

2021 was a good year to take stock of various “to do” items that needed updating. John Hershey, Aimee Weigle and I evaluated and organized keys and locks for all exterior doors and all interior doors. Mike Okerstrom, former trustee had a locksmith company change some locks, rekeyed 95% of them and made sure that FMC members and renters who required access to our buildings and offices had up-to-date keys. You may have noticed that the lockbox by the east sanctuary door is gone; if you need access to the building, contact me or our office manager. The trustees now have an organized key system in a very secure location in the building.

The “Pueblos” organization asked if they could rent office space in our building and after discussions, the trustees offered the former Nursery space between the Men’s and Women’s restrooms adjacent to the Fellowship Hall. They requested a few upgrades which were accommodated with volunteer help, and they moved in August.

Last winter, the trustees discussed and planned a new vision for the library space adjacent to the Fellowship Hall and in January, building supplies were delivered and work began with a huge amount of volunteer labor supplied willingly by FMC members. Cynthia Miller and others boxed all the books and stored them while the bookshelves were moved out and donated to FMC members and other organizations. Partition wall construction commenced and progressed slowly for the remainder of the year with numerous FMC volunteers assisting in various aspects of the construction. The old asbestos floor tiles were removed safely by a qualified local company and new carpet tiles were installed. To date, the walls are ready for priming and painting, the new wiring is in place and other prep work is in the works. Several new elements are awaiting completion and when all is complete, the women’s sewing group will enjoy a secure storage space for their materials and the tables and chairs which have been “stored” in the Fellowship Hall will have their own storage space decluttering the Fellowship Hall.

During the past 2 years as we’ve worshiped online, the technology aspect of our services has worked reasonably well. When we moved to in-person worship, the technology committee with John Ratigan’s skill temporarily made the technology/computer/sound system work for us. With John’s assistance the trustees are in the process of upgrading and moving the technology center to the sanctuary balcony to a permanent, locked cabinet so worship can continue to be both on-line and in-person, COVID willing!

During a September Sunday morning worship time, the trustees spearheaded a worship/clean up service which was a great success. About 50 volunteers pitched in with the able leadership of individuals who volunteered to head up various cleaning

tasks both outside and inside the building. The dumpsters were filled with trash, cobwebs were dislodged, kitchen cabinets and the library books were gone through, pews were polished, and our buildings looked terrific when the jobs were done. A HUGE THANK YOU to all participants from the trustees!

Autumn 2021 reminded the trustees that the heating systems in both buildings needed attention. We discovered that the furnace that heats the west half of the sanctuary was not working at all and the repairs were done post-haste. The thermostats in the education wing also required tinkering to keep out long term tenants happy. Looking ahead, the trustees are planning significant renovations to the restrooms on the lower level of the education wing; planning is under way and a local contractor is being hired to do much of the work.

Submitted by Glenn Geissinger, Trustee