

The *PACE* is published by

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"Like us on Facebook"

Church Office Hours
9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
Monday - Friday

Children's Christian Education

Sunday School

Team teaching by:

Bobbin Davis
Phil Davis
April Frazier
Lynn Kramp
Kristin Ludvik
Cathy Nash
Debbie Zimmerman

Co-Directors
Cathy Nash &
Debbie Zimmerman

We are disciples of Jesus:
helping one another be the
hands and feet of Christ by
sharing God's love with the
world.

Deadline for next *Pace* is
Sunday, January 17, 2020



The *Pace* of Grace

December 2020

From the Rector:



Have I told you all lately how absolutely amazing you are? Not enough, I am sure. You have been so patient as we wait for the threat of COVID to pass and we look forward to the time we can be together as a worshipping community again. It sure has been a long haul hasn't it? I so wish I could say it is over! However, there is some light at the end of the tunnel with the approvals of vaccines. Thanks be to God for the scientists that have worked so hard to make this happen so fast.

I have received the results of our 2020 Stewardship campaign and as I said at the beginning of this communication—you all are amazing! Twenty-eight of you not only pledged, you *increased* your pledge. I am humbled by your faith and your commitment to our God and God's mission through Grace Church. While we did not quite hit last year's numbers, we were very close despite the travails of the year. What makes this even more amazing is that we achieved what we did even though we lost to death in the past year, nine saints who were faithful givers.

Are you all wondering what Christmas will be like this year? I certainly have been. It is clear that we will not be able to gather in person. It is almost painful to think of our usual worship practices and celebrations that will not happen. I know I will miss the grand sound of the Seasonal Brass as we welcome the baby Jesus with joyful song. I will miss seeing the children process to the Altar to complete the Nativity scene. I will miss seeing your beautiful faces alight with the presence of the Christ Child and celebrating and sharing Eucharist with you all. It really won't be the same, will it?

But you know what? Christmas will still happen, even if it happens differently! We can still gather to welcome the Christ Child, albeit electronically. We can gather via Zoom and Facebook live at 7:00 pm Christmas Eve and at 10:00 am Christmas Day. We can still see and know our sacred space as we celebrate Christ's incarnation. Will it be the same? No. Can it hold a special place in our hearts? Yes, if we allow ourselves to be open to and look for the blessings embedded in difference. You may be wondering if I have taken leave of my senses, however I assure you I have not! I believe that we are surrounded by blessings large and small. It is the blessings that

Continued inside

Officers and Rector

Kathy Hill

Senior Warden

Cathy Nash

Junior Warden

Harry Dodds

Treasurer

Elizabeth Estep

Clerk

The Rev. Rose Anne Lonsway,

Rector

Inside this *Pace*

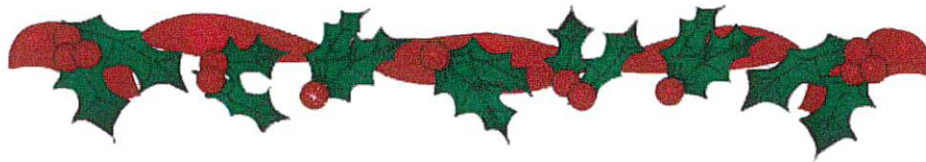
**The Night Before Christmas (Below)
This & That**

- Outreach Team Updates
- Evangelism Updates
- Stewardship Updates
- Worship Updates
- Vestry Highlights
- Finance Update

Join Scouts

Renovations Continue!

***Inserts: December Calendar, Volunteer Schedule
Lessons / Readings***



The Night Before Christmas at Grace

By Kathy Hill

T'was just days before Christmas when all through the nave not a creature was stirring excepting for Dave.

He was snapping great pictures of the rubble and dust that would soon be converted to soffits, ADA bathrooms, offices and such.

Christmas wishes tags hung on the tree with great care in hopes that our parishioners would find them all there.

And baskets for food were strewn all about to be filled with candy, cookies, and all yummy things no doubt.

Mark at his computer and Rose Anne working frantically, with visions of Christmas Zoom services from a plan became a reality.

So we spoke not a word but got straight to our work. There's lots to be done so we dare not to shirk.

With Rose Anne in the lead and us all at the ready we will get it all done if we all just stay steady.

On cleaning crew, on florist, on Altar Guild make ready.

On Elizabeth, on Harry, on Scott, James and Jenny.

With voices so beautiful and clear, sing praises to God for the birth of His Son so dear.

So, by Zoom we will gather to celebrate His birth, to pray for love for each other and peace on this earth.

After "Silent Night" has been sung and the candles are out, we all will feel so blessed, of that there's no doubt;

And our Grace friends exclaim ere' we Zoom out of sight, "Merry Christmas to all and to all a good night."

Wishing you all a Blessed and Peaceful Christmas and a Healthy New Year.

- Kathy Hill, Senior Warden

From the Rector, continued

keep my heart from breaking over the news we live with every day. There are blessings to be found every day. Sometimes we have to look a little harder to see them, but they are there.

I count as a blessing your Vestry, who have committed themselves to keeping us safe as we move through this pandemic. They have committed time, energy, and resources to checking in with each other and with you all through their weekly phone calls. I count as blessings the folks God has sent to us to move us through our renovation project. They are awesome. I count as blessings the ability to see one another and interact in team meetings, study group, Bible study, social hour, and worship. We can be with people through electronics that we never could have shared our time, space and worship with. I count as blessing our dedicated music director who continues to show up every week to help us worship. I count as blessing my daughter and grandson who, without prompting, show up every week to help as well. I count as blessings the calls, texts, and cards I receive to say hello. I count as blessing our team leaders who are making sure that God's mission through Grace Church continues.

Please be sure that you look for the blessings hidden in the chaos that is our world right now. God is in the chaos, showing us blessings all around; and know that you, each and every one of you, are a blessing. I intend to seek out every blessing to be found in our different ways of worship and welcome of the Christ Child this year, as I yearn for what was and what is to be. Please be sure to read all the emails and print material that will direct you to the planned services through Grace and the Diocese. There will be options and opportunities. Invite others to join you, so that we will be able share all those blessings. Come, let us adore Him, together, electronically!

M. Rose Anne+

About the next *Pace*

Due to the heightened workload in December, including producing bulletins for Christmas worship services, gathering year-end reports, and preparing for the Annual Meeting, we will not publish a January newsletter. Instead, as we have the past few years, we will publish a combined January-February newsletter, which should appear the first week of February. The January calendar will be sent out separately. As a result, articles for the next issue of the *Pace* will be due January 17, 2021. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all of you!

Thanks,
-Mark

Outreach Team Updates from Kathy Hill and the Outreach Team

Holiday Outreach Efforts:

- *McKinley family for Christmas:* We have a family of six who needs Christmas gifts and a food/goody basket this year. Gift tags were hung on a small tree outside the offices in the church. Church members can select a tag from the tree at the Church or they can call the office to make arrangements to select a gift tag for them. A flyer was sent with more specific information. No home-made items for the food basket please.
- *Holiday food baskets:* Please let Mark or Rose Anne know as soon as possible if you know of a family who is in need of a holiday food basket.

- *Giving Tree:* Mittens, scarves, hats, socks, masks etc, will be collected to divide among the schools participating in Little Feet. Also pet items will be collected for the Lake Humane Society. (McKinley is not taking donations at this time.)

Little Feet: Kathy Hill and Mother Rose Anne met with Diana, the Family Liaison at Edison Elementary School, regarding a shopping date for Little Feet. We will be working with Don at JCPenney as in the past. There is a possibility of working with Marshall's also. Since this meeting with Diana, the shopping date has been postponed until after the new year.

Friends of Recovery: Kathy Ivey has been in touch with Dennis Anthony as to what we can do to help them. They would like food prepared for men or women's weekly meetings. There are usually 20 to 30 attendees. Further information to follow. We continue to collect cleaning supplies for the 2 recovery houses. Boxes are provided on the pew across from the offices.

Forbes House: We continue to collect non-perishable food items and cleaning supplies. We also began collecting unused greeting cards and stamps that can be used by the residents and staff.

Next Meeting: The Outreach Team meets every first Tuesday of the month at 7:00 pm. Our next Outreach Zoom meeting is Tuesday, December 1. Come join us! Please contact the office, or Kathy Hill or Kathy Ivey for the Zoom link.

From all of us on the Outreach Team, our best wishes for a happy and blessed holiday. Stay safe and well. Thanks be to God for His love and care of us all!

Evangelism Updates from Peggy Burkacki and the Evangelism Team

Christmas gifts for Groups: Due to the COVID-19 virus, we cannot provide homemade cookies for the 12-step groups meeting at the Church, as we have done in years past. Still, we want to assure the groups we haven't forgotten them. We discussed giving them some sort of gift that they are able to keep (possibly with Grace's name on it) along with a snack.

Embracing Evangelism: The final Embracing Evangelism session was held November 12. I think we all learned a lot from these sessions, even things about each other that we may not have known before. Our group seemed to mesh well and be very enjoyable. I think each individual took away something different. I was glad to have Dave Zimmerman as my co-facilitator. Besides being easy to work with he did a wonderful job of keeping us on track and keeping up with Zoom. We are planning on getting feedback from our group to see where we go from here and see if it is something we want to open again to the congregation.

ChurchNext: Elizabeth Estep will be sending out invitations soon to join ChurchNext, which offers online Christian formation classes free of charge to parishioners.

Next Meeting: Our next meeting will be on zoom Tuesday December 1 at 6:00 pm. Please contact the office to get the link if you are interested in attending.

Stewardship Update from Dave Zimmerman and the Stewardship Team

2021 Stewardship Campaign Results: The number of pledge this year was 39. That is four fewer than last year. A total of \$84,088 was pledged. That's down \$6,686 from our 2020 pledge total of \$90,774. This was not unexpected. After dealing with the pandemic all year we thought the pledge numbers might be down. When we looked closer at the pledges this year, we are very impressed with the continued generosity of the members of Grace.

Out of 39 total pledges 28 people increased their pledges for next year. Wow! There was one new pledge. Five people decreased their pledges for various reasons and 5 stayed the same. The main decrease in total pledge dollars was not from the virus, but from those parishioners who passed away of natural causes. Grace church did receive very generous Legacy Giving from a few who had passed.

Well done, family of Grace! Thank you for your supporting Grace church in these difficult times.

As is our custom, the Giving Envelopes with your assigned number (for tax purposes) will be set out on tables with the Christmas cards in the sanctuary.

Thank you to all who took the time to fill out a pledge card. Congratulations!

- The Stewardship Team: Frank Burkacki, The Rev. Rose Anne Lonsway, Sandy Gonzalez, Toni Swisher, Dave Zimmerman

WORSHIP UPDATE from Kathy Hill and the Worship Committee

Altar Guild: We will have the Advent wreath this year as in past years. James will light the advent candles.

Sunday School: Debbie Zimmerman and Cathy Nash found Thanksgiving crafts and an Advent calendar to send to the children to help keep them engaged. There may be a craft project for them for Epiphany also.

Music/Choir: Scott is putting together hymns, carols and seasonal music for the upcoming Zoom services. We look forward to hearing the beautiful music and voices of Jen and James. Services and events - On Wednesday, November 25th we had our Thanksgiving service with Eucharist.

Baptism: Unfortunately, the Baptism scheduled for November 22 had to be postponed due to a family illness.

Upcoming services:

- We do not anticipate any in-person worship for Christmas.
- Our annual When Christmas Hurts service will be via Zoom on Sunday, December 20, at 4:00 pm.

- We will also have our regular service on Sunday, December 20, at 10:00 am.
- It's yet to be determined how we will offer up our requests, prayers, hurts, and feelings as we did when we worshiped in person. We will make every effort to get a Zoom link out safely. There will be an ad in the News Herald referencing our website for the link.
- Christmas Eve., Thursday, December 24, there will be a Zoom service at 7:00 p.m.
- Christmas Day, Friday, December 25, there will be a Zoom service a 10:00 a.m.
- Sunday, December 27, will be morning prayer at 10:00 a.m. We will not have Lessons and Carols this year.

Next Meeting: Our next Worship Committee meeting will be December 10, at 6:00 p.m.

Even though we may not be able to worship together in person, we are blessed with this great technology to still be together every Sunday and in between, and especially at Christmas time. Happy holidays from the Worship Committee. Stay safe and healthy. May the blessings and peace of the Lord be with you this holiday and throughout the new year.



Welcome Arianna!

Despite the challenges of worshiping with COVID precautions, we were able to welcome Arianna Mae Stoldt, daughter of Melanie Stoldt, to the family of God through the Rite of Holy Baptism on All Saint's Day, November. 1.

Here she is with her mom and with her great-grandmother, Charlotte Stoldt. Congratulations to the Stoldt family!

Vestry Highlights from the November 21, 2020 Vestry Meeting

Renovations Updates: Owners Representative Report by Andy Simons:

- Walls smoothed, rough plumbing is in, soffits installed.
- Some inspections complete. Ready to move on after Thanksgiving.
- Still need to decide on colors, and final decisions on furniture. Expect to be done with construction in the middle of December.

COVID-19 and Worship: Discussed, moved and seconded to remain with on-line worship only. The motion was passed by acclamation.

Diocesan Convention Report: The convention was totally online and went well. There were no major decisions made.

Senior Warden's Report:

- The Nominations Committee is pleased with its progress and will have Vestry candidates.
- Safe Guarding God's Children Training is ongoing. Kathy Hill is continuing to monitor progress. completion. She also learned, after checking with the Diocese, that people who have had the Scout training still need to take the Diocesan training.

- Anti-Racism Educational Offerings: Please, read the book *White Fragility*. Copies are available at the church. Also please check out the video that was shared on Dec. 13.

Junior Warden's Report:

- Dennis Brothers will fix the downstairs pew once the construction is completed.
- Chris Burke will put up screening for the window and the door in the undercroft.
- Walt Iliff will put away the new benches from the Eagle Scout, and he's contacting the Eagle scout about the repairs required.
- Kathy is leading a group to cook and serve the meal at the St. James lunch program in Painesville on Nov, 20.
- Outdoor faucets are off for the winter. We received the plumber's bill.

Rector's Report:

- Our grant request submitted to the Diocese, for assistance with renovations, foundation repairs, and water issues at the church, was approved.
- Anti Racism continues as a focus of the Diocese. Mother Rose Anne is also part of a Roundtable led by the Willoughby mayor. Probably won't hear much from that group until next summer due to COVID-19.
- The Scouts will hold no indoor meetings until after the first of the year. The troop has completed re-chartering for next year.
- The 150th Anniversary sign was lost in a windstorm and will be replaced by a Christmas sign.

Stewardship: See updates elsewhere in this *Pace*.

Evangelism: See updates elsewhere in this *Pace*.

Outreach: See updates elsewhere in this *Pace*.

Worship: See updates elsewhere in this *Pace*.

Sunday School Update: The Sunday School team is planning to mail out a special Thanksgiving kit with project and an Advent Calendar, then another one for Christmas, and possibly for Epiphany. The goal is to have one a month for the 12 kids in the program.

Fellowship: Online Coffee Hour is doing well.

Next meetings: Vestry check-ins were cancelled for Nov. 28 (Thanksgiving weekend) and Dec. 5 (due to a conflict with a Diocesan Council meeting). The next check-in will be Dec. 12 and the next full meeting will be Dec. 19.



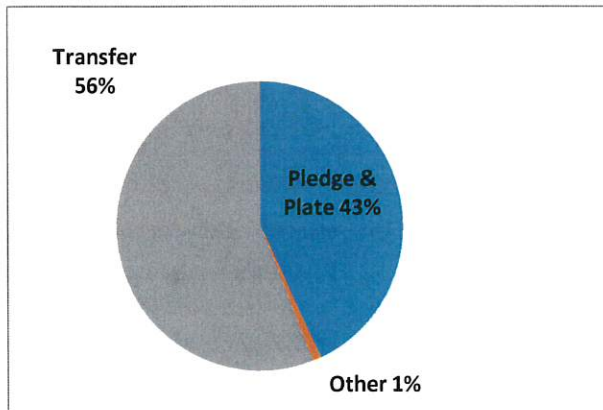
Operating Fund Interim Report -- thru end of November 2020

<u>Income</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Pledge and Plate Contributions	\$80,733.51	\$88,183.33	-\$7,449.82
Other Income	\$1,876.00	\$2,716.67	-\$840.67
Transfer from Grace Woods Cæ	\$105,000.00	\$131,389.50	-\$26,389.50
Total Income	\$187,609.51	\$222,289.50	-\$34,679.99

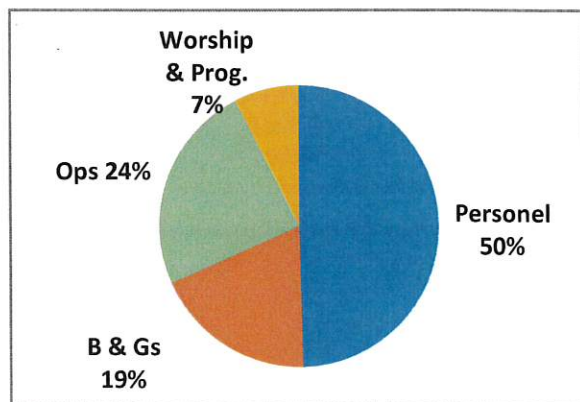
Expenses

Personel	\$97,969.30	\$108,682.42	-\$10,713.12
Buildings and Grounds	\$36,970.83	\$39,642.17	-\$2,671.34
Operations	\$47,621.66	\$47,025.00	\$596.66
Worship and Programs	\$14,867.27	\$26,944.50	-\$12,077.23
Total Expenses	\$197,429.06	\$222,294.09	-\$24,865.03
Excess/Deficit	-\$9,819.55	-\$4.59	-\$9,814.96

Income



Expenses



Treasurer's Report

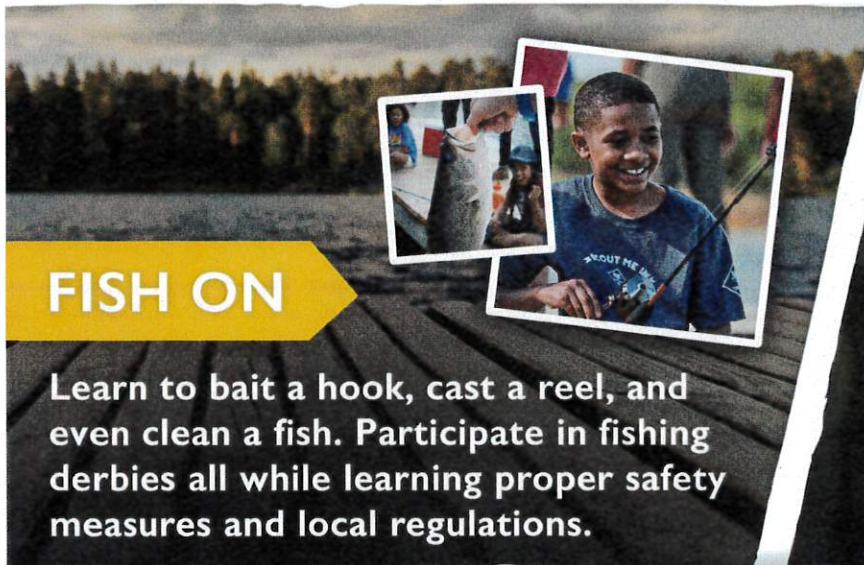
Our pledge income is still down for this time, but our expenses to date are also down as we continue to hold our spending in check. We thank everyone for trying to keep up on your pledges.

Harry Dodds, Treasurer



PINEWOOD DERBY

Build a car with an adult's help and then compete with other Cub Scouts for trophies, ribbons, and other prizes. Are you up to the speed challenge? Find out in Cub Scouts!



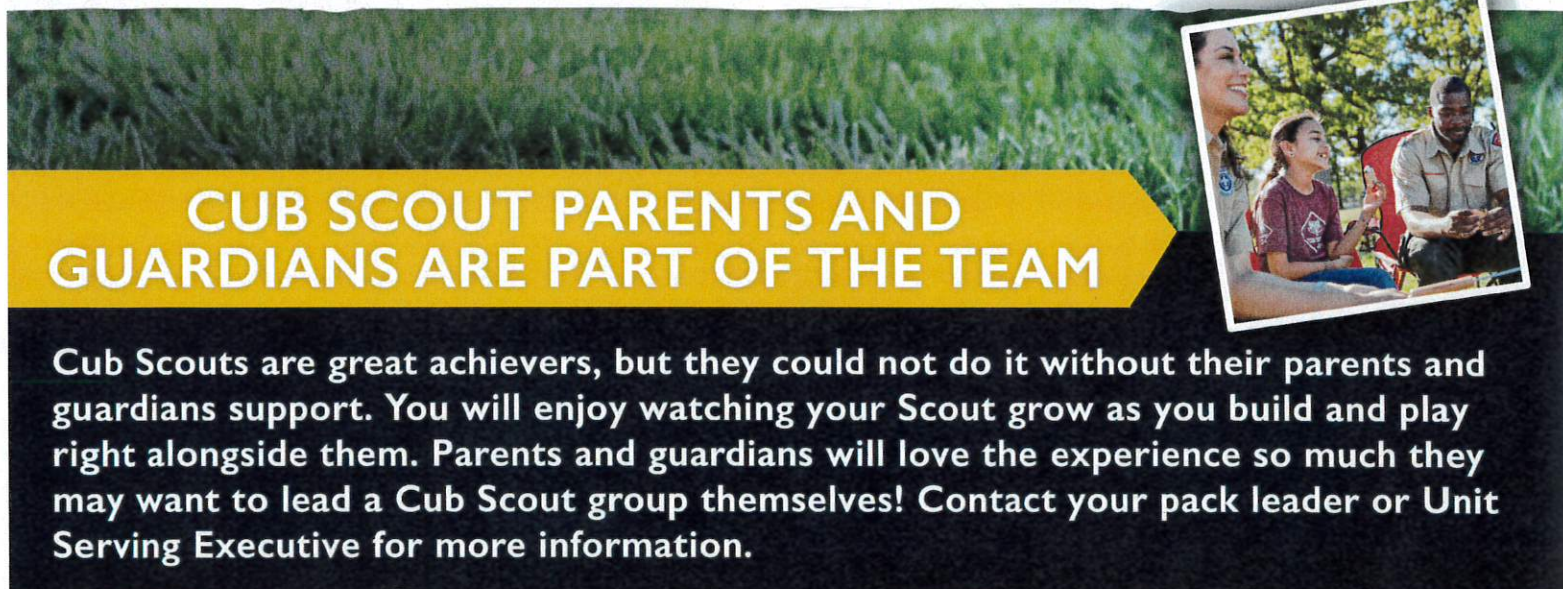
FISH ON

Learn to bait a hook, cast a reel, and even clean a fish. Participate in fishing derbies all while learning proper safety measures and local regulations.



SCOUTING IS FOR EVERYONE

Cub Scouts is for all youth in Kindergarten - 5th grade. All it takes is a sense for adventure and a minimal registration fee. Join the fun today!



CUB SCOUT PARENTS AND GUARDIANS ARE PART OF THE TEAM

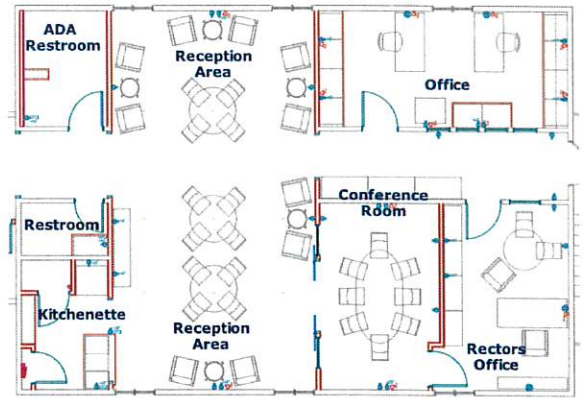
Cub Scouts are great achievers, but they could not do it without their parents and guardians support. You will enjoy watching your Scout grow as you build and play right alongside them. Parents and guardians will love the experience so much they may want to lead a Cub Scout group themselves! Contact your pack leader or Unit Serving Executive for more information.

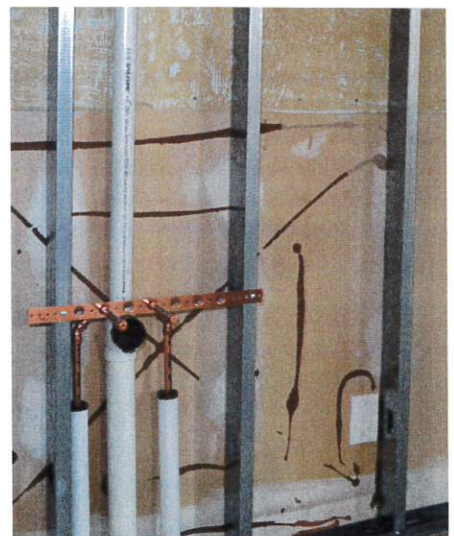
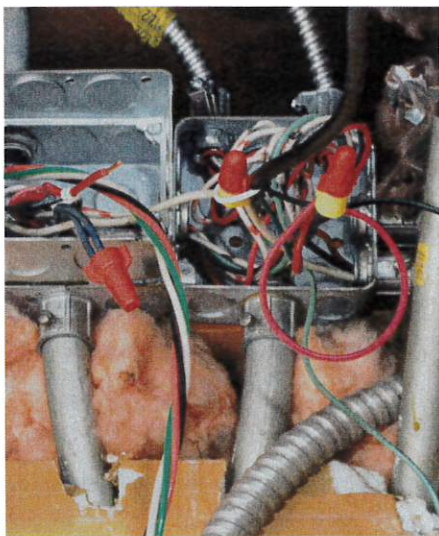
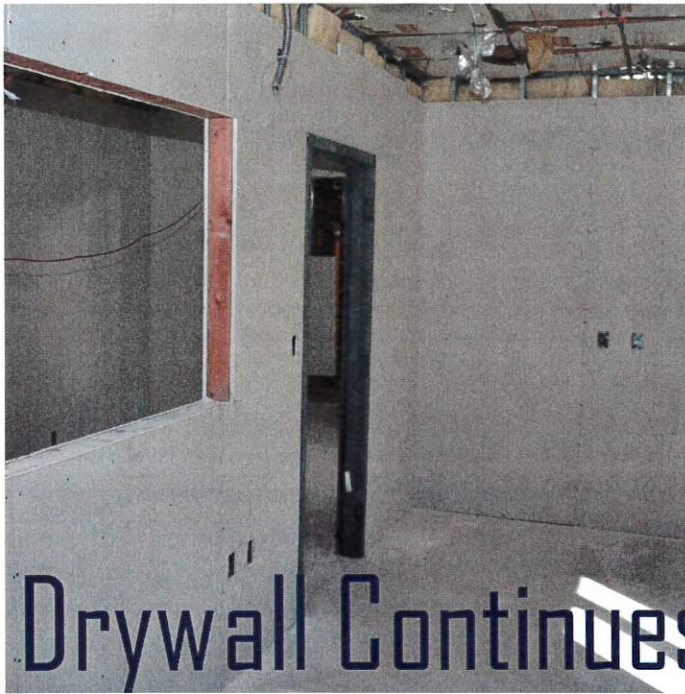


VISIT **CLESCOUTING.ORG** TO JOIN
Packs in your area are now accepting new members.

Renovations Continue!

Construction continued at a brisk pace throughout November, as we update our gathering areas, restrooms, and office space at the church. So far, the work is on time and on budget. Walls are up, electricity has been installed, and new ADA-approved restrooms are going in. We can hardly wait until we can all gather in person again, in beautifully refreshed building.







READINGS FOR THE DAY

December 6
The Second Sunday in Advent

Isaiah 40:1-11
2 Peter 3:8-15a
Mark 1:1-8
Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13

December 13
The Third Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11
1 Thessalonians 5:16-24
John 1:6-8,19-28
Psalm 126

December 20
The Fourth Sunday of Advent

2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16
Romans 16:25-27
Luke 1:26-38
Canticle 15

December 24
The Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ
Christmas Eve

Isaiah 9:2-7
Titus 2:11-14
Luke 2:1-14(15-20)
Psalm 96

December 25
The Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ
Christmas Day

Isaiah 52:7-10
Hebrews 1:1-4,(5-12)
John 1:1-14
Psalm 98

December 27
The First Sunday after Christmas Day

Isaiah 61:10-62:3
Galatians 3:23-25; 4:4-7
John 1:1-18
Psalm 147:13-21