderful way during this time. Both the inconvenience and the joy may be seen in what follows.

The first section of this book contains what actually appeared on the bulletin board, organized chronologically. Note that some pages remained on the bulletin board from week to week. Such pages are shown only under the date they first appeared. In the second section, posters that were positioned elsewhere around the building are shown. These also appear in chronological order, though no attempt has been made to indicate the dates of their appearance. The posters are included for completeness, even though their purpose is not always apparent when they are shown other than at their intended locations.

Bulletin Board

October 20, 1991

Construction Update

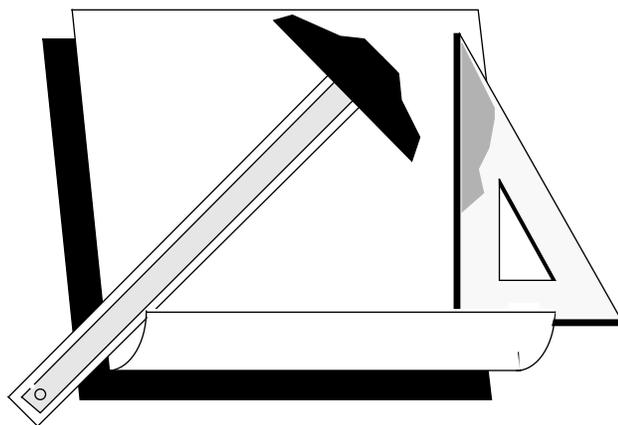
Now that the Building the Vision campaign has brought us actual building (and demolition), you may be asking yourself what exactly is going on and why. If indeed you are, then watch this space. In the coming months, this bulletin board will be used to update parishioners on the progress of construction and to tell interesting stories related to the exciting changes happening at St. Paul's.

We will revise the information on this bulletin board each week, providing not only descriptions of what has been done and what is coming, but also photographs, diagrams, and, perhaps, some surprises. Suggestions for the Construction Update bulletin board are welcome, as are volunteers to assist in maintaining it, contributions of information, and questions you would like answered. Please use the suggestion box below or the Construction Update mailbox in the church office. You may also call Lionel Deimel, Construction Update Coordinator, at home at 343-5337.

What's going to happen to the library?

Did you know that the library once could be partitioned into two rooms? It contained a movable partition that extended parallel to Washington Road. Some evidence of this remains: there are two doors to the library on the front wall, and a distinctive row of tiles can be seen where the partition once met the ceiling.

Construction plans call for what is now the library to be partitioned once again. St. Paul's store will be on one side of the new wall, and the library will be on the other. New bookshelves will be installed against the wall, so that the library's collection can be housed comfortably in the somewhat reduced space.



What Are All Those Funny Walls?

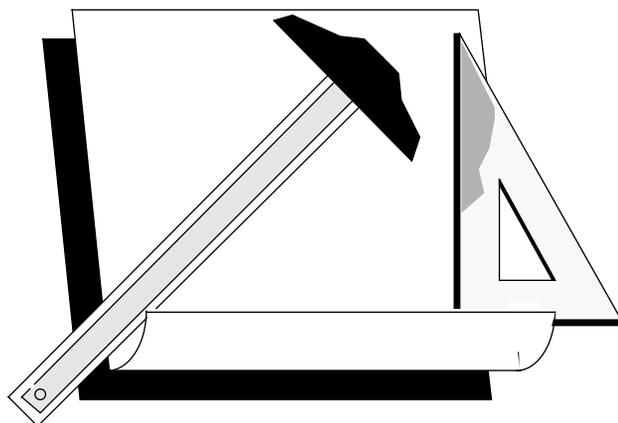
Not every wall you see at St. Paul's these days will be in place six months from now. The contractor has erected a number of temporary walls, whose purpose and longevity are not immediately apparent.

Most of the temporary walls are designed to help us live with the construction. They are intended to shield users of the building from dust, noise, cold, and unsightliness. On the second floor of the education wing, you will notice two temporary incursions into the hallway. That nearest the undercroft encloses the part of the exterior wall through which a passage to the elevator must be cut. An enclosure further down the hallway hides the current janitor's closet and men's room. These areas will be converted into a handicap access lavatory, though not before the adjoining wall is demolished. When construction is complete, the hallway will be as wide as before; it will look like a hallway, and not an obstacle course. Temporary walls on the first and third floors of the education wing are also in place

where the elevator will be installed. Other walls have been installed to keep dust out of the Preschool area and Preschool children out of the construction area.

One other temporary wall has a different purpose. The wall in front of the library is primarily intended to protect the existing wall between the library and the main undercroft. That existing wall is mostly glass, and the temporary wall is an “ounce of prevention” against breakage.

Walk around and see our temporary walls, all of which have been labeled as such. They will make living with the construction at St. Paul’s much easier.



October 27, 1991

Why Are We Doing This?

Every year, South Hills Hospice holds a memorial service for patients who have died in the past year. These services, which are held at various churches and synagogues in the South Hills, are attended by Hospice staff, caregivers, friends, and not a few patients. Because many of the patients are in wheelchairs, the service has never been held at St. Paul's, due to the lack of suitable access. Next year's service was to be held at a local synagogue, but, due to a scheduling mix-up, it became necessary to move it elsewhere. For the first time, St. Paul's could offer its facilities. Next May, the annual service, a meaningful and powerful memorial, will be held here.

God works in wondrous, sometimes not-too-subtle ways.

What Happened This Past Week?

A number of changes can be seen around St. Paul's this week. In the undercroft, you will notice that portions of the ceiling have been removed. Most of the old ceiling will be retained, but the removal was done to make way for air conditioning duct work. Further surveying the undercroft ceiling, you will notice that bulkheads for the partitions are now being built.

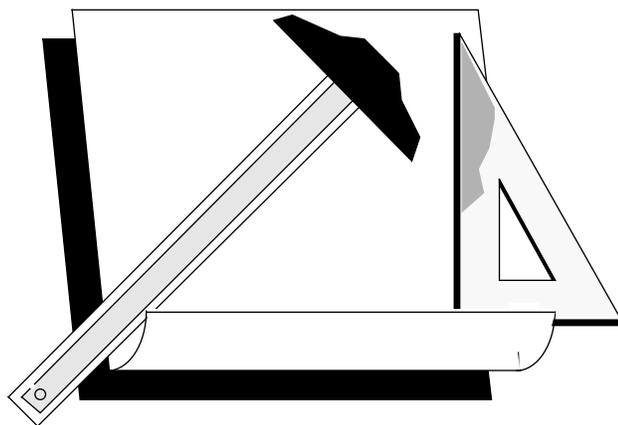
Progress is being made on the elevator, although most of it has taken place underground and is not easily visible. Walls have been built in the elevator pit, and the underpinning has been completed. (It was necessary to reinforce the footers of the main building next to the elevator. Excavation was done under the old footers and concrete poured below them.) We are now ready to pour the concrete floor and backfill the pit.

You may also notice on the ground floor of the main building next to the elevator site that

some preliminary work has been done on what will become the elevator lobby. Doors giving access to the elevator lobby may be locked, but you can perhaps see the area through the window facing the parking lot.

Other work is less obvious. Steam and refrigerant lines are being laid for the undercroft. Measurements are being taken for the steel needed for the elevator and for the movable partitions in the undercroft. Plans for the chapel renovation are still being drawn up.

It is reassuring to begin seeing real, permanent construction, as opposed to demolition and temporary construction. All in all, it's been a good week. Check it out.



What's Coming Next Week?

More significant changes should be noticeable next week. Work on the elevator is scheduled to continue. If all goes well, the elevator pit floor will be poured and work will begin on the external masonry that will enclose the shaft. Some demolition work will be done in the same area; a parapet above the second story of the old building needs to be removed. (The parapet is easily seen from the parking lot.)

Construction of bulkheads in the undercroft will continue, and electrical work will likely begin there also. (An unanticipated electrical job that needs to be done is the rerouting of conduits discovered in the wall through which we will access the new coat room. You may have noticed these exposed "pipes.") Plumbing work should begin next week as well.

Finally, work should begin on bringing new electrical service to the building. A trench needs to be dug for that purpose. A new utility pole and transformer will follow.

November 3, 1991

More Changes

Take a look around, and you will notice a number of changes from last week. The undercroft is a good place to start. The gaps in the ceiling we told you were for duct work have become more numerous, and ducts are now being installed. Look up along the wall in front of the kitchen. On the floor are other duct components that have not yet been installed.

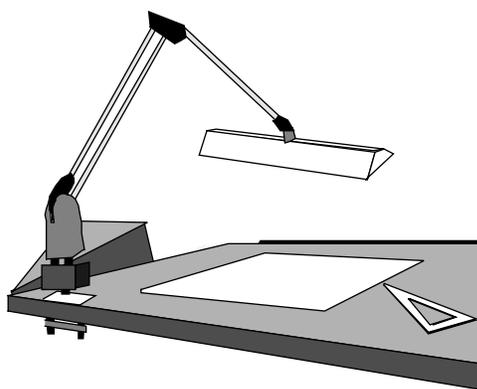
Cable and other electrical components are also stacked in the undercroft. Much of the upcoming work is electrical. Wiring must be installed in the newly constructed bulkheads, and work is progressing on bringing new electrical service into the building. Two large PVC (*i.e.*, plastic) conduits have been buried between the church and Washington Road, at the point where the new utility pole will be installed.

A thorough survey of the undercroft will also uncover evidence that the plumber has been at work removing old pipe, installing new pipe,

and adding new drains. Plumbing work will continue next week.

Take a look at the arched windows in the undercroft. With all the clutter we accumulated over the years, they became relatively obscure architectural features of the building. You may have noticed that the recent demolition has allowed the windows to become both more prominent and more useful; they actually let in a good deal of light. The windows are now framed by arches installed in each bay.

Outside, you may notice two forms for pads on which to mount air conditioning equipment. Some conspicuous (and some inconspicuous) progress has been made on the elevator, and masonry work may begin next week.



November 10, 1991

A Night at the Construction Committee Meeting

The Construction Committee had its biweekly meeting last Tuesday night. Plans for the chapel and colors for the undercroft, elevator, and handicap lavatory were discussed. As anyone who has been involved with home renovation or other construction projects might suspect, the Construction Committee has to make some difficult choices.

The big issues related to the chapel are limited funds and building code requirements. The new chapel will be air conditioned, have new carpeting, contain a sacristy, and will allow greater flexibility of use through the substitution of chairs for pews. More extensive renovations could cost significantly more—both directly and indirectly—than the budget allows. The indirect cost would come from our being subject to building code requirements the chapel is not currently obliged to meet. In particular, we could be required to have at least two exits spaced farther

apart than is easily achieved. Final plans for the chapel are still incomplete.

That adequate funds are available for all the color schemes considered did not seem to make decisions easier. The issue here is more the number of colors used than the colors themselves, although the Rector did express a strong prejudice against green. A dozen or more colors could be used in the undercroft, a number with which the architect was clearly more comfortable than the committee. Some concern was expressed about one color in the elevator car, but the proposal for the handicap lavatory seemed well received. A subcommittee was formed to make final color choices, which have no doubt been made by the time you read this.

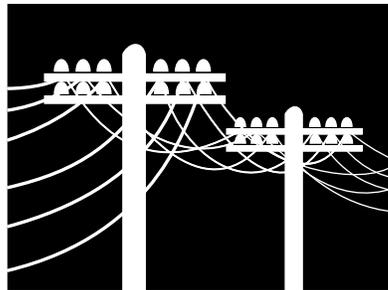
We are likely to be surprised but pleased by the outcome of all these decisions, I think. God has given to some—certainly not to most of us—the ability to choose and mix colors in glorious ways. We may not find St. Paul’s “colorful,” exactly, when the construction is done, but I think we will find it beautiful.

Things to Look For

As usual, St. Paul's looks a bit different this week. Inside, you will find lots more holes in the undercroft ceiling and lots of junction boxes and cables visible within or dangling from them. You will also notice dust everywhere. Sigh! At the end of the undercroft, by the way, you may notice some new walls.

Outside, you will notice that the location of the elevator is sheathed in plastic and constructions materials are piled all around the site.

By the Washington Road sidewalk, three transformers have been installed on the new utility pole that will feed power to St. Paul's. This is not one of the prettier changes we will see, but we will get used to it. Mt. Lebanon seems not in the habit of putting utility lines underground.



November 17, 1991

News Items of the Week

Construction schedule. A number of people have asked when the construction will be complete. A best guess answer to this question changes from week to week, but the end will probably come in March or April. Plan for the elevator to be one of the last items to be completed.

Chapel of the Good Shepherd. Plans for the chapel have been completed and have gone to the contractor. The work can now be priced and added to the construction contract.

Undercroft color scheme. As of Friday, the exact color scheme for the undercroft had not been chosen. Alternative floor patterns had been laid down using full-size tiles, however, so that they could be evaluated. Some paint may be applied to columns as well, in order to anticipate the overall effect of particular color choices. Large, multicolored floor patterns seem most appropriate for such a large area as must be covered. The old tile pattern looks very dreary by comparison.

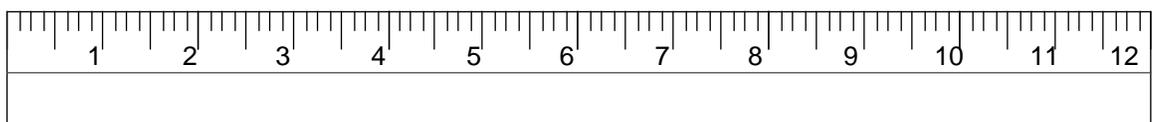
Noticeable activity in the undercroft area. A lot of electrical wiring is being installed in the undercroft. Conduits can be seen in the bulkheads and cables are everywhere. You may notice some new cables on the surface or notched into the structural columns. All these will disappear in the future. The columns, which now sport rather un-Gothic rounded edges, will be sheathed and given sharp edges, and any wiring now visible on the columns will be covered by the changes. Another visible change is that the doorway between the library and the new coat room (the old acolyte robing room) is being closed up. A doorway would not be very useful in the new plan, and eliminating a door provides more wall space in the library for bookshelves.

Outdoor changes. The pads for air conditioning equipment mentioned a couple of weeks ago have been poured, as has new sidewalk over the trench containing conduits for the new electrical service. Some progress can be seen in the elevator area, although the plastic surrounding the shaft may make it difficult to see. The parapet

mentioned three weeks ago has been completely dismantled, a hole has been broken into the first floor wall for the elevator door, and concrete block is being laid to form the outside wall of the shaft.

Colorful decoration. If you haven't been down to see the temporary wall on the first floor where the education wing joins the main building, you might want to have a look. The children have decorated it with a colorful mural.

Oops! There was some concern recently that the heating plant was not working properly, and the thought no doubt occurred to a number of parishioners that another financial catastrophe was about to befall St. Paul's. In fact, an electrician unknowingly cut a thermostat cable, so that the boiler controls were not working properly. Things are not yet back to normal, but a sigh of relief might be in order.



November 24, 1991

What's in Store for the Chapel?

Most of the plans are now complete for the renovation of the Chapel of the Good Shepherd. Although the plans do not call for substantial structural changes, the new chapel will be more beautiful and more flexible than the old.

Because our building is so heavily used, flexibility is a prime consideration. At the very least, we wanted the chapel to serve us well as (1) a traditional chapel, (2) a children's chapel, and (3) a conference room (or multi-purpose room).

The two entrances to the chapel from the lower floor of the education wing will remain. At present, the doors fail to make much of a statement about the chapel. They are not very different from the classroom doors, and the chapel is marked only by a modest sign that says "CHAPEL." (How does anyone know this is the "Chapel of the Good Shepherd," by the way?) The new doors will be more elaborate, and presumably more appropriate to a place of worship. Whether or not the name of the chapel appears in the hallway, the Good Shepherd theme will be immedi-

ately apparent upon walking through the doorway, as we plan to commission the painting of a four-foot tall movable icon of Christ as the Good Shepherd. (Some of you may have seen the color study done for this icon.) For services in the chapel, the icon will normally be behind the altar.

At least two room arrangements are possible for conducting services. In the more conventional arrangement, the altar and icon will be at the far end of the chapel, that is, in front of you as you enter. They can also be moved to the center of the long wall to the left. Seating can therefore be in straight rows within a long, narrow space, or in long, curved rows “around” the altar in a wide, shallow space. Each arrangement will have its own special “feel.” Multiple room arrangements will only be possible because the icon, the altar, and the seating will all be movable. The present altar was not designed to be free-standing, so it is to be finished on the fourth side. Seating will be provided by stackable chairs. Stackable chairs with kneelers are un-

available, so hassocks will be available for those who wish to kneel. These can also be used by small children during children's chapel for seating.

Other liturgical furnishings in the room will include the present baptismal font and brass lectern, both legacies from the old St. Paul's on the Hill. Services will be more easily conducted in the chapel because of the sacristy that will be added to the room.

Window curtains and shades will make the room both more attractive and more functional. (It will become a good place for slide shows, for example.) Carpeting and air conditioning will make the room very comfortable.

Attractive wood tables will be purchased to turn the room into a conference room. Storage areas will be provided for the tables when not in use. The furnishings will, in fact, allow many imaginative uses of the space. For quiet days at St. Paul's, for example, a chapel area can be set up at one end of the room and a discussion area at the other.

December 1, 1991

Thoughts, News & Information

Thanksgiving week, with its abbreviated work schedule, seems a good time to deal here with a few odds and ends.

The reception last Sunday for the Brumbaughs was a delightful affair, though certainly a claustrophobic one, requiring a large crowd to negotiate a temporarily narrowed hallway and to work its way through the conference room and lounge. I found myself thinking that the lower undercroft would have been a better location for such an event. Unfortunately, there is a problem with that idea—how are all the desserts and dishes to get downstairs? The ultimate answer is, of course, *using the elevator*. That idea is of little comfort now, but it does suggest how the building will be made more flexible by the changes now taking place.

Work on the elevator shaft is moving along nicely; concrete block has been laid at least to the second floor. The door opening for the elevator on the main level of the education wing has been cut, and you may notice a window on the

side of the chancel that has been closed in with block.

Speaking of closing passageways, you may also have noticed that the doorway between the library and soon-to-be coat room has been blocked up. Because the front library doors are behind a temporary wall, you might have been concerned that the library has been sealed for the duration of the construction. That is what I thought, at any rate! As it turns out, there is a back door into the library from Chuck Percy's office, which is entered through the first door on the left as you walk into the education wing from the undercroft.

Even if you have not braved the dust and clutter to walk to the far end of the undercroft, you have probably seen some new walls in the area. An explanation of these is in order. A large, two-level storage area is being built there. In it, we will keep risers, tables, and other bulky items that might otherwise clutter the undercroft. According to Fr. Klukas, this will allow us to keep the undercroft "austerely chaste," by which I

think he means “not junked up.” The front of this storage area has not yet been constructed; it will have a lot of doors for easy access. To the right of the newly built wall is a small area of the floor that will be raised. One will ascend to this landing by a couple of steps facing the kitchen. Straight ahead is a small storage room that will also house an electrical panel. To the right is the circular stairway leading to the narthex.

By the way, have you ever wondered where Sunday school classes met in the days before either of the main additions were added to St. Paul’s? I am told that there used to be drapes on semicircular tracks around each of the side bays in the undercroft. Classes met in the spaces enclosed by these drapes, each bathed in the light of its own window. It is difficult to imagine the classes not interfering with one another, but perhaps children of that era were quieter. Unless we get really rowdy, however, the acoustic isolation provided by our new hotel-style partitions will be much more effective even than quiet children can provide.

December 8, 1991

Air Conditioning

Various components of the air conditioning being installed at St. Paul's have been discussed here before, but someone has asked for a more complete discussion of the system. Perhaps others will also find such a discussion interesting.

In fact, three distinct air conditioning systems are being installed. One serves the Chapel of the Good Shepherd; two serve the undercroft. Air conditioning for the chapel is relatively straightforward. The air handler can be mounted close to the small area it serves, so minimal duct work is required. The condenser unit, will be mounted on a concrete pad already installed on the ground just outside the chapel.

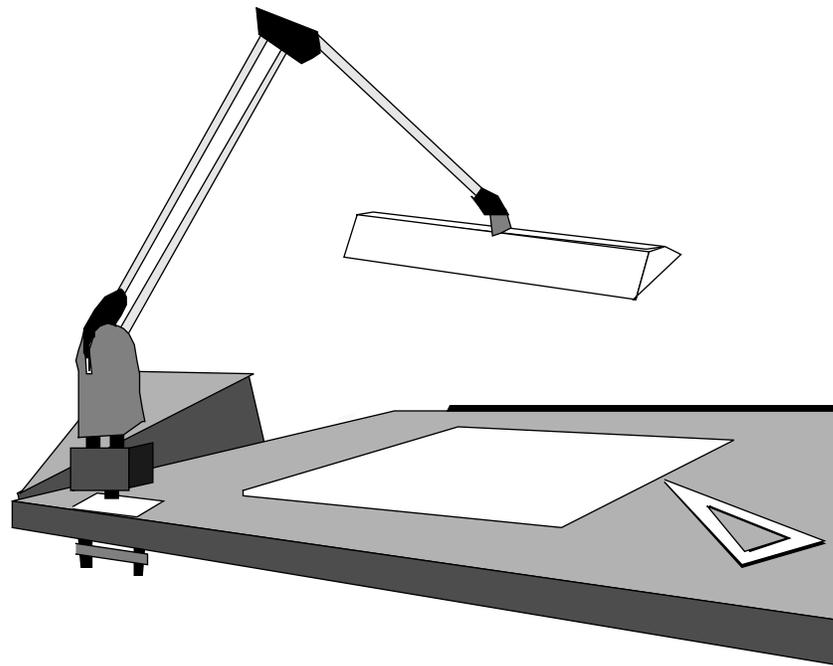
The undercroft will be cooled by air conditioning systems at either end. One air handler will be suspended from the ceiling joists in Chuck Percy's office. You may have noticed that a large air duct now ends in midair on the ceiling

of the new coat room. This duct will be run through the wall and connected to the suspended air conditioning unit. From the coat room, the duct runs in front of the kitchen and will continue along the Mayfair side of the undercroft. This air conditioning system will cool the area used for coffee hour and the small classroom that can be formed using the movable partitions. The condenser unit for this system will be mounted on the roof above the Mayfair lobby.

The remainder of the undercroft will be cooled by a second air conditioning system. Ducts for this system can be seen near the ceiling at the far end of the undercroft. The air handler will be mounted on the mezzanine to be constructed within the storage area (see last week's discussion of the storage area). The condenser unit for this system will be mounted on a concrete pad on the ground beside the church near the circular stairway to the narthex.

The undercroft still needs to be heated, of course, and you may have noticed that the radiators that used to do the job were removed some

time ago. Eventually, new fin tube radiators will be mounted along the base of the walls. Hot water for these radiators will be supplied by the boiler housed in the room beneath the library. This boiler is used to heat all of St. Paul's except the education wing. The education wing is also heated by hot water, in this case, supplied by a boiler in the room adjacent to the chapel. Construction will not affect how the chapel is heated.



Elevator Progress

Work continues on the elevator despite the recent cold weather. The plastic tent in place in the building “notch” allows block to be laid and concrete to be poured even when temperatures are too low for this work to be done in unprotected areas. The tent can be heated with portable propane heaters if needed. The floor of the third story elevator lobby was scheduled to be poured this week, and more block should be laid next week. To the right of the tent, as viewed from the parking lot, you can see a mock-up of what the outer wall should look like. Not surprisingly, it looks rather like the rest of St. Paul’s back wall!

Rerouted Wiring

The wiring in the conduit encountered when the passageway into the coat room was opened has been rerouted. This wiring is associated with the organ. The remnants of the conduit can still be seen on the floor.

December 15, 1991

Coat Room

The future coat room has been mentioned here several times. People have begun using the room as a passageway between the undercroft and the education wing during coffee hour on Sunday, when large crowds and limited space have been making movement difficult. Negotiating passage has required some care due to scaffolding, conduit protruding through the floor, and so forth. It may be a little easier this week to take a look at the space and imagine how it will look in a few months.

The coat room will be entered through an archway from the undercroft. The present opening to the education wing hall will be eliminated, so there will be only this one way in and out of the room. On your right, as you enter, will be the Coke machine. In front of you and extending along the side walls will be a shelf for hats and other belongings. Under this shelf will be a bar for hanging coats. The bar will hold removable hangers to make leaving your coat as simple as possible.

Just outside the coat room, by the way, you can see connections for the water cooler, which will be moved from its old location on the opposite wall.

Nave Lighting

A number of people have asked when the upgrading of the nave lighting will begin. No firm date for this work can be given now, though certainly it will not begin before Christmas. The wiring currently in place differs somewhat from what was thought to be there, so some redesign is required before the project can go forward. No major delay or cost overrun is anticipated, however.

Other Electrical Work

Electricians were busy again this week. Although much of their work is not readily visible, you may have noticed the appearance of lighting fixtures in the undercroft ceiling. In particular, a

number of fixtures for emergency lighting have been installed.

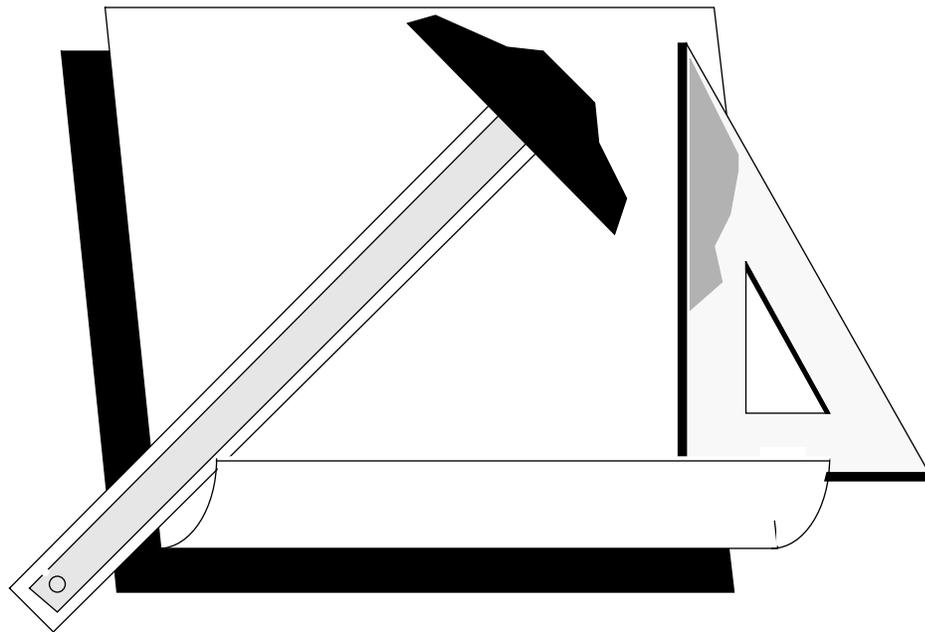
Elevator

Although construction progress is obscured by plastic sheeting and temporary walls, it is possible to report that the elevator shaft and elevator lobbies are shaping up nicely. If granted access to the work area, it is easy to imagine what things will look like when completed, and it is easy to believe that traffic flow will be reasonably smooth. The work area now has a temporary roof, but steel roof joists were scheduled to arrive this week.

Upcoming Work

The elevator shaft should be completed next week, and the laying of the external stonework will begin. The schedule calls for demolition to begin in the area that is to become the handicap toilet on the 19th. (Recall that the men's room

and a janitor's closet on the second floor of the education wing is being converted into a unisex handicap facility.) The construction that is to follow is more complex than one might imagine, as much of the plumbing is in the floor and will have to be accessed from the Nursery School ceiling from below.



December 22, 1991

Where Did It Go?

Remember the air conditioning ducts mentioned here recently? You may notice this week that they have disappeared! (Look at the ceiling just in front of the kitchen.) Apparently, the ducts were not lined according to the specifications, so down they came. Eventually, new ducts will take their place.

Handicap Toilet

The men's room on the second floor of the education wing is now officially closed. It is in the process of becoming the new unisex handicap toilet. The old fixtures were removed this past week, and a good deal of work in this area is scheduled for next week. The timing is not accidental. Because much of the plumbing work must be done from below, the work was scheduled to have a minimal impact on the Nursery School, which, of course, does not operate next week. The ceiling below the toilet has been removed; the necessary plumbing work will be

done next week, and the ceiling will be replaced. Heating lines in this area are scheduled to be re-located and duct work installed.

Christmas Holiday

That Christmas day is Wednesday does not greatly affect construction. Christmas is a holiday for the construction crew, of course, but work will go on the other four days of the week.

Elevator

Most of the concrete block related to the elevator has been laid. Only the block of the parapet remains to be done, but that will have to wait until much of the external stonework is completed. Laying stone has not yet begun, though the work may be started during the upcoming week.

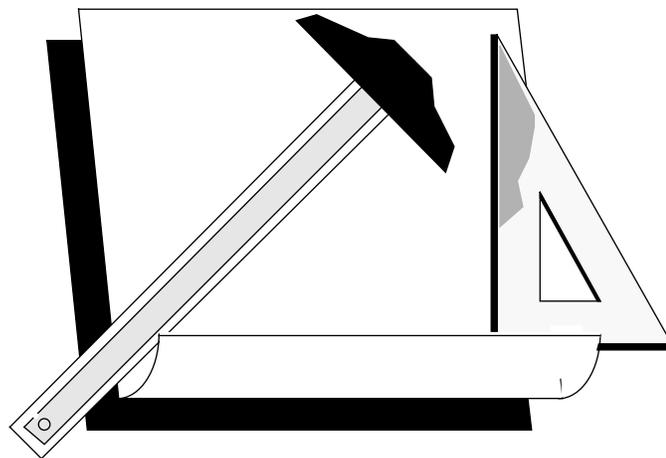
Undercroft

Noticeable changes in the undercroft include

the wiring of more fixtures and junction boxes in the ceiling, as well as the installation of metal lath around the columns. (Recall that columns are to be covered with plaster that will give them square, rather than rounded edges.) Plastering could begin as early as this week.

Additional Upcoming Work

During the coming week, part of the ceiling will be removed in Jean Parrish's and the Rector's offices to allow for the installation of air conditioning ducts. Also, drilling of the hole for the elevator's hydraulic cylinder is to be started in the floor of the elevator shaft. The hole must be 30 feet or so deep.



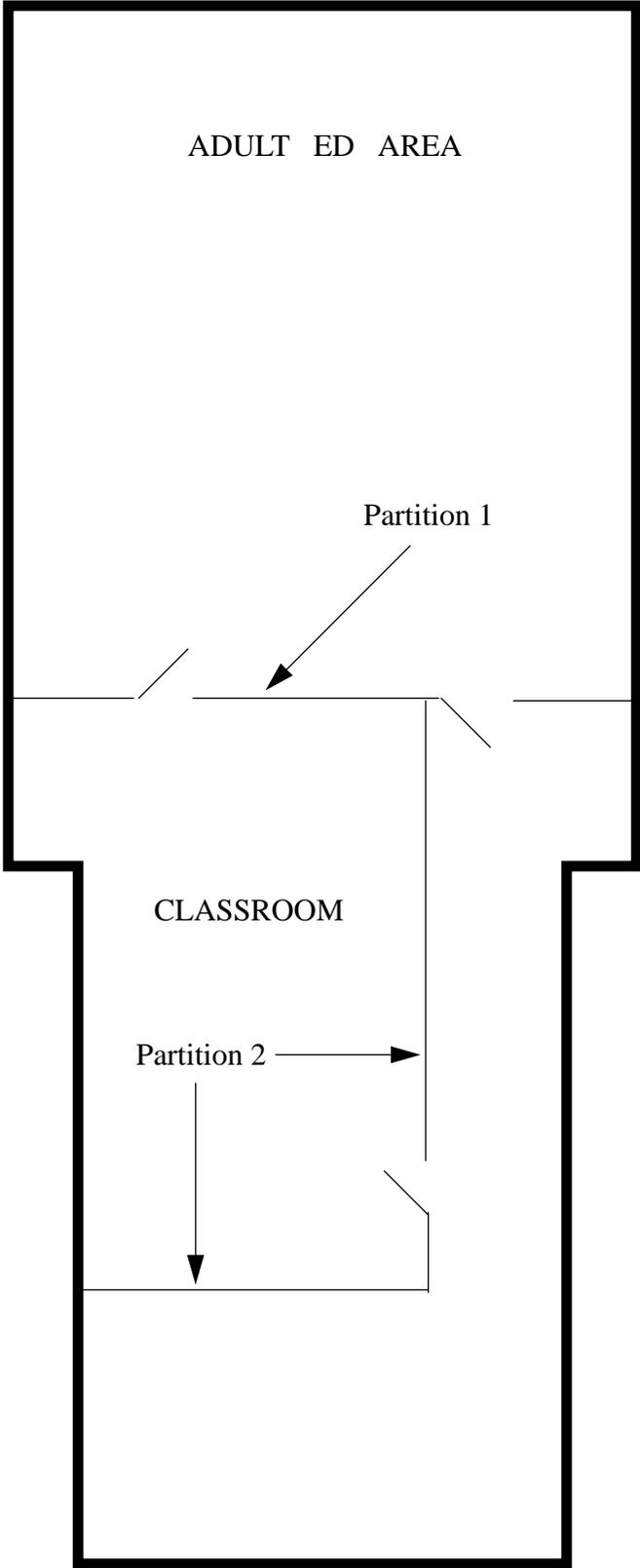
*Merry
Christmas*



December 29, 1991

Movable Partitions

Even in the earliest discussions of the Building the Vision campaign, it was assumed that movable partitions would be installed in the undercroft to increase our flexibility in using the space. Parishioners have seen several proposals for the installation, however, so there is probably some confusion about which is the final plan. What will actually be built is a careful compromise between cost and function. It allows the undercroft to be divided into as many as three areas. One partition can be drawn across the undercroft parallel to Washington Road, creating a large classroom that can be entered via the circular stairway from the narthex or by a door in the partition itself. Another partition can be drawn so as to form an el that meets the first partition, leaving a small passageway in front of the library. This creates a somewhat smaller classroom. The following diagram—not to scale—shows the approximate layout:



ADULT ED AREA

Partition 1

CLASSROOM

Partition 2

KITCHEN

To give everyone a better sense of distances, tape has been placed on the undercroft floor to show where the partitions will be when deployed. Go in, have a look, and imagine what the new classrooms will be like.

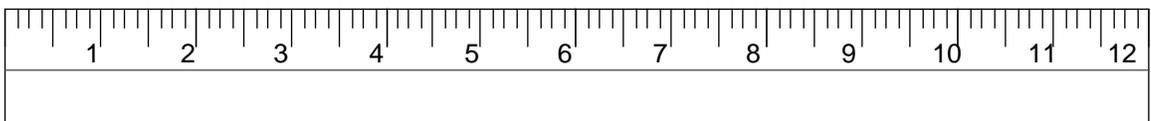
You may also be wondering where the partitions go when not in use. Recall that they consist of large floor-to-ceiling panels of the sort typically seen in hotel ballrooms. In other words, there is a lot of stuff to get out of the way! But, when they are not in use, we will indeed get them out of the way. The first partition folds neatly into the side aisle (see sign on wall). The second folds into the incursion into Jean Parish's office that just appeared (see other wall sign). Do not be concerned that so much of the church office is disappearing. It was necessary to tear out part of the ceiling to install ducts; when all the work is done, only a small area of the Jean's office will have been lost.

January 5, 1992

Temporary Bulletin Board

The regular Construction Update bulletin board has temporarily been removed from the wall, so a degree of improvisation will be required for a time in order to keep parishioners apprised of construction progress.

You will notice a gap in the wall to the right of where the bulletin board used to be. Plans call for the elimination of the telephone alcove that used to be there, and the demolition of that niche resulted in the current gap. It is to be hoped that the space will soon be replaced by solid wall, thereby allowing the bulletin board to be reinstalled.



Plaster, Etc.

One need not be a careful observer to notice that things are happening in the undercroft. Plasterers have been busily at work this week, and the products of their labor are easy to see, assuming one can get close enough. (The place has been pretty crowded with bags of plaster, scaffolding, and the like.) Most of the pillars have now had plaster applied, and a number of patches have been made to the ceiling. At the far end of the undercroft, note that the wall dividing the adult education area from the storage area has been built and plastered. This work will continue into next week.

The contractor has begun hanging the steel for the movable partitions. The partitions move along tracks bolted to steel beams in the ceiling. The beams already installed can be seen by looking directly above the tape on the floor that marks the locations of the movable partitions.

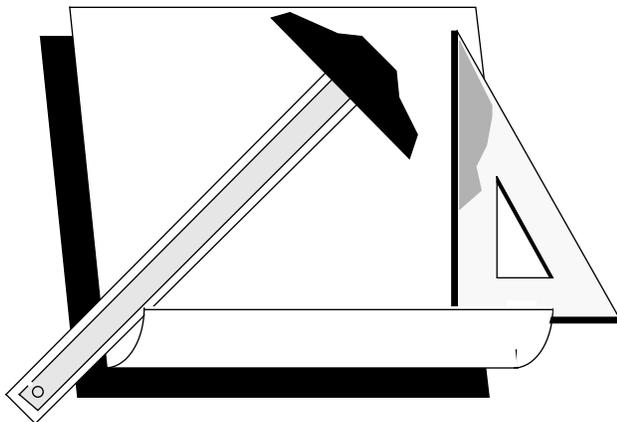
Another new feature that can be seen in the undercroft is an arch near the circular stairway to the narthex. A similar arch will also be built over

the entrance to the coat room.

Mostly hidden from view, the electricians continue their work. They have been working on the main distribution panel in the basement.

Plumbing has been roughed in in the handicap toilet area. Duct work and heating has also been completed. The Nursery School ceiling that had to be removed to gain access for the plumbing has been replaced. This week, it is likely that framing and rough electrical work will be completed as well.

Work has begun on the exterior stone wall that will hide the elevator shaft. The wall should mate well with the existing stone on either side of it.



January 12, 1992

Taking Shape

If you look around the undercroft, I think you will agree that things are beginning to take shape. It is becoming easier and easier to imagine what the renovated space will look like. Bags of plaster are slowly disappearing and smooth surfaces are taking their place.

You will notice more air conditioning ducts this week. Duct work has been installed above the ceiling along the wall parallel to Mayfair. The air handler that feeds this duct is being installed above Chuck Percy's office, which is currently without either furniture or ceiling. The opening in the wall to allow connection of the air handler to the duct in the coat room has been made. By the time you read this, the installation may be largely complete.

Electrical work continues. More and more wires can be seen hanging out of junction boxes and conduits. Take a look at the coat room and the box for the breaker panel in the hallway near the coat room.

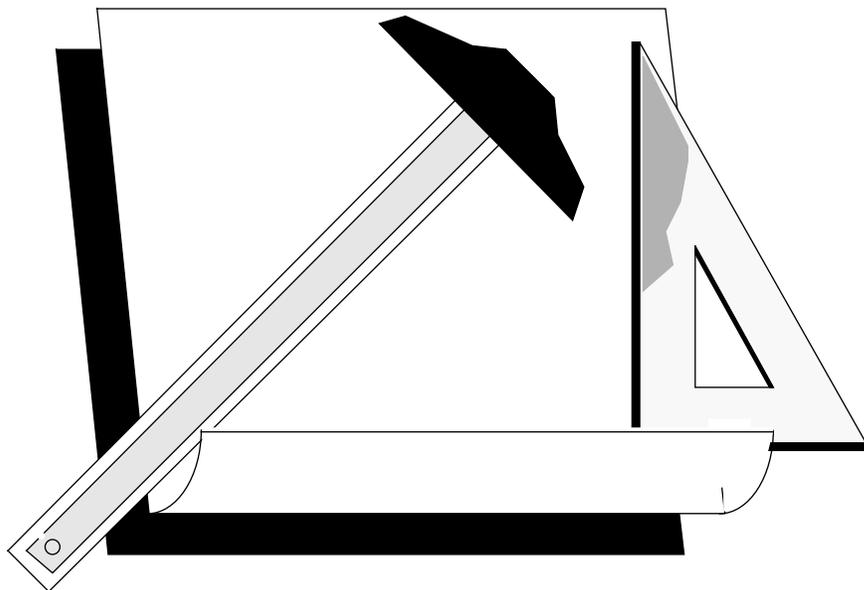
Tracks for the movable partitions have been installed. By looking up at the ceiling, you can now not only see where the partitions will be when they are in use, but you can see more clearly the places there they fold away for storage on either side of the undercroft when they are not in use. As explained last week, the track is supported by hangers bolted to I-beams on the ceiling. Most of the beams are new, although you may notice that we were able to use an existing beam in one place. Panels of the partitions, by the way, are about four feet wide and weigh around 400 pounds.

The most impressive change in the undercroft this week can be seen on the ceiling of the adult education area, at the far end of the undercroft. Here, plaster has been applied to the bulkheads and to the ceiling, and it is becoming apparent that the ceiling will be quite interesting visually. In each rectangle formed by the bulkheads, there will be a wide band of plaster next to the bulkheads. The rectangle within that band will be covered by acoustical tile. Between the

plaster and the tile, a decorative wood moulding will be installed. The design overall produces a kind of picture frame effect. Daydreamers in adult education should be very pleased.

External stonework continues near the elevator, although it is difficult for observers to see very much yet.

People who regularly work in the building complain of dust everywhere. Apparently what we think of as “dusty” on Sundays is not the real thing at all!

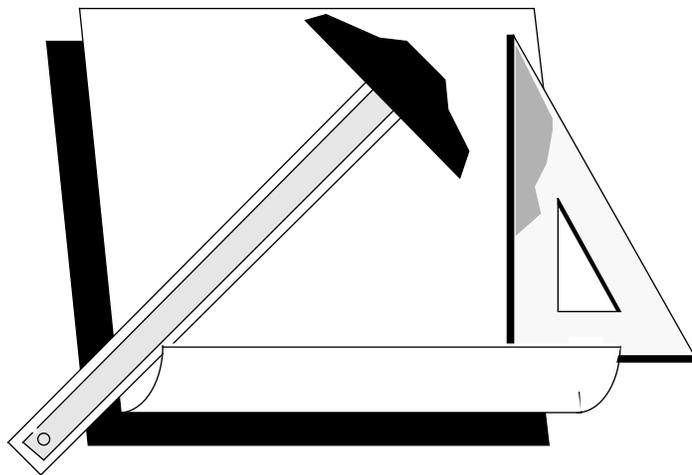


January 19, 1992

This Week's Progress Report

Patching of the undercroft ceiling is now complete, and work is beginning on construction of bulkheads in the near end of the room. These bulkheads will cover existing pipes and ducts near the walls and will give the ceiling a more uniform appearance throughout the undercroft.

Framing has been done for the handicap toilet, as has rough electrical work. Wires are being pulled, including those for the main electrical panel. Plastering has begun in the elevator lobbies, and lath is being applied in others. Laying of stone outside continues, although the recent cold weather caused some delay.



Musical Chairs and Other Games

Events that normally take place in the undercroft have been cancelled, moved, or rescheduled. Services that normally are held in the chapel—which for now is essentially a big storage closet—have been moved upstairs. These changes are but the most obvious adjustments that have been necessitated by construction.

During weekdays, the entire building is dusty—several people have described conditions as being sometimes like a fog—and occasionally very noisy. For these reasons alone, groups are meeting in people's homes, rather than at St. Paul's. To escape an extremely noisy episode, a Nursery School class once retreated to the chapel, where the teacher and children found themselves a spot among the pews, tables, chairs, chandeliers, and miscellaneous flotsam and jetsam.

The Rector recently announced his intention to meet with people at this house whenever possible. Not only has construction disrupted his office, but the counseling room, a place people

used to have available for meeting or waiting, is now being used by Chuck Percy, whose own office has been taken over by workmen installing air conditioning above his (currently nonexistent) ceiling.

For all practical purposes, we have lost the use of the library, so Sunday school classes that would otherwise meet there need to meet elsewhere. Staff offices, small and unfurnished for classroom use as they are, are being pressed into service on Sundays. Events such as the recent confirmation class retreat are very welcome these days, as they relieve pressure on our temporarily diminished facilities.

Jean Parrish reports that she is beginning to get used to her much reduced office. Although she will not get back all the space the office used to have, only a small area will be lost. Meanwhile, Jean dusts a lot and has but a single chair to offer visitors.

By the way, whether from the dust or from other indignities, the fire alarm goes off from time to time, sometimes more than once a day. Everyone has learned to live with it.

January 26, 1992

Progress Report

Most noticeable among the changes around St. Paul's this week is the appearance of scaffolding upstairs. This is something we will be living with for a time. The scaffolding, of course, is needed to re-wire and upgrade the lighting in the church. It will be moved around as the work progresses. The area around the scaffolding should be roped off on Sundays; please avoid it and keep children away.

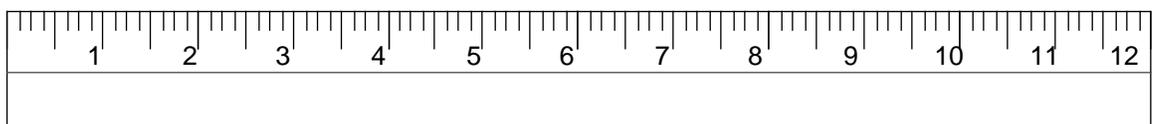
Rough wiring work was inspected recently, and Duquesne Light has been contacted about when power can be cut over to the three-phase feed from the new pole on Washington Road. Recall that this process will leave St. Paul's without electrical service for a day or two.

Plastering has been proceeding in the handicap toilet and in the elevator lobbies. Also, the ceiling in the Rector's office, part of which had been torn out to install air conditioning ducts, has been prepared for re-plastering.

Stonework outside the elevator is continuing,

the exterior wall having been extended to the third floor near the parapet. Apparently, laying stone is a good deal slower than laying concrete block, so another week or so will pass before this work is complete. Meanwhile, the pit ladder and some other elevator hardware has been installed in the elevator shaft itself.

As usual, many changes are visible in the undercroft. The bulkheads on the ceiling over the smaller classroom and coffee area are being completed. All the air conditioning vents can now be seen. An impressive array of ducts has been installed in the storage area at the far end of the undercroft. (You might wish to have a look if it is possible to walk around the clutter. The air handler is to be installed near the ceiling on the Mayfair Drive side.) The temporary wall leading to the education wing has been removed, and framing has been built over the passageway.



A View From the Basement

Although the current construction has had some effect on all of us, people associated with St. Paul's Episcopal Nursery School have been particularly affected. The children and staff of the Nursery School have had to learn to adjust as much as anyone. Director Winnie Feise describes life amid the chaos as "crazy." That said, however, planning and sensitivity seem to be getting everyone through this time in as good a condition as anyone has a right to expect.

Even before construction began, Nursery School parents raised the question of lead-based paint and its harmful potential. We determined that some walls to be demolished did indeed contain lead paint and, although not required by regulations to take any special precautions, we carefully removed that paint last summer. (Much of this work went smoothly, but some of the paint was *very* stubborn.)

From the beginning, a Nursery School board member was involved in construction planning, and the concerns of parents and staff received

careful attention. What has made the actual construction period tolerable, however, has been the very close working relationship between Winnie and construction supervisor Paul Schreibeis. Paul has kept Winnie aware of the work to be done, has made sure that workmen have been sensitive to the needs of the Nursery School, and has negotiated agreeable schedules whenever the impact on the Nursery School has been especially severe. (Plumbing work that required drilling into a classroom ceiling was scheduled during the Christmas break, for example.) Winnie describes Paul's efforts as "extraordinary." The cooperation has not eliminated the dust or the noise, and it has not made up for the fact that Winnie's office is now somewhat removed from the center of school activity, but it has allowed life to continue with the blessed assurance that most of inconvenience is temporary.

The children seem to be taking everything in stride. For the most part, they seem to be neither especially interested nor especially upset by the chaos. We should all be so adaptable.

February 2, 1992

The Vision Becomes Clearer

This week the curtain lifted a little on what the new St. Paul's will be like. At long last, sidewalk superintendents can see what has become of the "notch" into which the elevator is being placed. The veil of plastic has been removed from the lower part of the notch to reveal the new stone wall between the education wing and the main building. The laying of stone will likely be completed next week.

The other big surprise of the week is the re-appearance of the library. The temporary wall in front of the library was removed, so that the bulkhead where the wall and ceiling meet could be completed. Removing that wall has made the undercroft look a bit larger and certainly less stark.

Construction progress in and around the undercroft can be seen wherever you look. By the time you read this, the bulkheads on the ceiling will be complete, or nearly so. The wall to the right of this bulletin board has been patched, and marble baseboard has been installed to match the

other baseboard in the area. Plastering of columns, the partition storage area carved out of Jean Parrish's office, and the coat room are nearly done. Progress has also been made on connecting the air handler above Chuck Percy's office to its air ducts. Telltale signs that electricians have been at work are visible all around the church, and evening visitors to St. Paul's have been surprised to encounter electricians in the hallways.

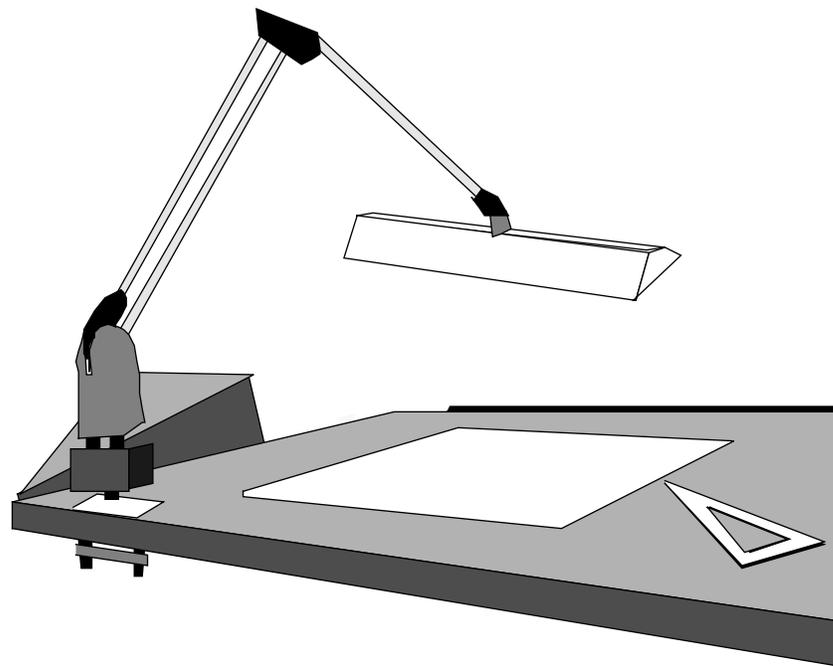
One of the windows in the undercroft has been removed for repair. (As of Thursday, the window was in the Mayfair lobby, but it may be gone by now.) The other windows in the undercroft are in good repair, but the frame and sill of the window that was removed contained a good deal a rot, presumably the result of water damage.

Much of the plastering has been done in the smaller elevator lobbies. The walls containing the elevator doors are awaiting doorjambs, however, which need to be installed before plastering can be done. The elevator is scheduled to be de-

livered to St. Paul's next week. Also scheduled for delivery next week is the steel needed for the storage area mezzanine.

Plastering has been completed in the handicap toilet. To be installed there next are, in order, ceramic tile, wallpaper, and fixtures.

No real progress has been made on the ceiling wiring in the nave. Bids were being obtained this week on scaffolding. Small holes can be seen in all sorts of odd places where wiring is being installed for exit signs and other purposes.



February 9, 1992

Color

This is not one of those weeks when people are likely to be asking what's new. Color—not just test strips, but color we will be living with for a long time—is here! Most conspicuous, even shocking, are our plum-colored columns. Well, actually, the columns are “mauve stone.” The walls are being painted shades of tan. The lower walls are “Shenandoah,” and the upper walls are the more yellow shade, “Santa Fe sunset.” Santa Fe sunset is also being applied to the bulkheads. The ceiling color is a very light tan, “coral sand.” The overall effect should be quite striking when all the paint is applied, though it may take a bit of getting used to. Don't draw any firm conclusions about whether you like it just yet, as the floor tiles will also contribute significantly to the overall effect.

Wood trim for the undercroft was cut and stained this week and can be seen on racks waiting to be installed. This moulding will separate the two wall colors, will be applied near the tops of the columns, and will separate the coral sand

ceiling from the white acoustical tile in the center of each bay formed by the bulkheads.

Other Undercroft News

Plastering in and around the undercroft should now be complete. Take a look at the coat room and Mayfair Drive lobby. Ceiling lighting will be installed after painting, installation of wood trim, and installation of ceiling tile.

The contractor has begun installing steel in the storage area at the far end of the undercroft. The short, steel staircase will lead to a mezzanine. The air conditioning unit that connects to the ducts in the storage area will be mounted on this mezzanine once it is in place.

The area beside the storage area is being prepared for the pouring of a concrete landing at the bottom of the stairs leading to the narthex. This concrete will also form the floor of the nearby electrical closet. The concrete will probably be poured next week.

Notes from Around St. Paul's

Thanks are due to all those who helped move pews, tables, a baptismal font, and other objects out of the chapel last week. Not much in the way of construction is obvious in the chapel, but necessary demolition began this past week, and some exciting changes should be visible soon.

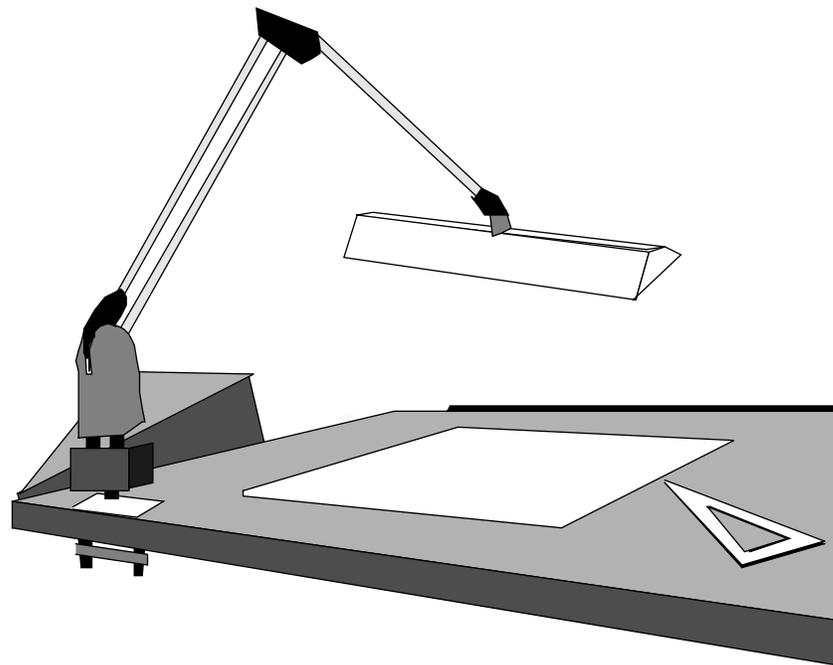
Electricians have been working on the switch gear and emergency generator in the basement boiler room. Power will be switched over to the new three-phase feed from Washington Road soon. The good news is that this can be accomplished without St. Paul's being without power for a day, as was originally anticipated.

The exterior stonework should now be finished, possibly except for the coping. The wall was being washed down last week. Take a look and see if you don't agree that it matches the rest of St. Paul's exterior quite well.

Unfortunately, the elevator, which was scheduled to be delivered this past week, has been delayed. The current projected delivery

date is February 17. This will move the completion date for the elevator into March, an eventuality not entirely unforeseen.

We have not yet been overwhelmed with scaffolding in the nave, but more should be on the way soon. The nave was being surveyed by the scaffolding supplier this week to determine what will be required for the re-wiring and re-lighting of the church.



February 16, 1992

Undercroft Progress

Once again, the week's progress is most visible in the undercroft. By the time you read this, most or all of the walls and ceilings will be painted, and the ceiling tiles and wood trim will be installed. Judge the effect for yourself. Note especially the wall in front of the kitchen and the colors of the coat closet. The paint you see, by the way, is only a first coat. A second coat will be applied after the floor is laid.

You may wish to take a trip to the far end of the undercroft, as there are a number of sights there to take in. The doors that are hung at the front of the storage area are the same doors we used to have leading to our old, much smaller, storage closet. Remember them? In the storage area itself, the steelwork supporting the mezzanine is now partially installed. As of Thursday, however, the joists for the mezzanine floor had not yet arrived on site. Concrete is scheduled to be poured early this week for the mezzanine stairway and the landing and steps leading to the circular stairway to the narthex. You may have

noticed the hole in the wall to the right of this landing, by the way, the purpose of which is not immediately obvious. This hole is not for an electrical panel, but for a fire extinguisher cabinet.

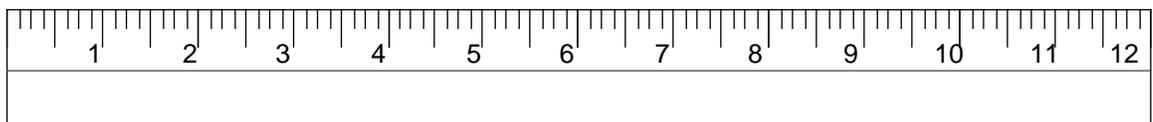
Progress Elsewhere

Electricians cut over St. Paul's power to the three-phase feed from Washington Road last Tuesday. The building was without power for only an hour.

More demolition has been done in the chapel.

Most of the elevator lobbies have now been plastered, as much as they can be until the rest of the elevator arrives, in any case.

Not much work has yet been done in the nave, but the installation of lights in the side aisles has begun.



Floor Woes

When renovating an old building, one should always be prepared for unforeseen—and unwelcome—surprises. Not all contingencies can be anticipated, either because some facts are unknowable (what's inside that wall?) or because the behavior of old materials can be unpredictable.

Clearly, the undercroft needs a new floor covering. The tile now on the floor contains a small amount of asbestos—only a few percent—as was common for many years. This, however, would present a problem were we to remove the tile, as the law calls for expensive procedures to be followed to prevent human exposure to what is now recognized as a carcinogen. To avoid this expense, we had planned to cover the old tile with a sealant and lay new vinyl tile directly on top of it.

The week before last, when the flooring contractor looked at our floor, he noticed that the old tile was beginning to come up in a number of places. Apparently, Plan A was not going to

work. After some discussion, we determined that the old tile was going to have to be removed after all, with all the attendant expense. For the safety and comfort of everyone involved, including the Nursery School, it was decided to close down the building March 9-14 to effect the removal of the asbestos-containing tile.

Besides the inconvenience, what is the result of the change in plans? On the positive side, we will have a floor whose integrity is not in doubt, and which should last us many, many years. The effect on the construction schedule should not be excessive, as we have been delayed by the delivery date of the elevator anyway. Realistically, the undercroft will probably be finished a few days later than it would have been otherwise. The cost of removing the old tile is significant—about \$15,000—though that is not a large item with respect to the total project budget. The cost reflects not so much the removal of the tile, as such, so much as the preparation for the job (covering the walls with plastic, etc.) and special disposal of asbestos-contaminated material.

February 23, 1992

Lots to See

All around St. Paul's are things to see—more pieces of the construction project falling into place.

From the parking lot, the site of the elevator may look no different from last week, but the stonework is now all but complete. The coping has been laid, but it was found that four corner pieces were imperfect, so they have to be remade. Once those four stones are in place, the scaffolding will be taken down.

By the external set of doors nearest the elevator, you will notice that a large section of concrete has been removed. A handicap access ramp will be built there next week. The ramp is a modest one we will hardly notice—it will rise a mere five inches or so. Immediately to your right as you enter the building will be the first floor elevator lobby.

Three air conditioning units have been installed outdoors. Next to the chapel and next to the circular stairway between the undercroft and narthex are units on concrete pads that were

poured some time ago. The other unit is atop one of the roofs along Mayfair. This condenser is not easily seen from outside, but it can be seen easily from the window in the area next to the chancel as you walk toward the stairs to the undercroft.

The main part of the re-lighting project upstairs has not yet begun, but new (and numerous) fixtures have been installed in both side aisles. You will have to look up nearly to the ceiling on the inside walls of the aisles to see them, however.

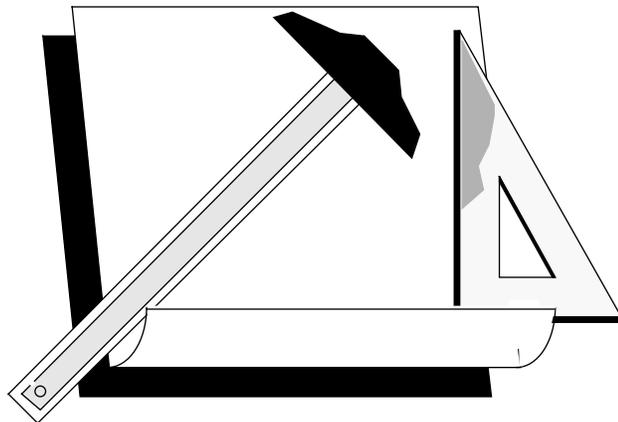
Speaking of fixtures, you may be interested in what sort of fixtures are to be installed in the undercroft. The fixtures themselves should be in next week, by the way. In each ceiling bay are to be fixtures at the four corners, as well as a chandelier in the center. All of these are basically white half-globes, with the central globe suspended, rather than flush with the ceiling. There will also be sconces on some of the pillars.

In the undercroft, more painting is evident, but the biggest change is in the woodwork. All existing woodwork has been re-stained to match

the new woodwork, which is somewhat darker than the old. The exterior of the library and the wall in front of the kitchen look distinctly different.

Look along the undercroft walls, and you will see where fin tube radiators are being installed near the floor. These will provide heat in a more rational way than the old radiators, which were very close to the ceiling. They will also be more attractive, appearing as vented brown boxes extending about four inches from the walls.

Walk from the undercroft down to the handicap toilet, stopping along the way at Chuck Percy's office, where the ceiling has been put back in place. Take a good look at the tile in the handicap toilet, both on the floor and on the walls.



**The
Elevator
Has
Arrived!**

March 1, 1992

Wow!

The changes you see around St. Paul's are probably the most dramatic yet. The lighting in the undercroft has been installed, and it makes *quite* a difference. Judge the effect for yourself, but I think the room looks both warm and bright. The dark colors some of us were worried about seem suddenly less objectionable.

The undercroft also looks better because more of the wood trim has been installed. Notice also the progress that has been made on the radiators. The new fire extinguisher cabinet at the far end of the room is in, as is the new water cooler and the concrete that completes the steps to the mezzanine and to the circular staircase. The mezzanine joists and floor have been installed, and the air conditioning unit that handles the space outside the storage area is finally in place.

The other place where dramatic changes are evident is upstairs, both in the nave and the chancel. By the time you read this, I cannot predict where scaffolding will be or how we will have to work our worship around it, but near

week's end, about six pews in the nave had been moved to accommodate scaffolding, and the chancel seemed about as filled with scaffolding as one could imagine. Apparently, the electricians have at last begun the project of re-lighting our worship space.

The temporary wall in the hallway outside the handicap toilet has been removed, and a real door has been installed. In fact, you can also find a toilet, radiator, grab bar, and toilet paper holder inside. Part of the temporary wall on the lowest level of the building has also been removed, to provide access to what is to be the elevator mechanical room. This was needed because the elevator installers are now busily at work putting in the new elevator.

Elsewhere, the stonework has been completed, and the outdoor scaffolding will be removed once the temporary roof is replaced with a permanent one. The handicap access ramp has been built, and the sidewalk along Mayfair that had been torn up to replace a water valve has been restored.

The Real Bulletin Board is Back!

After many weeks of posting notices on a blank, not very attractive wall, the real cork bulletin board has at last returned. Please pardon any dust or damage that has not yet been repaired; it was a rough exile.

March 8, 1992

Progress Report

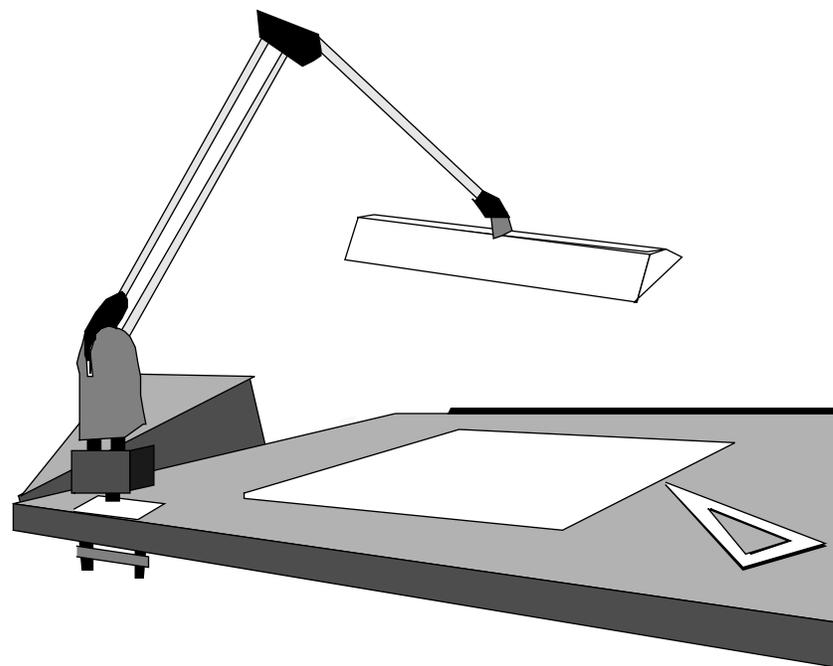
It can easily be said that walking into church is always an experience during this reconstruction period. Is the middle stairwell still blocked? What will the dust level be like? Should I stay for coffee?

Well rest assured, the middle stairwell passage is still blocked and probably will be for months. The dust level could be unpredictable, but don't worry, cleanup volunteers make it breathable before gatherings. And yes, you should stay for coffee. So what if your coffee is a little gritty? The company should more than make up for the mess, or, if nothing else, take time to check out for yourself what is behind the dust.

I think what you'll find is that the results are well worth the wait and inconvenience. This week's progress report shows that an air conditioning hole with all the electrical stuff has been made in the chapel. When it is installed, it will be a real improvement. I only hope there is enough money to run the air conditioning. Dust

holes covering the elevator have been removed. Stop by and look inside, but don't fall in. I've been told a new window has been installed in the undercroft. If you can find it, please show me. The handicap bathroom is almost finished. A sink has been put in and the beginnings of some light fixtures are appearing. Finally, Chuck Percy's office got some fresh paint.

Construction will continue through next week while the church is closed due to the removal of asbestos-containing floor tiles.



March 15, 1992

Construction Progress

The big accomplishment this week, of course, was the removal of vinyl-asbestos floor tile, primarily in the undercroft, but also small quantities on the floors above and below. Although the amount of asbestos in the tile was small (about 3%), full precautions were taken to prevent asbestos exposure of workers or normal users of the building. Had you stopped by this week and found a way into St. Paul's, you would have seen numerous "walls" constructed of plastic stretched over wood-stud framing. Each of these carried a sign in the standard industrial warning format:

**DANGER
ASBESTOS
CANCER AND LUNG DISEASE
HAZARD
RESPIRATORS AND
PROTECTIVE CLOTHING
ARE REQUIRED IN THIS AREA**

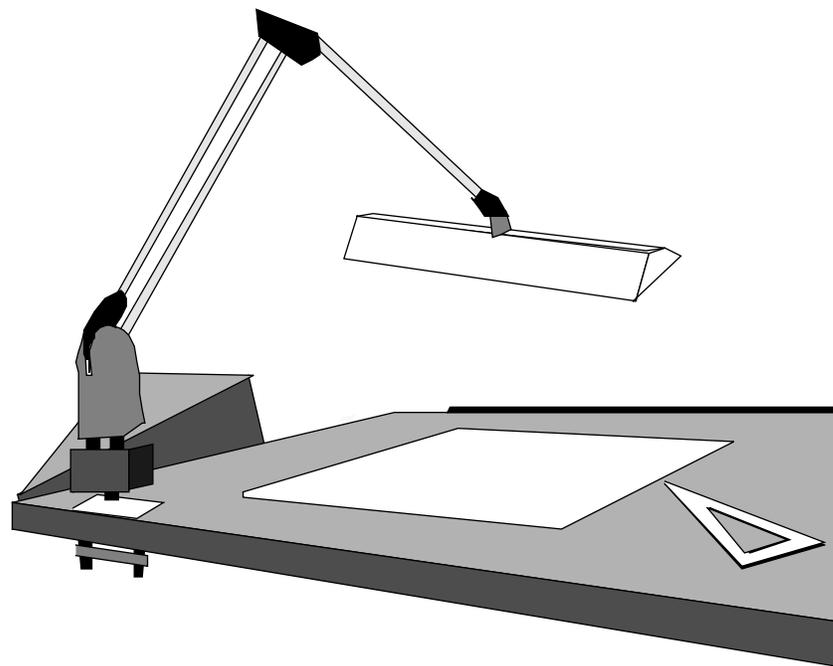
Presumably, it was safe to be in the building, although it was decidedly hard to get around. By

the time you read this, however, the only trace of what took place will be the lack of tiles on St. Paul's floors. Installation of new floor tiles is scheduled to begin on Monday.

Other renovation work continued last week. Additional demolition took place in the chapel, holes were broken through for ducts, and electrical work continued upstairs in the church. The elevator is now ready to be tested, although only the platform, and not the actual car, is in place. A minor problem with the electrical feed to the elevator was discovered and needs to be corrected before the elevator is tried out.

An interesting problem was encountered in the chapel, where a sacristy is being built. A sacristy normally has a drain that empties directly into the ground. When a hole for such a drain was cut into the chapel floor, however, the contractor encountered solid rock, into which liquids do not drain well. This problem is being solved by using a small pump to take liquid up, out through the side wall, and finally down to the ground. Through this experience, we may have

discovered why the bottom floor of the education wing is higher than that of the main building. Because of the level of the rock on the hillside, matching floor levels would have required blasting. This may not have been recognized immediately when construction of the education wing began; the footers on the end of the wing near the chapel were supposed to extend into the ground much farther than in fact they do. On the positive side, of course, we can glory in the quiet confidence that our education program at St. Paul's is built on solid rock and not shifting sand.



Coping with a Closed St. Paul's

Because of the tile removal this week, it was decided to close the building to normal activity. (Normal activity was definitely *not* possible here.) Meanwhile, the staff tried to cope with the situation as best as possible.

On Monday, the staff retreat, originally scheduled for the 27th, was held. No time was lost here.

Jean Parrish came in every day to collect mail and regularly checked phone messages. Had you called this week, you would have encountered our new voice mail system (“To leave a message for the Rector, Fr. Pickering, press 2; for Fr. Brumbaugh, press 3 ...”). We are using this system on a trial basis, having decided to try it now to help us through the week. The system is inexpensive and allows messages to be directed privately to individual staff members. If you have any thoughts about the system—which is intended only to replace the answering machine when no one is available—mention them to the Rector or someone else on the staff.

March 22, 1992

Floor

By now, perhaps half of the undercroft floor should be tiled. Laying the tile is a slow process, and it isn't hard to see why this should be true. By my count, there are five different colors of tile used. Moreover, the design calls not only for the use of whole tiles, but also for narrow strips of color created by cutting standard size tiles. Also, some tile of the wrong color was laid by mistake and had to be removed. Installation seems to be moving along smoothly now, however.

The tile colors largely mirror, if not exactly match, the colors on the walls. The exceptions to this seem to be the black tile—which blends easily enough with nearly any color—and the light green tile. There is green in the undercroft windows, of course, though perhaps the window glass is not one of the room's more sterling features. The overall effect is pleasing, I think. The floor does really doesn't grab one's attention and cry out how many colors it contains.

Elevator

The elevator has been tested, and it runs. For now, there is only a platform that moves up and down, however. Next, the elevator car must be assembled on that platform, and doorjambs and doors have to be installed. Recall that the walls facing the elevator shaft in the elevator lobbies have not been completed, as the doorjambs have to be placed before the walls can be plastered.

Chapel

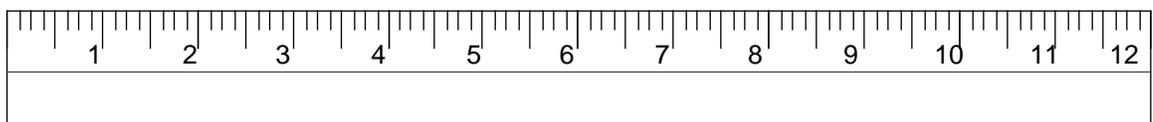
A peek through the window in the chapel door reveals a room in apparent chaos. Demolition, but not much construction is evident, and the room seems filled with junk. The chapel is now construction headquarters, storage room, and work site. Think of it as being like the undercroft was a month ago. Actually, some progress *was* made in the chapel this week: air conditioning ducts were installed. At least some of the duct work can be seen from the door. Eventually, the ducts will be hidden by bulkheads.

Lighting

I walked into the south transept Thursday morning to see how the new wiring and lighting were coming along. The church was dark, but it was clear that pews and scaffolding had been moved around, so apparently the project was moving forward. For an instant, I thought about turning on the lights to get a better look. Just then, four workman walked in behind me. One was saying, “At this point in time, I’m not sure how he *does* turn these lights on.” I guess we’ll all be able to evaluate progress on Sunday.

Odds and Ends

The contractor is putting in the last of the wood moulding in the undercroft. Several doors still need to be hung, but the hardware for the job has not yet arrived. Conductor heads and downspouts are being installed for the new roof.



March 29, 1992

Details

It is easy to miss many of the changes that have happened around St. Paul's this week. Construction has advanced to the point that much of what remains to be done is a matter of attending to the fine details. How many of the following changes have *you* noticed?

You no doubt *have* noticed that the floor tile in the undercroft is completely installed. Only around the elevator lobbies does additional tile need to be laid. The undercroft floor has not yet achieved its ultimate appearance—it will be more striking after it is polished—but now is a good time to look at both the floor and the ceiling and to see how each is mirrored in the other.

Another new element in the undercroft is a series of tackboards under the windows. These can be used as bulletin boards and will also make the space quieter, by absorbing a certain amount of sound.

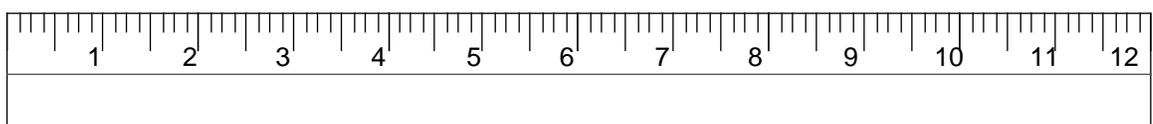
The undercroft contains a lot of wood moulding, and it is worth noticing the richness that

moulding adds to the room. Pay special attention to where the walls and columns meet the floor. Wood moulding parallels the floor, and a tan rubber splash guard protects the base of the walls.

In the storage area at the end of the undercroft, steel handrails have been added to the mezzanine. A steel fence has also been placed around the air conditioner that serves the chapel. These will keep, respectively, adults and stored items from falling off the mezzanine, and small children from hurting themselves on the air conditioner and its outdoor duct work.

As you travel the stairwells on either side of the kitchen, look for the new lamps on the walls.

Perhaps most conspicuous among the changes visible this week is the installation of the new elevator doors and jambs, in colors that should now be familiar. Elevator lobby walls can now be completed and plastered.



Paint and Light

Some parishioners noticed last week that the east wall of the church (the wall behind the high altar) has been painted lavender. Given the darkness of the chancel resulting from the presence of scaffolding and the absence of artificial lighting, this observation is impressive. To some of the observers, apparently, it was also a bit shocking. An explanation is in order.

The church, which has not been painted in quite a few years, was in need of a fresh coat of paint. Some painting was going to be required to cover the otherwise conspicuous evidence of the ongoing electrical work related to the re-lighting of the church. It was decided, therefore, to go ahead with a new paint job immediately.

Most of the church will be painted in an off-white shade. The color will be a little different from that applied elsewhere in the building in the recent past, as it will contain a hint of blue and no trace of yellow. The side aisles will be a slightly grayer color, which should make them appear to recede, and thereby to seem larger.

The lavender wall is also designed to seem farther away, an effect calculated to focus more attention on the new liturgical center of our worship, the nave altar. Fr. Klukas insists that lavender (or was it pink?) was a “standard medieval color” used in this way. He also points out that the color blends well with our stained glass and the blue ceiling. The blue ceiling is another medieval tradition, apparently, representing the dome of heaven.

As to the re-lighting project, we will have to endure another Sunday of scaffolding, but the end of the mess is in sight. Some parishioners asked last week why the two lanterns in the crossing did not match. Those folks should be reassured this week, as the two lanterns there do match now, although they differ from others in the church. They are two of the fixtures we found in the church attic some time ago. When the project is completed, not all the lanterns will match—the two styles are quite compatible though—but the placement of the lanterns will be symmetric!

April 5, 1992

Here and There around St. Paul's

This Sunday, for the first time in several weeks, most worshipers will actually be able to see what's going on. Not only is most of the scaffolding gone, but much of the new lighting is functioning. People in the nave should find their hymnals and prayer books easier to read than formerly, though they may feel a bit conspicuous in the much-intensified light. Those in the transepts, however, will still be in their accustomed gloom, as the electrical work has not yet reached those areas.

It is in the chancel where the most dramatic change has taken place. The newly added lanterns hung from the ceiling make the area quite bright, even in the absence of a number of overhead spotlights, not all of which have yet been installed. The choir, which has taken to carrying flashlights along with hymnals and music folders, should no longer have any trouble figuring out what they're supposed to be singing; and the plan to issue miner's hats to choir members will no doubt be dropped.

Most of the nave has now been repainted, and this also contributes to making the church seem brighter. Next week, the dimmer controls for the church are to be activated and adjusted. All the lights need not be fully on all the time. A large electrical cabinet in the room next to the undercroft storage area houses the dimmer equipment. (The normal user controls will be upstairs, of course.) Some thought had been given to making this room an office, but its odd proportions and electrical contents make such a use unattractive. It will likely become an additional storage area.

In the undercroft, all the light switches should be working. I counted 45 of them, but I may have missed a few. It may take us a little while before we are completely comfortable with turning the lights on and off.

All the tackboards have now been installed in the undercroft, and they are a different color from those first put in. The tackboards are now green, perhaps making the green in the floor seem more natural. And in case you didn't notice

last week, all the old bulletin boards have been covered in gray fabric. This not only makes them more attractive, but makes them more uniform, as the cork surfaces had not all been the same color.

Plasterers are due to return to St. Paul's Monday. They will complete walls and ceilings in the elevator lobbies now that elevator doors have been installed. (Notice how the elevator doors are recessed into the walls, by the way.) The hallway ceiling in the Nursery School that has long been missing drop-in panels has been rebuilt and will also be plastered.

Another milestone was reached this week when the elevator car was assembled. The elevator is not yet ready for service, but it *is* looking more and more like a real elevator.

While you're in the parking lot, take a close look at the new door near the elevator tower. Recall that this wide door replaced a set of double doors. Leaded glass has been added on either side of the door, and matching glass has been fitted to the windows in the door.

April 12, 1992

A “Normal” Palm Sunday

Having lived through weeks of uncertain lighting and unsightly scaffolding in the church, Palm Sunday should seem refreshingly normal. The scaffolding is gone, the pews are back in place, the lights work, and, assuming all the adjustments went smoothly on Friday, the new dimmer controls will provide us with many options for church lighting other than simply on and off. These changes provide real excitement for the day, as “normal” is now different—more functional, more flexible, and more supportive of our worship together. It is fitting that we try out our lighting on the day we present our Palm Sunday pageant, an event that is quickly establishing itself as a new St. Paul’s tradition.

Look around the church for lighting in unexpected places. There is new lighting in the side aisles, at the end walls of the transepts, and high up on the ceiling, pointed toward the chancel. Additionally, you may notice mountings for some down-lighting fixtures on the ceiling at the crossing. The fixtures are late in arriving, but

they will be installed as soon as they show up at St. Paul's. Outside, you will find new floodlights over the doors to the narthex and over the doors opening to the parking lot.

Elevator

Work on the elevator continues. Present plans call for having it inspected at the end of next week. The plasterers have been working on the last unfinished walls of the elevator lobbies, which should now be ready, or nearly ready, for painting.

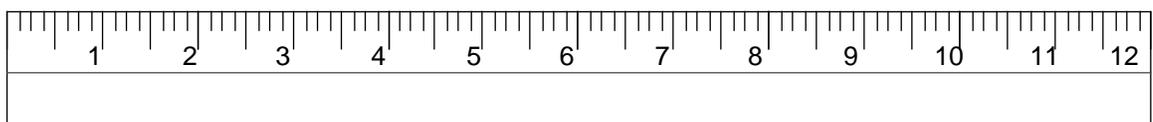
Undercroft

Clearly, work in the undercroft is nearly complete. All the needed hardware—locks, door knobs, and the like—have arrived and are being installed. Ceiling speakers and microphone jacks still need to be put in, however, and smoke detectors need to be re-mounted. Touch-up painting is required in a few places, such as around

the light switches. Outlets also need to be installed for the theatrical lighting. (Notice the tracks on the ceiling for hanging lights.) The movable partitions are scheduled to arrive in a week to ten days. They will require several days to install.

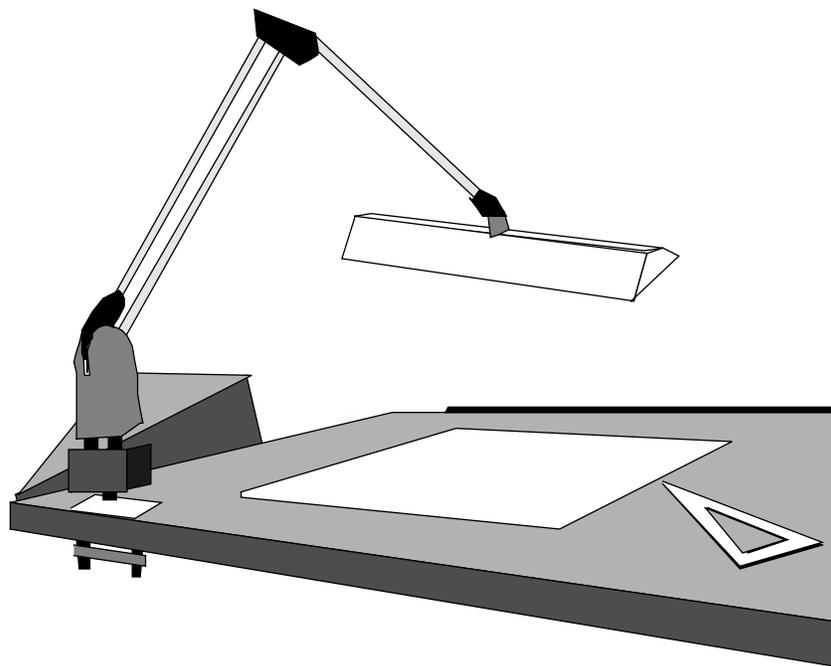
Chapel

The focus of the construction now shifts to the chapel. Bulkheads have been built around the air conditioning ducts, and the walls have been built for the small sacristy at the back of the chapel. Another bulkhead has to be built as well. Other changes we will see in the chapel include new crown moulding, new lighting fixtures, and carpeting. The number of ceiling fixtures in the chapel will remain the same, but a good deal more light will be available.



Plan B

Having already set the day for the post-construction celebration and rededication as April 26, it was decided last week to delay “Celebrating the Vision” until May 17, to insure that virtually all the construction will in fact be completed. This step was taken with regret, but it does reduce everyone’s anxiety over whether everything will be ready by the appointed day. All the planned events—the dedications, breakfast, tours, music, and dinner—will go on as originally planned, albeit three weeks later than first announced.



April 19, 1992

Behind the Lights

Holy week and Easter provide the ideal opportunity to demonstrate the new lights and lighting control system in the church. Now that we've seen what can be done, however, parishioners might like to know something about how it all works, particularly because the lighting controls are quite inconspicuous.

The main control panel is in the niche beside the organ console, on the wall facing the nave. If this description makes no sense, you may have to go upstairs and look for yourself. The niche in question is behind the choir stalls next to the organ console. Heretofore, it served no conspicuous function other than to house a fan to cool the choir in the summertime. Due to its location, the panel is marvelously unobtrusive, though it is a bit hard to get to—one has to climb over a pew—and hard to see—there are no lights in the area.

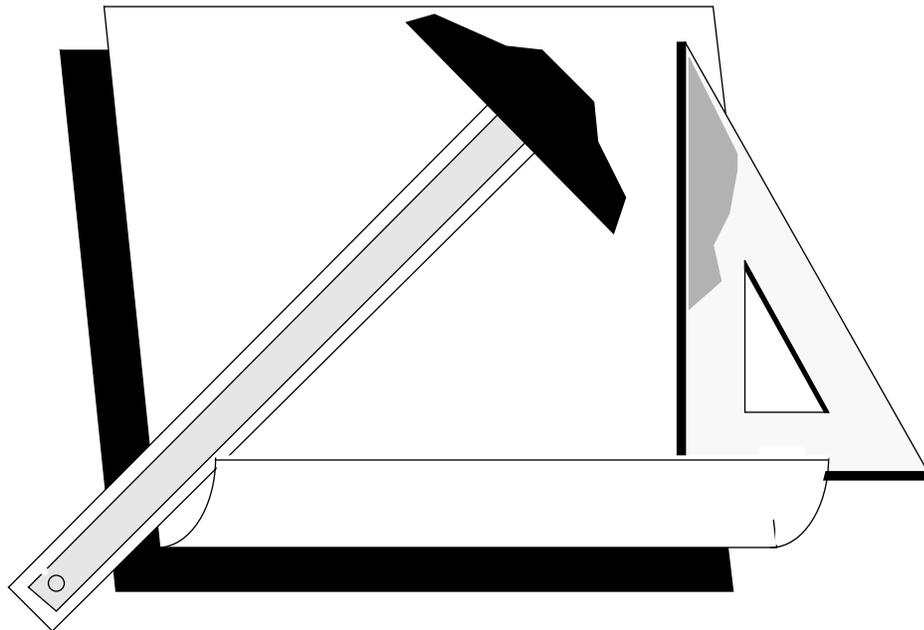
Fortunately, although lighting can be controlled from the main panel, it can also be controlled from elsewhere. The primary function of the main panel is to select particular combina-

tions of lights, which can then be selected by pressing buttons at one of four locations. The system allows the setting of five lighting arrangements. These may be selected by pressing buttons at the main panel, at the organ console, at the pulpit, and on the rear wall of the nave near the corner closest to the Washington–Mayfair intersection. In the average Sunday service, the organist will do most of the button pushing.

The five lighting treatments are labeled “Preset 1” through “Preset 4” and “Work Lights.” These differ from one another only in that the work light setting does not have a fader associated with it, but the other settings do. The fader causes the lights to change settings over a period of seconds, rather than doing so immediately.

Designing a lighting treatment is done by adjusting 12 sliding controls that act as dimmers. These adjust down-lighting over the altar, down-lighting in the nave and balcony, altar lanterns, chancel and sanctuary lanterns, nave and balcony lanterns, balcony and sanctuary fill lighting, wall washers in the transepts, side aisle lights,

and individual focal lighting for the baptismal font, altar, pulpit, and choir. Presets 1 through 5 also have a sliding control to select a fader time between 1 and 60 seconds. (A 60-second fade is *very* slow, the sort of effect that makes you question whether the lights or your vision is fading.) If desired, all the faders can be disabled, so that lighting changes are more or less instantaneous. Short fades seem to make less jarring transitions, however, and long fades are good for special effects.



News of the Week

Changes visible this week are mainly in the elevator lobbies. These are in various stages of completion, but most of the wood trim, ceiling tile, and painting is in place. Also, the elevator is beginning to look more like an elevator, sporting buttons and arrows. It was inspected on Friday. It is not yet certified for use, although its operation was satisfactory. (The inspector required a small change to the shaft, which could not be completed before the weekend.)

Patching of walls was done in the narthex and elsewhere. New plastering was completed in the chapel, though some additional plastering will be required later.

The undercroft air conditioning was started up and was found to work fine. Balancing of the systems—recall that there are two—is still to be done.

The movable partitions were expected to arrive this week, but are not yet in. Presumably they will arrive soon.

April 26, 1992

Elevator

The elevator has passed inspection and, when not out of service for reasons of construction, is available for carrying passengers. The interior of the elevator car is still Spartan, but apparently elevator inspectors are concerned with safety rather than aesthetics. The inside of the elevator will be made more attractive presently.

The elevator lobbies are very nearly complete, as additional painting and laying of floor tile took place this last week.

No building project is ever carried off perfectly, and however careful the designers and planners, there always seem to be details that come out wrong. Such an outcome can be troubling, but it can also be amusing, as was the case with the new elevator. The buttons in the car are labeled to do a good job of communicating possible destinations on each floor. For example, the button for the highest stop is labeled

3 Third Floor
Nave

(Other stops are numbered—quite logically—1, 1A, 2, and 3A.) The button for 3A says

3A Class Rooms
Choir Room

which is not exactly correct, but is something we could likely live with. Unfortunately, the 1A button says

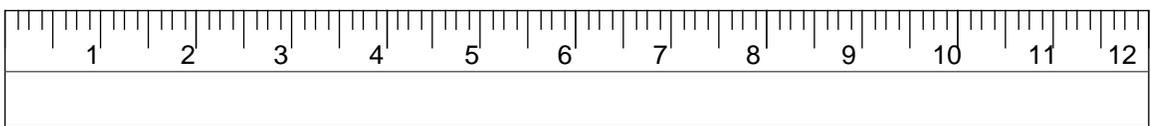
1A Nursury School
Chapel

The first floor button is labeled

1 First Floor
Exist

which appears to make a profound, if rather enigmatic philosophical statement worthy of great contemplation.

Replacement buttons have been ordered.



Partitions

The undercroft has moved to within a hair's breadth of completion with the installation of the movable partitions. The panels arrived early in the week and required a couple of days to be put into place. Toward the end of the week, the contractor began putting the two colors of fabric on the panels.

The partitions fold neatly out of the way when not in use. One can be extended across the undercroft and folds into the area to the left of the library. The other partition deploys in an el shape to form a small classroom. It folds into the recessed area in the wall across from the library.

To minimize wear and tear on the partitions, we will likely discourage their being moved by anyone other than the sexton. How often we will move them is still unclear. It will probably require a few weeks of experimentation to decide if we want to change the configuration of the undercroft between Sunday school and coffee hour, for example.

*Celebrate
the
Vision*

May 17, 1992

May 3, 1992

Elevator Blues

A week ago Saturday, I was walking to the lounge with Doug Tripp and Grant Brown, two other participants in the men's Bible study group. Because the elevator was finally available for public use, I suggested we take a ride before beginning our study. Everyone thought this a fine idea, so we called the elevator and rode from the second floor to the first.

The ride seemed a bit slow, but the elevator got us quietly and smoothly to where we wanted to go. Then Doug suggested we go up to the next level, that of the chapel, which is designated 1A on the elevator button. Grant pushed the button for 1A, followed by the button for 2 to return us to the floor on which we had begun.

After the door closed, the elevator began to move ever so slowly. We waited and we waited and we began to look at one another with worried looks. After what seemed like an eternity, the car stopped and the wrong door opened. At least, the wrong *inner* door opened. We found ourselves staring at the back of the first floor

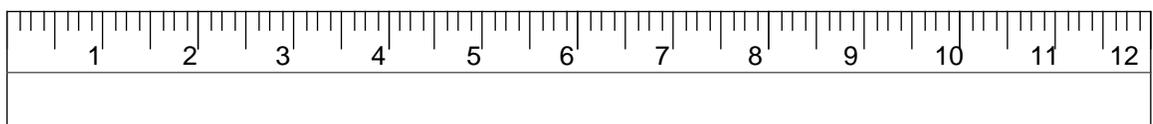
door, which had not itself opened because the elevator actually was aligned with 1A, a level about a foot and a half above that of the first floor. Before I had time to realize that we might be trapped in the elevator, Doug reached up, unlatched the first floor door manually, and opened it. We all breathed a sigh of relief and jumped down to the floor. We were saved, though we seemed to have left the elevator in a non-working state.

A few days later, I learned that two elevator repair crews had come to St. Paul's that Saturday to fix the elevator. They could find nothing wrong with it, however, and concluded that a power spike or some similar ephemeral event had caused the peculiar behavior we experienced. I was suspicious of this vague explanation and offered to try to reproduce the problem. I stopped by St. Paul's late in the afternoon, called the elevator to 2, rode down to 1, and pressed buttons 1A and 2. With my stopwatch, I timed how long it took for the door to open (1 minute, 56 seconds). When it did open, it was

the wrong door again, and I had to escape as I had on the weekend. I left a voice-mail message for the Rector, telling him the bad news.

The problem was later confirmed independently and demonstrated to the people who had installed the elevator. They were surprised and said the problem was likely a software problem. (The source of the problem is, in fact, still unknown.)

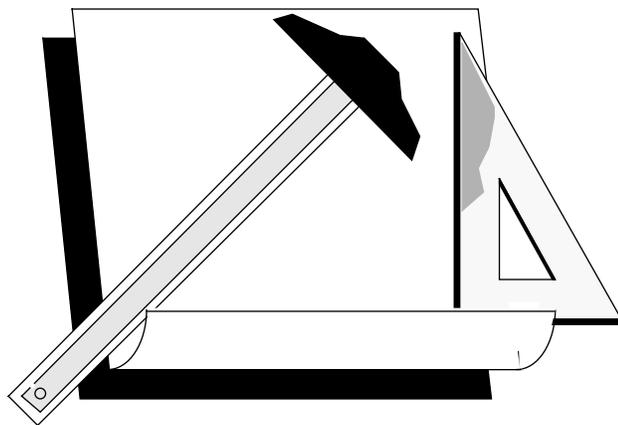
Fr. Pickering was concerned because the Hospice memorial service scheduled for May 3 absolutely requires a functioning elevator to handle handicapped participants. The elevator could not be fixed before the weekend, but it was determined that no problems seemed to occur as long as no one pushed the 1A button. Therefore, the elevator people merely disconnected that button, and, until the problem is cured, St. Paul's has a fully-functioning 4-stop, rather than 5-stop elevator.



May 10, 1992

“Running Out of Things to Do”

When I remarked with some disappointment that not much progress seemed to be taking place, I was told, “We’re running out of things to do.” And so we are. Except for minor corrections, the contractor has finished the work at St. Paul’s. A few tasks remain to be done by others—for example, carpeting needs to be laid in the Chapel of the Good Shepherd, and a few light fixtures that have not yet arrived need to be installed on the nave ceiling by the electricians. But an exciting, yet trying period in the life of St. Paul’s is drawing to a close. Next week, we “Celebrate the Vision.”



Accomplishments

The past week was hardly without its accomplishments, and some that came in the past few days have been striking.

The control software in the elevator was replaced, and the elevator is now working as it should. All five levels can now be reached—we hope—reliably.

The movable partitions in the undercroft are now finished. Wood moulding has been installed on each of the panels, and the doors and door-jambs have been put into place. The biggest change in the undercroft, however, is the floor. It has been cleaned and waxed, and it now looks terrific.

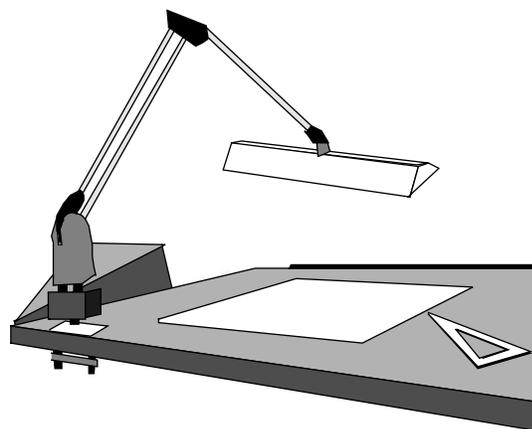
The stairwells have been painted, as have the walls of the undercroft storage area and its mezzanine railings. If you take a look inside the storage area, you will notice new chairs and tables, which we hope to put to good use as our fellowship activities resume after the disruption of construction.

Vinyl wall covering has been applied in the handicap toilet, but some minor work remains to be done there.

The floor tile just inside the door to the parking lot nearest the chapel has been replaced.

The chapel has been painted and the woodwork stained. The air conditioning now works, and the sacristy has been completed. Just inside each of the chapel doors, coat racks have been installed. These match the racks in the coat room next to the library. If you haven't looked closely at those racks, you should do so, as they are both functional and decorative.

New carpeting has been installed in the nave, narthex, and on the stairways leading to the narthex.



May 17, 1992

Icon

Most of the work done this week was in the chapel. St. Paul's Chapel of the Good Shepherd now has new carpeting and lights, will soon have stackable chairs to replace the old pews, and possesses a focus of attention it hitherto lacked.

That focus is provided by an icon of Christ as the Good Shepherd, the work of Massachusetts artist Charlotte Hallett. The icon is mounted behind the altar and immediately grabs one's attention upon entering the room. A description of the icon here is no substitute for going to the chapel to see it for oneself, but it may be worthwhile to point out some things to look for.

See the icon close up and from afar; each view has its own joys, though the intense blues and reds, along with the rich gold, are arresting from any vantage point. See up close the three-dimensional halo around Christ's head. Notice also, the inscriptions at the edge of the cloak and below Christ's feet. The lambs were painted from life, by the way, and the flowers should be recognizable by the horticulturally literate.

Punch List

The contractor's main work is done. Any remaining tasks are on a "punch list," mostly odds and ends that were somehow missed or problems that need to be corrected. Resolving the punch list may take a few more weeks, but it is fair to say the construction phase of the Building the Vision program has essentially come to a close.

This will be the final posting of the Construction Update bulletin board, and now seems a good time for me to close out my own punch list of unfinished business.

First of all, thanks for your attention, suggestions, and encouragement. I hope the bulletin board was interesting and made you feel more a part of what was going on. This project has certainly been a wonderful experience for me, largely because of your kind response to it. I learned much about using my gifts to advance God's kingdom, and I recommend such an experience to others.

Looking over the bulletin board copy for the

past 31 weeks, I find that not everything I wrote about has come to pass (remember the partitioning of the library?) and not everything I wrote was 100% correct. Neither was it 100% complete. I probably should have written a piece on emergency lighting, for example, but I never did get around to it. As historical records go, however, the bulletin board was probably no worse than average.

When I began, I did not know what the Construction Update bulletin board was actually going to be. I learned as I went along, and I've noticed that I became, over time, more knowledgeable, more confident, and less formal. (I began on October 20, 1991 using the editorial "we." It was several weeks before "I" appeared.) That first week, I promised photographs, diagrams, and perhaps some surprises. The photographs never did appear, although a display of photographs is planned for some time in the future. I did come up with one diagram, and the masking tape on the floor showing where the movable partitions were going to be probably

qualifies as a surprise.

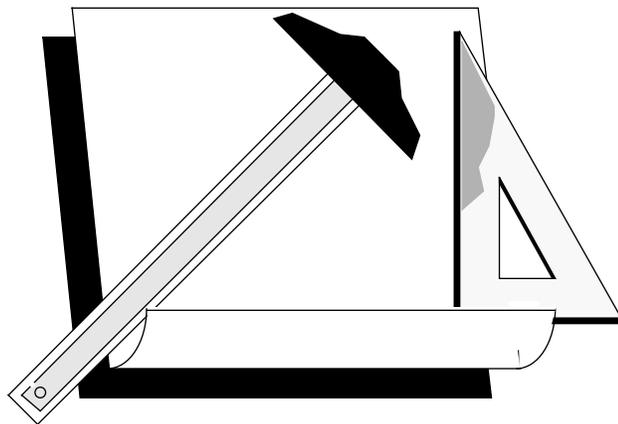
I got a few notes in the suggestion box, but the mailbox in the office was not much used. Thank you for the questions and comments. A few of the notes were irrelevant, by the way, and some addressed concerns at St. Paul's other than construction. Those of the latter sort were passed on to appropriate members of the staff.

In examining the building as much as I have over the past several months, I have become aware of some of its peculiarities and needs. Did you know, for example, that the brass plate on the front of the building lists service times, most of which are wrong? (Such information should not be cast in brass.) Those of you who just love renovation should be reassured that St. Paul's still has little projects it should take on in the next few years.

For now, enjoy the celebration, enjoy our new facility, and anticipate the next phase of our life together.

– *Lionel Deimel*

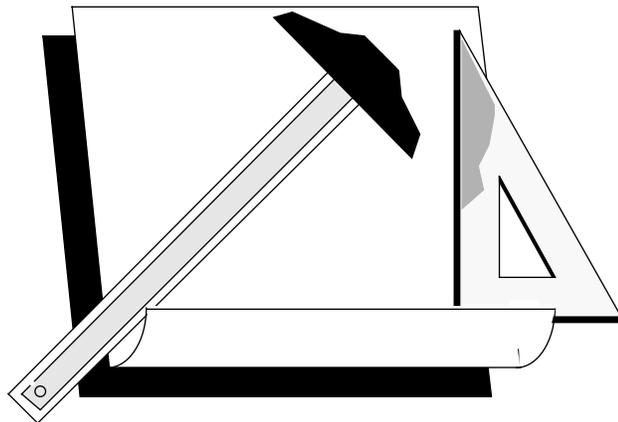
*Celebrate
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Posters

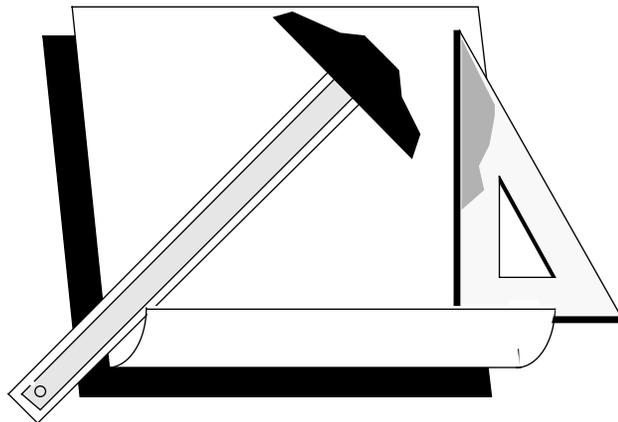
Interested in what's happening with the construction at St. Paul's?

**See Construction Update bulletin
board near the church office.**



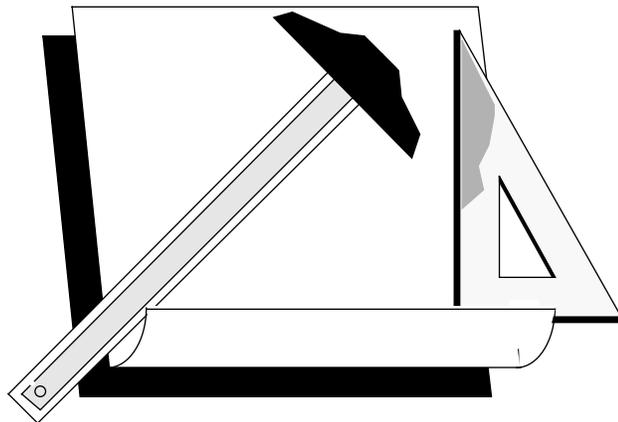
What's going to happen to the library?

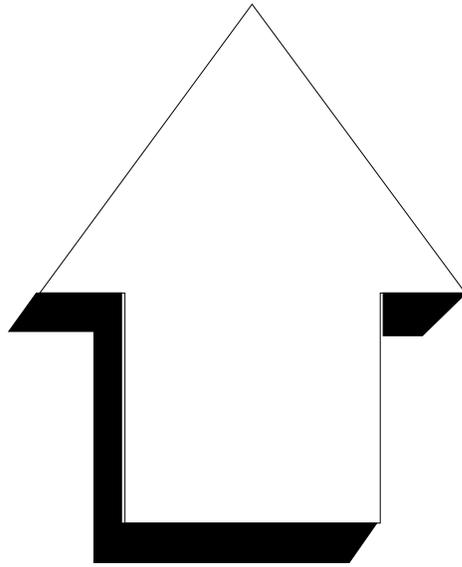
**See Construction Update bulletin
board near the church office.**



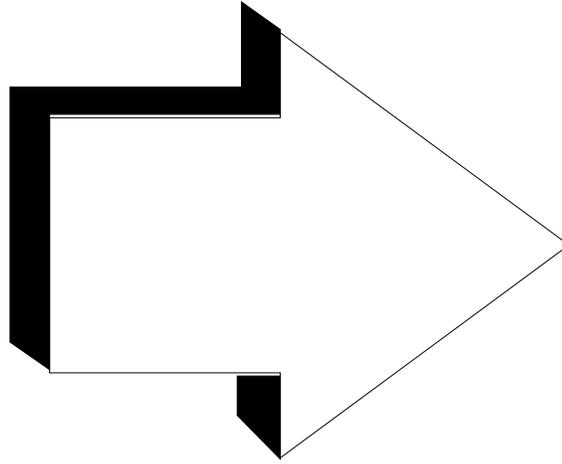
TEMPORARY WALL

**See Construction Update bulletin
board near the church office.**

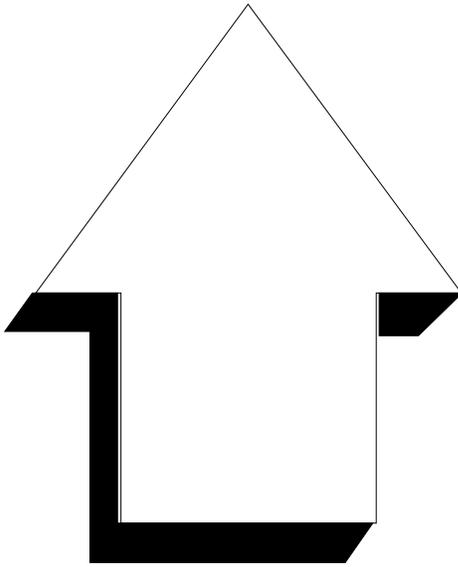




**Ceiling Removed Above
for Duct Work**

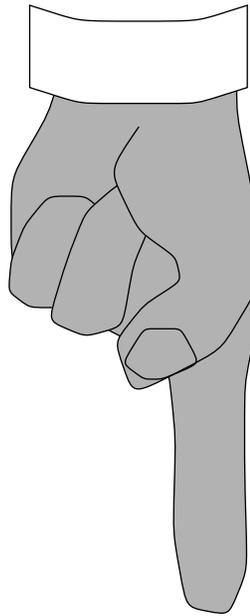


**Entranceway To
Coat Room
(Electrical Conduit
To Be Rerouted)**



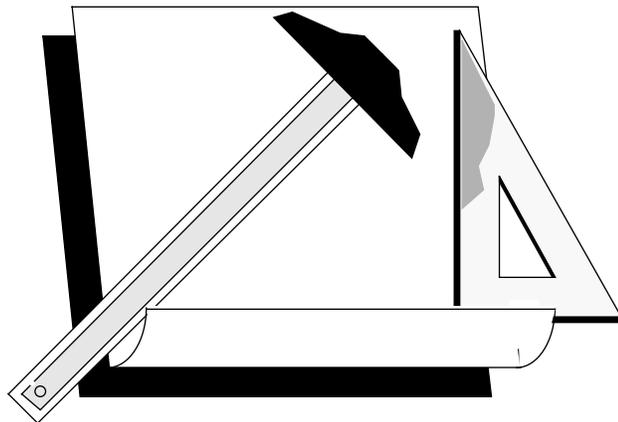
Note New Duct Work

New Connection for Water Cooler



Future Coat Room

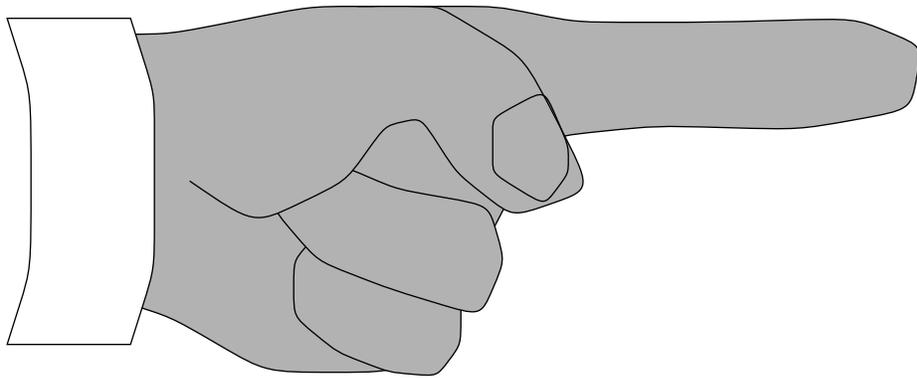
**See Construction Update bulletin
board near the church office
for more information.**



**Coke machine
goes here.**

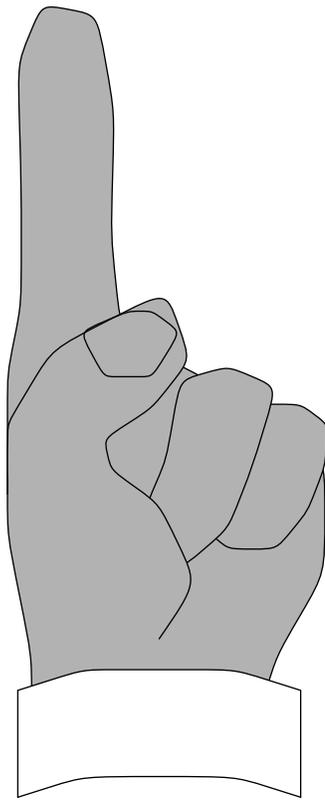


**Water cooler
goes on other
side of wall.**



**Passage to be
blocked up.**

**Shelves and
bar with coat
hangers go
around walls
of coat room.**



**Where did the duct
work go?
See Construction
Update Bulletin Board.**

**Partition across under-
croft folds into this
space.**

**See Construction Up-
date Bulletin Board for
Details.**

**Partition that forms
smaller classroom folds
into this space.**

**See Construction Up-
date Bulletin Board for
Details.**

Tape on floor shows approximate position of movable partitions.

See Construction Update Bulletin Board for Details.