



Plumb Line



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PROGRESS SO FAR

Sincere Flattery

It's been said that imitation is the sincerest form of flattery, so I guess we should consider ourselves flattered! One of the metro area churches has sent people out to our construction site to check out the new building, and they are so impressed that they want to build one just like it. Seriously, people -- they're asking about borrowing our scale model of the building and some of our pictures to take back to their church and show their congregation. Who knows? We may wind up consulting on the construction of an identical church building in Aurora!

Light Fantastic

The light fixtures for the auditorium have been ordered, so now we're looking forward to flipping the Big Switch and having light to work by in there. We've been getting along pretty well with the sunlight coming in through the unfinished south wall of the building, but it will be a lot easier to see what's going on with the lights on.

Speaking of that south wall -- crews are even now starting to put up sheathing on it and the main entrance. With lights on order, we can wrap up the exterior of the whole structure and keep the weather at bay. No more icy gales to freeze the carpenters!

Big Truck, Big Boxes

While you weren't looking, an awfully big truck pulled up at the construction site and unloaded an awfully big stack of awfully big boxes. After a fair amount of grunting and straining, these boxes wound up in the basement. They don't contain lumber, wiring, fixtures, or anything else we've ever seen on the site before, but nevertheless this delivery excited everyone on the project.

What's in the boxes? Furnace and air-conditioning units! The basement has looked pretty bare for quite a while, but now we're starting to collect all the heavy-duty hardware that will make the building run.

WHAT'S NEXT?

Pour Away!

By the time you read this, we'll have half the sanctuary floor completed! The first pour covers the platform area and the northern section of the auditorium, freeing the framing and carpentry crews to start working on the rooms and walls back there. The next pour covers a big chunk of the auditorium floor itself, and subsequent pours will extend the concrete all the way to the front door.

Before the cement trucks arrived, crews spent quite a bit of time and effort running pipes and lines underground in the auditorium. Sewer, water, and electric lines are all in place, along with sound system cables and other odds and ends. The floor may look like a smooth, featureless surface, but there's a lot of stuff running back and forth under the skin.

Pulling Wires?

If you have never tried to pull electrical wire through conduit, you've missed quite an experience. The theory is pretty simple; you just run the conduit pipe to every outlet box, switch box, and fixture in the building. Then, you pull, stuff, and guide the wire through the conduit pipe to connect everything to the electrical panels. Simple, right?

Not simple. Pulling wire is a lot of hard work, and if you're not paying attention you can make mistakes that are tough to correct. This is another one of those nasty jobs that gets forgotten when the building is finished; everyone just expects all the lights and outlets to work, and most people have no idea how much effort it takes to make that happen. Quite a bit of wire has been pulled in the new building to get ready for new lights and circuits in the last little while, and we salute the electrical crew for their skill and patience!

Boxing Lessons?

If you're interested in some boxing lessons, come out to the site and work with John Lewis. Don't look at me that way -- John can box with the best of them! If you don't believe me, come and see for yourself!

Gloves? You don't need gloves to box with John; you need a hammer! He's building boxes around the outside corners of the building, preparing for the stone columns. We're all looking forward to that nice stonework, but there's a fair amount of preparation that must be completed before the stonemasons can start.

Painters Needed!

Now that the soffit and fascia are finished, we need some volunteers to put on their work clothes and sling paint. We're not talking about the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel, here -- we just need at least a base coat of paint on this wood to keep weather damage to a minimum.

If you can get the paint out of the can and on the wood, you have all the skill we need! Come on out and lend a hand!

Some Assembly Required

The lumber truck delivered Matthew's new office yesterday, but there's a slight problem. We've got all the pieces, but we have to assemble them ourselves! It's just like Christmas Eve -- tab 'A' goes in slot 'B,' then cut along this line, fold here...

Hmmm.... This is going to take a little time. Tell you what; you folks distract him while we put it together. With any luck, we'll get it finished before he starts hopping up and down and wanting to play in it!

Speaking of construction projects, have you checked out Matthew's newest son? Our new building is pretty impressive, but we're not even in the same class as our Creator. When He begins a new work, He's not limited to pouring concrete and pounding nails -- He molds life itself.

Working Hours

The work schedule varies with the weather, occasional hold-ups experienced while waiting for material, and other reasons. In general, there's something going on all the time weekdays and Saturdays unless the weather turns really bad.

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? Want to recognize someone for a job well done? Get it in the paper! Contact **Philippe Nave** at **469-8327** (home) or **538-3150** (work) (send e-mail to pnave@lucent.com)

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