

Early June 2007 Building Project Update

Many projects are happening at the church during this exciting renovation stage of the construction project. During the last week of May, the HVAC and electrical installation was completed. Most rooms in the church now have A/C, but the church offices will not have A/C until next summer.

The old boiler was removed. The five sections of the cast iron boiler were cut by a welding torch into manageable pieces and hauled out of the church to be recycled.



Loaded down with copper, David drove his truck three times to the metal recycling plant in Asheville. The trips were very lucrative, netting \$6,000 for the recyclable copper.



The kitchen, the Covenant Room and the secretary's office each had a foreboding radiator in the ceiling weighing hundreds of pounds which were leftover from a previous heating system. When they were discovered this spring, it took a few weeks to figure out how to remove them without anybody getting hurt.



David uses a strap to secure the radiator before he cuts a section of it.



The radiators are lowered using a system of ropes. The radiator in the secretary's office (on the right) requires a little more ingenuity to get it down.

Fiberglass insulation was installed in the ceiling of the fellowship hall to help provide a sound barrier with the sanctuary above. Furring strips on the walls will hold the Sheetrock which will be installed in June.



The steel beams in the ceiling of the fellowship hall will be encased and finished out with walnut boards. The new windows will also be trimmed out with these boards. The walnut boards were donated to the church in a rough sawn condition in amazing 19" widths!!! Volunteers spent a day sizing and planing the boards and transforming them into beautiful pieces of handiwork. The knots and burls in the boards give them lots of character.



Earl, David and Kim use a jointer to size the boards to the proper width. Each board has 4-6 passes through the jointer. The next step is to plane the boards.



Ben (on the left) feeds the boards through the planer. Each board goes through the planer about 5 times. Each time about 1/32 of an inch is removed until the board is uniformly the same thickness throughout its length.

Removing layers of wood create lots of sawdust which are vented into bins in the workshop. Three big bins were collected during this project.



Earl empties a bin full of walnut sawdust over the bank. Walnut is very acidic so should not be used to mulch plants or be used for pet bedding.



The boards are finished and ready to be installed once the Sheetrock is up in the Fellowship Hall.