



Plumb Line



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PROGRESS SO FAR

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.

WHAT'S NEXT?

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¢ 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.

