



Building Project Update - May 2014

Demolition of the old Religious Education and excavation of the site are behind us. Now we see signs of construction as form appears for the new building that will bring all of our staff and programming activities “Together Under One Roof.”

The work has had its hiccups. Excavation for the new elevator exposed a rubble foundation at the corner of the sanctuary, now secured with an application of “shotcrete” – a high-strength concrete mixture pneumatically applied (much like a swimming pool surface). Fortunately, the excavation stopped just short of ledge – our church is built on bedrock! A plumbing line from the kitchen that tied into an old sewer line under the former boiler room stairs had to be rerouted. And April’s gusty winds have twice blown down the construction fence along the front walkway. Each time, the contractor’s team quickly managed issues without incurring significant delays.

The lift between the Parish Hall and Sanctuary has now been de-commissioned and removed. (The space on both Parish Hall and Sanctuary levels will be reconstructed as storage space.) We realize that this will present a hardship for some and apologize for the inconvenience it will cause. If you need assistance with access between floors on Sundays, please speak to one of the ushers or greeters in the lobby.

What’s coming...

Our building project application triggered a site review by North Andover’s Health Department and, as a result, we have been asked to make some improvements to our kitchen space and procedures to be in compliance with food and safety regulations. We are working with the Health Director to clarify the extent of the work needed – for example, the project scope now includes a dedicated hand-washing sink. Other modifications are pending.

With foundations poured for the elevator, boiler room stairs, and perimeter, framing will begin shortly and extend through May.

Great views of the work in progress can be seen from the sanctuary windows. Thanks to Fred Glore, a time-lapse camera has been installed onsite and will capture images of the construction every 10 minutes. Those images will eventually be edited to create a video of the work (ala the Discovery channel’s *Planet Earth*). In addition, several team members and the construction superintendent have been taking photos of work in progress and uploading the images to a website maintained by Ron Zelle. To access the images, use the link <https://share.razdomain.com/photo>. When prompted, accept the Certificate errors, and log-in using the ID - NPReno2014 and password - Reno2014@NP (case sensitive).

Is this “new” news to you? For more information, contact any member of the Building Task Force – Debb Putnam, Peter Calkins, Don Schemack, Michele Sherry; (advisor) Ron Zelle; or check previous updates posted on our church website under the tab Support Us: Capital Campaign.