

Volume 1 Issue 12

**October 13, 1996** 

#### PROGRESS SO FAR

#### WHAT'S NEXT?

# **Cooking With Gas!**

Don't look now, but there's a long yellow pipe buried in the yard! Well, I guess there's not much to look at anyway, since the thing is buried completely. It's there, though -- take my word for it. I watched the crew bury it as part of their effort to get a natural gas line run to the new building.

Call me easily amused, but I found the whole process fascinating. When I went out to watch the backhoe operator dig the trench, I tripped over a length of fluorescent yellow plastic pipe. I was astonished to learn that this pipe was actually the gas line; I guess for some reason I always assumed that gas lines were made of metal. As it turns out, they use this plastic pipe all over the place -- it's easy to work with, and it's flexible enough to go around corners in a ditch without special fittings. Its flexibility makes it safer underground, too -- as the dirt settles back into the ditch and shifts around, the pipe can flex back and forth a little bit without undue stress.

After getting used to the idea of plastic pipe, I was amazed again when I watched them attach fittings to the pipe. Plastic pipe in a house is normally glued together, but these guys used a specially made hot iron to melt the fittings onto the pipe! When they're done, the pipe and the fittings are all one piece of plastic; there's no glue joint to dry out or get messed up underground. They put together a 'riser' (the pipe that sticks up out of the ground by the gas meter), added a length of pipe, dug the ditch, and connected to the gas line out by the cul-de-sac all in one day. Connecting to the main gas line was a simple operation, since it's made of the same yellow plastic pipe as our gas line.

One question remained: how on Earth would anybody ever be able to find the pipe after it was buried? The crew solved this problem by running a 'tracer wire' alongside the pipe. Public Service can now attach a transmitter to the wire and follow the signal alongside the pipe if they need to find it again.

## Hallelujah!

We've got the money for the roof!

(Go ahead, smile! Pat yourselves on the back, do a little victory dance -- I won't tell anyone!)

We've collected \$2750.40 for the special offering for the roof, which puts us  $40\phi$  over our \$2750 goal. With the matching funds provided by our anonymous benefactor, we have the full \$5500 cost of the roof well in hand. Now, the expense of putting up the roof won't impact the building fund. Praise God for all the people who contributed to this special effort, and a special prayer of thanks for our benefactor who pledged to match all the money we could raise toward this effort. It has been really neat to watch the whole church pulling together for this effort, all the way from elementary school children with pocket change to adults with big checkbooks.

## On The Other Hand...

Even as we tackle the immediate projects and celebrate successes along the way, we've got to keep some longer-term goals in mind. As of October 7, we had \$130,153.99 in the building fund, and we're forecasting \$442,067.52 in future expenses before we get the Certificate of Occupancy for the new building. We do have a \$200,000 loan available, but some quick arithmetic shows that we're short \$111,913.53 even with the loan.

We're in this for the long haul, folks -- please be faithful to the pledge you've made to contribute to the building project. We have to close up that gap between our forecasted expenses and our available funds just to get the building finished.

Everybody knows that we don't have to collect all the money up front; we spend out of the building fund as we do the work. Even so, there's another reason to keep that account balance as high as we can for as long as we can - we want to put off the loan (and its interest) as long as possible.

## **Secret Room?**

If you examine the walls going up over the basement, one thing looks funny. The electrical panels seem to be in a little triangular room that has no door! It's no problem right now, because you can slip through the back wall of the ladies' room and get to the panels, but it does raise the question of how to get to the panels once the walls are finished.

Everything's under control, though -- the crews are going to cut a door in the outside wall of the building to allow access to that area. They decided to do that rather than have a back door to the ladies' room; that way, people can troop in and out of the electrical room as needed without causing a stir in the restroom.

# **Underground Periscope?**

If you take a look in the southeast corner of the basement, you'll see a huge steel thing poking out of the basement wall. I studied it for a while and couldn't figure out what it was -- it obviously came in from outside through one of the big holes in the wall, but I couldn't tell what it was supposed to do. I could just imagine some underground creature finding the hole in the basement wall and sticking a periscope through it to see what's going on in the basement. (Spooky music starts... Our Hero walks down the basement stairs and through the door... What's that? Oh, No! The Mud Monsters are peeking out through the hole in the wall! AAAAHHHH!) Oh, well -- maybe not.

As it turns out, that thing is our end of the water line; it's covered in pipe fittings and odd-looking hardware, and for now it just sticks out into the basement. Later on, when we get the plumbing projects underway, we'll attach our own pipes to the end of this thing and have running water! (We'll need all the water we can get if the Mud Monsters ever DO come through the wall, anyway.)

## Let There Be Light

On a more serious note, I saw that we have some big fluorescent lights up in the basement now. It's great --you can step through the door, reach for the light switch, and turn on a bank of lights all at once. This sure beats a tangle of extension cords and portable floodlights! From now until we get the machinery moved into the basement, we've got a nice roomy workshop down there with plenty of light to see what we're doing. When we get the roof up over the center section, the 'downstairs workshop' will be a nice, weatherproof spot to store tools and work on things. We could even rig a portable heater down there to keep the chill off when the weather turns cold!

## \*\* Gold Stars \*\*

Yes, it's time once again to present the spectacular Plumb Line "Gold Star Award" for service above and beyond the Call of Duty:

Bill Archer, April Busby, Jim Foster, Frank Lamb, John Lewis, Glen Reece, Fred Sorensen, John Surls, Allen Williams, Nancy Williams, and Debbie Wood came out to work on the 'Creeping Wall,' put up bathroom and nursery walls, and clean up the site for Round-Up Sunday.

### Question and Answer

#### Q. What are fireblocks?

A. Fireblocks are short boards that go between the uprights in the outer wall of the building. In case of a fire inside the wall, these blocks will slow down the fire's progress and give us more time to put it out.

## **Working Hours**

The work schedule varies with the weather, occasional hold-ups experienced while waiting for material, and other reasons, but here are some general guidelines:

- \* Work is normally done from about 8 A.M. to about 2 P.M. on weekdays, and most Saturdays.
- \* Work continues on most weekday evenings, starting in the mid to late afternoon after things cool off.

For specific dates and times, ask around -- DeeDee Minne is helping Pastor Archer coordinate the volunteer effort, and you can also grab someone on the construction team to find out about day-to-day operations on the site.

### **Back Talk!**

Got a question? Want to make an announcement? Get it in the paper!

### **Contact Information**

Here are some names and numbers you may need for project information and coordination:

#### **DeeDee Minne**

637-9841

Volunteer coordination (construction, child care, etc.)

#### **Dorothy Sorenson**

469-4905

Coordination of meals and work breaks