



Plumb Line



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PROGRESS SO FAR

Fountains Of The Deep

Everyone watches the water bill during the summer, trying to decide just how much it's worth to have a green lawn. The church is no different; in fact, we make a special effort to keep the church lawn looking nice for the benefit of the people who come and worship with us. As we look forward to the new church facility and all the landscaping around it, one concern we've had is the cost of keeping all that space nice and green. At one point, we were facing the prospect of \$1,400 in fees up front in addition to a large water bill every year to run the sprinkler system!

Then, God came through for us again -- even though everyone involved in the process told us it was hopeless, we have received a permit to use the old water well on the church property for irrigation! That well was covered up years and years ago when we tapped into the Lafayette water system for the church building, and no one figured we would ever have a use for it again. God knew what was coming, though, and has used that old well to solve our irrigation problem. Like the Israelites in the desert, God has brought us a spring of water just when we needed it.

Energize!

Up until now, all the power tools and lights used on the construction site have been powered through a series of temporary cables and extension cords. This has worked just fine, but everyone has been looking forward to the day when the new building gets its own connection for electrical power. Now that the basement ceiling is in place, we can start on the first-floor walls above it and then get Public Service to come out and hook us up! This is exciting -- the new building is getting ready to 'wake up' on its own and 'cut the cord' (sorry, bad pun...) to the main building!

More Power! That's what we need! (Ho, ho, ho...)

WHAT'S NEXT?

Nuts and Bolts

When you're trying to hold the roof up, you don't just drop by the local hardware store and grab a handful of bolts. The big steel compression ring that circles the base of the roof came in eight sections, and the ends of the ring sections are bolted together through the bottom ends of the wooden beams with sixteen bolts on each end. These bolts are expensive, too -- they're \$10 each!

Why are they so expensive? Well, for one thing, they have to be fantastically strong -- the whole roof depends on them. The beams themselves are heavy enough, not to mention the added weight of the roof decking and shingles that will sit on top of them. So, we don't want to cut any corners on the bolts -- they have to be top quality, able to hold against tremendous loads for many years. Besides that, these bolts are cadmium-plated so that they won't discolor the wood they pass through; we wouldn't want to put up nice pretty beams only to ruin their good looks with a bunch of nasty bolts that turn the wood black!

Ribs On The Side

No, no -- I'm not talking about barbecue!

If you're like me, you may have assumed that the main wooden beams just ran from the compression ring on the bottom up to the big metal 'hub' at the peak of the roof. In fact, there are two more rings of wooden 'ribs' in between; one ring about halfway up the main beams, and another ring up near the top. These extra beams will keep the main support beams lined up and will also help bear some of the load on the roof. As the long roof beams press down toward the center of the building, these 'ribs' will be squeezed between them and spread the load out across the whole structure instead of concentrating the force at the peak.

Nothing on this project happens on a small scale; when we call out for an order of ribs, they have to deliver it on a flat-bed truck!

Sewer Shortcut

When the original drawings were made for the new building's sewer hookup, it looked as though we were going to have to dig 183 feet of trench and tear up the cul-de-sac to hook up our sewer line. No one was looking forward to all the work and expense involved in THAT job, believe me! Still, we figured that we had no choice in the matter -- we had to tap in somewhere, and it was simply unfortunate that the pipe had to cross that distance.

Then, one day Pastor Bill was staring at the site maps and realized that the sewer line actually passed within sixty feet of the building along the west side! He thought, "Why do we have to dig a trench halfway to Broomfield when the pipe we want is right next door?" After checking with the city, we got the go-ahead to send our pipe straight west and connect to the sewer line at the closest point. We'll work with the homeowner next door to re-do the landscaping that gets disturbed when the pipe is buried, and we'll cut down the length of the sewer pipe needed by two-thirds!

Climbing The Walls

If you've been waiting for your chance to swing a hammer, now's your chance! Just as soon as the erection crew is out of the way, we'll start raising the walls all around the top of the basement and the sanctuary. The walls atop the basement will go in first, so that we can get Public Service out to the site for our electrical hookup. Then, we'll be scrambling to get walls up around the sanctuary. A team of electricians is scheduled to arrive on September 7 to start wiring the building, and we need to have walls ready for them to work on when they get here.

This is a job that works really well for a horde of volunteers -- we'll have people on site to coordinate the construction and help with the tricky parts, but what we really need is a crowd of warm bodies to haul lumber and raise walls. If you can possibly spare the time, we would certainly appreciate your help with this phase.

*** 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:

Tina Skiles, Dave Cunningham, and John Lewis spent many, many hours in the new basement taking down the boards that held up the concrete form for the basement ceiling and pulling nails out of the boards. Many of these

boards will be used later in the project, and we appreciate the effort put in to get them ready for the next phase.

Question and Answer

Q. What are all the bolts sticking up out of the concrete walls for?

A. These bolts will come in handy this week when we start putting up the walls. After sections of the walls are built, we'll drill holes in the bottom board on each section that line up with the bolts sticking up out of the concrete. Then, we can bolt the wall sections down to the concrete! This will make the walls stronger and keep them from trying to scoot off the concrete.

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 Bill 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? Want to recognize someone for a job well done? Get it in the paper! The **Plumb Line** is here for construction news, announcements, and project updates. Help us make this paper better and more useful; get in touch with me.

Contact Information

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

DeeDee Minne 665-0382

Volunteer coordination (construction, child care, etc.)

Dorothy Sorenson 469-4905

Coordination of meals and work breaks