



A Recap of BG 2023 With Thanks

Hi Building and Grounds Members and Friends. As we wind up the year, I thought it would be nice to extend thanks to our many participants who make and made possible the accomplishments in our stewardship of our shared Meeting House. To this end, you will find pictures of some of the year's activities, and some small description of those who contributed to the success of these projects as we grappled with the difficulties attendant to our mission.

Many projects and activities are not easily identified by photos, and for those we have a few modest text entries. Any omissions are simply the failure of the author, as it is the nature of what we do that much is not seen or noticed for one reason or another. So, here we go....

Enjoy the trip!

As the year closes, we have all come to realize it was and is the wettest year ever, with some 50 inches or more recorded to date. This is well illustrated by the flood that almost invaded the RE rooms to the East of Fellowship Hall. Here you see both the flood and Kevin's truck. Kevin has been helpful to all manner of BG activities for the year and certainly is well suited to receive thanks at the beginning of this trip through 2023 we are making together.

Here we interrupt our BG trip to point out the new hanging system for art is on full display as Evan Williams points out one of a number of paintings done in the style and media of the masters of this sort of thing.

Little touches matter. Below some of the smaller tables in Fellowship Hall are dressed up a bit, making a cafe style area for informal chats available





in Fellowship Hall popularly used after services. Evan and Rick were behind this project.

Returning to our formal business of Building and Grounds, here we find a project that, as far as can be known, was universally appreciated when we updated all the toilets to so called comfort height and efficient use of water as well as probably eliminating wasted water from defective flushing systems. All of the old style toilets were replaced. Thank you Kevin and David for moving this project along to completion.



Above we see Kevin contemplating repair of a catch basin prior minor sidewalk repair and paving of the driveways and the handy-capped accessible parking areas. This project was both a paving and a water control effort. Eventually, it was finished with the major drainage ending up in another catch basin as intended.



Then there was the issue of a major branch being torn from the tree overhanging the Pet Memorial Garden. Clean up in order.

And here we have yet another drainage project, this one designed to keep the ever present water out of our kitchen, electrical room and adjacent areas. It seems to have been successful.



And, the Village added this fence on our South side agreeing not to plant trees that would shade our solar collectors.



During the year Susan Hope and Evan Williams worked on the difficult and demanding job of maintaining our gardens and trees. Many thanks for this hot difficult work.

This included lots of weeding of the Memorial Garden, as well as the essential job of planting soil holding plants on both sides of the West Entrance to hold down mulch and other floating debris that will otherwise plug the catch basin and flood the lobby and downstairs areas.



Then, there was the Architecture Class for UHAR that toured Victor Lundy's Meeting House looking at examples of architecture in the Modernist Style. An event especially relevant as Toni



Gold, Jim Venneman, Laura Cipriano and David Newton successfully applied and received a grant covering the costs of employing Building Conservation Associates that prepared all the background information and pictures for our project to get the Meeting House listed on the Register of Historic Places. Thanks all.



And, then there was the clean up project in Fellowship Hall and adjacent room now multipurpose for various meetings. First, the excess accumulated stuff was donated to those teaching elsewhere, thanks to Karolina for this work, followed by serious cleaning and a paint job completed by Kevin. See volunteers above.. Well done all.



Realizing the berm was key to avoiding flooding into the West entrance as it creates a temporary lake to be drained away slowly, a project was continued to deepen the lake and increase the capacity as one flood got into the building during a more or less continuous cloud burst chain of thunder storms this rainy year.

Meanwhile, one of the two pumps in the sewer pit failed and a replacement of two pumps as well as new check valves were necessary to correct the situation. These repairs happened though the condition continued for much of the summer before being finally settled late in the year, to the relief of all concerned and at considerable expense. However, the old system was, after all, functional from about 1965 or so.



Here is our nice new expensive control panel on the left. Pump piping and bright blue expensive back flow preventing valves show. And, thanks to the refinishing by Greig Shearer and Evan Williams, the table in Servetus was refinished along cleaning the chairs, etc. The cleanup greatly aesthetically improved the space for meetings of all sorts. Thanks Evan, Greg and Kevin for this completion of this important project.



Because of the work of Paul and Laura Cipriano and many others, we successfully obtained a security



improvement grant. As this is written we have nine cameras remotely accessible monitoring spaces in

and around the Meeting House greatly improving security while also allowing monitoring of spaces by those not physically present thus saving trips to check on conditions from time to time. By the way, starlings seem to appreciate our grounds improvement efforts.

Below the Pirate Ship, Peter Meny straightened up our background fence in the Pet Memorial Garden. Thank you Peter

Meanwhile, some activities do not support nice pictures. Bill Simmons and Laura Cipriano have been seeking access to infrastructure loans, with much effort and frustration to date. Bill also was in on early diagnosis of our sewer pit issue facilitating knowledgeable contact with our vendor eventually leading to a solution to our problem. Lucille Giammatteo organized a general cleaning of Fellowship Hall. Hugh Schweitzer is at work on phase two of lighting project for the chancel area. Various others helped in a number of projects. Without their efforts, much would never have been done by groups, and individuals.



So, as we reach the end of 2023, may your days overflow with success in the New Year. We extend deep appreciation to all mentioned here, or not, who contributed successfully to 2023. You know who you are!.

We join in universal wishes for a stable Earth, safe national, and local conditions for our fellow humans as well as other plants and animals sharing our web of existence. We continue our hopeful journey on the only known "blue" planet hosting life at this time.

David Newton
Chair Building Grounds