



April 2002

The BuildingStone ... more "Good News" from Saint James Church to keep parishioners and friends of Saint James informed about the new-church building project.



*"I saw the glory of
Yahweh fill the
Temple"*

Ezk 43:5



Work to be mostly complete by November 7

Dedication scheduled for December 1

"Things have been going really well."

That's a quick assessment of the new church project by **Dave Beringer**, St. James parishioner and architect at Zenon Beringer Maybrey Partners, the firm in charge of the new church. He said some aspects of construction are ahead of schedule but "nothing is behind schedule." The project is expected to be largely complete by mid-October, with final completion targeted for November 7.

Fr. Mike Grewe, St. James' pastor, said the dedication of the church will probably be the first time the church is used. The dedication is scheduled for December 1, which falls on the Thanksgiving Day weekend.

There has been a flurry of activity with "people all over" the inside of the structure prior to the pouring of the concrete floor in the nave area, said **Dick Carpenter**, project superintendent for Lund-Ross.

The floor will be sloped slightly, and any work involving heavy equipment had to be finished before the floor can be poured, probably the week of April 15.

*"Things have
been going
really well."*

-Dave Beringer

Other aspects of the construction project are moving along as well:


- ◆ Most of the windows have been installed. (Students at St. James/Seton have noted that the stickers on the windows show a large eagle, which is the mascot at St. James/Seton School.)

- ◆ By mid-April, all the brick work on the south side of the building should be done, with the focus moving to brick areas in the northeast and northwest corners.

- ◆ Security has made a major gain with the addition of doors at the two entrances on the east side.


"The building is enclosed to where we can lock it up at night," Carpenter said.

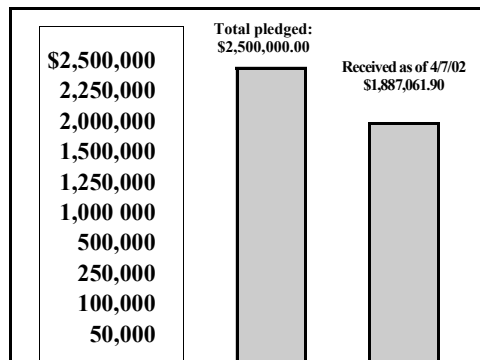
- ◆ Contractors working for OPPD are beginning work on the wells needed for the geothermal heating and cooling system. They are to start with 40 wells on the southwest side of the church, and Carpenter said they'll be drilling two to three holes a day. Eventually, there will be a total of 90 wells around the church structure.

- ◆ Shingling of the roof has begun and should be completed this month. 

Gift list updated

The Memorial Gifts booklet showing items still available to be purchased as memorial gifts has been updated and is available at the rectory, in the main vestibule, and in the Book Rack in the south entrance of the current church.

There are many items in many price ranges, from flower stands for \$350 each to \$80,000 for a sound system. 



Campaign progress: \$1,887,061.90

Sneak peek for the Building Committee

Parishioner gives 'virtual' tour of new church

Progress on the outside of the new church has been easy to see, but what about the inside?

For a few parishioners, that question was answered March 16 when the parish's Building Committee, including subcommittee members, heard an update on church construction and took a sneak peek inside the structure.

The BuildingStone asked some committee members to share their reactions to the tour so others could get a better feel for the progress. **MaryAnn Boscardin** did just that—and more. Her response provides a “virtual” tour of the new church through her eyes and in her own words:

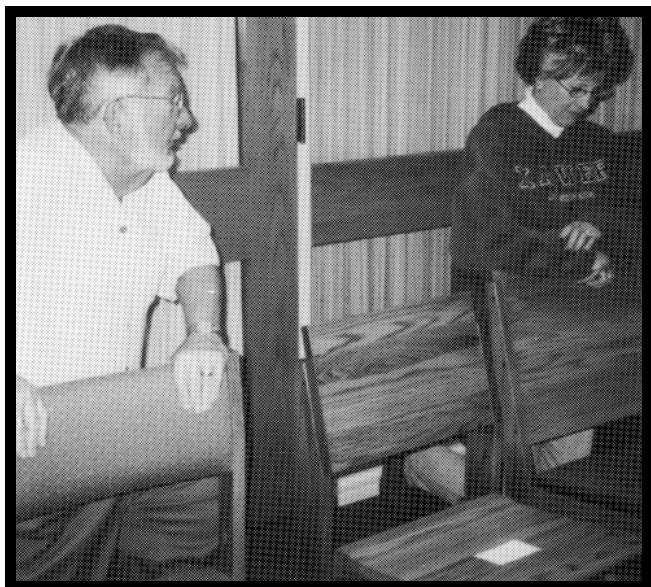
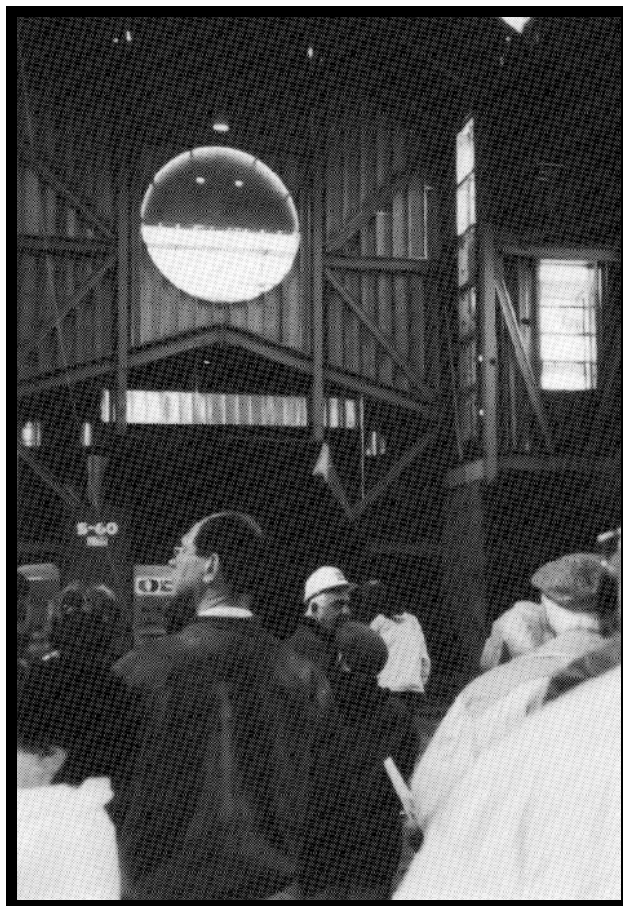
Before we went in, we were able to see samples of the prospective furnishings for the new worship space. I was pleased to learn that the pews would be produced by a company not far away (Beatrice) and that the pews would be made of solid oak.

The kneelers they manufacture also appeared very durable. We also saw that the colors for flooring, etc., will not detract from the spiritual focus. They appear to be able to wear well over time. (Okay, it looks as though it can “hide the dirt” of everyday use!)

We entered the church via the Parish Center—a strong reminder of the practicality of the church's placement. The ease of transition between these two facilities is obvious. The change in breadth, the ceiling height and the airiness of the church made it

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Pictured below, left: Joe Laferla and Teri Teutsch try out chapel and choir chairs. Below: Fr. Mike and Dave Volevec in front of the chapel; Parishioners (and Dave Beringer in hard hat) view the rose window on the south wall.



TOUR...

apparent as we left the Parish Center that the two places are made for separate functions. Quiet settled on our group as we crossed through the entrance into the church. Maybe it was just our anticipation that day, but I wouldn't mind if that awesome feeling of stepping into a very special place lasted a bit past the newness of the church.

I'm not sure if the dirt floor added to or detracted from our view, but all eyes seemed to go up, up, up once we were inside. The ceiling appears to be very high, and the natural light coming in was wonderful to see. It was easy to imagine how the stained glass will look in the open circles high on the north and south walls. (I appreciate that a local artist will produce these windows.) The roughened, light-colored foundation bricks of the chapel wall gave an indication of how the back wall behind the main altar will look. The roughness catches the light in such an interesting way.

As a lector, I often have the perspective of looking out toward the congregation. By climbing up on a construction machine that stood just about where the lectern would be, I was able to gaze about and get an idea of how much wider the new church will be.

When viewing it from side to side, it looks quite expansive; yet, the front-to-back distance does not seem inhibiting.

Concerns I had were answered in a lot of the little things I was able to learn that day. Planned security for Perpetual Adorers is apparent. The altar and lectern will be solidly in place but could be moved without major renovation at any time. The baptistery will be beautifully obvious in our worship space.

Local manufacturers are being used and can therefore be held readily accountable (and be available for praise). Cost is always a consideration, though not the only one.

It is a beautiful space whose dimensions make one look up in awe.

Others on the tour echoed some of Mary Ann's comments.

"My first impression was that the church was so airy and open," said **Gina Langin**. "We see how much was completed on the outside, but there was a tremendous amount of work done on the inside as well. The dormer windows are a nice architectural detail, as well as the stone wall behind the choir. I was most impressed with the body of the church."

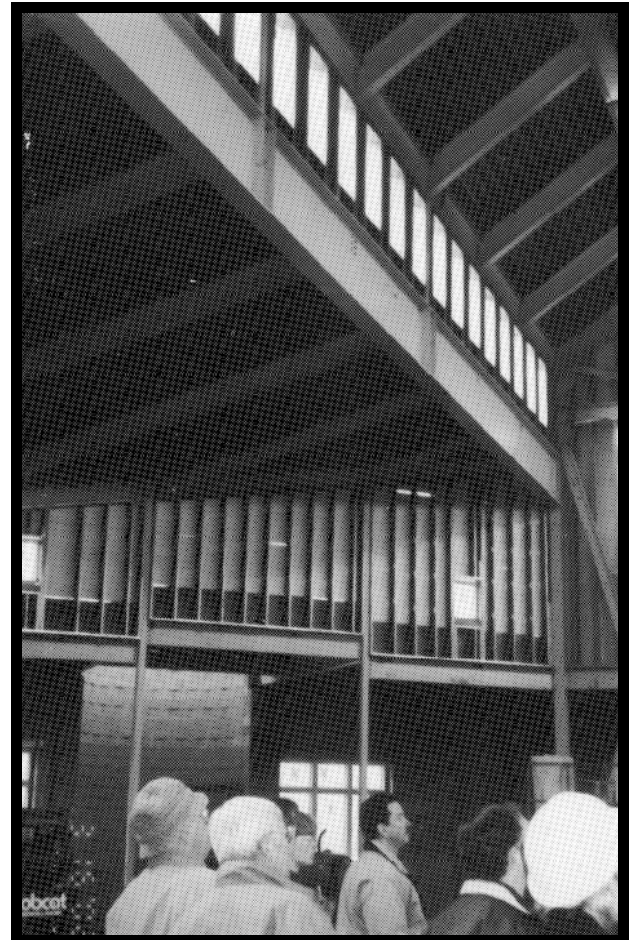
Katie Biggs said the walk-through gave her a picture of what promises to be a beautiful church. "I truly believe it will be and feel like a holy place. The height, the amount of natural light, and the stained glass are just a few of the aspects I appreciate. The narthex will be a place to enjoy fellowship before and after Mass ... I am more excited than ever for the completion of the church."

For **Jerry Coon**, the striking aspects of the new church include the abundance of natural lighting and the limited space needed for the geothermal heating and cooling system.

He said, "It was a great feeling as we entered the narthex area from our Parish Center. We could certainly anticipate the openness and welcoming atmosphere the new facility will provide."

The size of the narthex impressed **Rich Vacek**. The added space in the main seating and storage areas, he said, is welcome. Vacek heard one parishioner remark: "The church is coming along so good I might even up my ante."

Pictured here: Parishioners stand below the clerestory windows on the east side of the church (chapel dome area and chapel windows are visible at bottom, center).



Headway made on pews, stained glass

Companies close to home are chosen

Construction of a church appears to have somewhat of a snowball effect. The more that gets done, the more there seems to be to do. A number of important aspects needed for the finished church are gaining steam now.

Furnishings: The pews will be made by Ratigan-Schottler Manufacturers, a Beatrice, Neb., company that manufactured the pews in the original church. Although the company is the same, one thing has changed in 38 years, said **Debbie Armentrout**, St. James administrative assistant. The original church pews cost \$10,000 in 1964, compared with \$128,000 for the pews in the new church.

Pews will be solid oak, with no padding, to ensure their long-term durability, Beringer said. The 18 chairs in the chapel will include padded seats, and the choir chairs will have both padded seats and backs. The kneelers, Beringer said, will be somewhat heavier than those in the current worship space.

Stained glass: Artist **Mark Lambrecht** has been selected to do the stained glass in the new church. Lambrecht has a studio in the Old Market—Lambrecht Glass Studios, Inc., at 712 S. 12th St.

Mark also created the stained glass window at St. Vincent de Paul Church. Although the style of those

windows is very different from the style going into the new church, the St. Vincent project “does give you some feeling for his artistic abilities,” Beringer said.


Sound system: This important aspect of the new church was left out of the original contract, Beringer said, to let the technology develop further. Bids are being taken now and should be in this month.

Artwork/sculptures: Father Grewe said costs have been a surprise here and may cause a delay in adding statues to the church.

The main work, a statue of St. James to be placed at the base of the bell tower, would be a commissioned piece and could cost up to \$75,000.

Father Grewe said the parish is seeking a life-sized statue of the saint made of material that would withstand the weather and vandals.

Also, the parish is scouring catalogs for statues of Mary and Joseph and finding that each could cost \$10,000 to \$15,000. These statues would be inside the church on either side of the altar.

Getting the right size of statue “is very important,” Father Grewe said, adding that “too small looks terrible.” It’s crucial that the statues fit with the architecture and design of the church.” 

Multipurpose area envisioned for school

New life considered for current church space

As St. James closes in on the final countdown to its new church, the future of the current worship space is coming into better focus.

At a March 25 town hall meeting at St. James, **Chuck Mann** of St. James/Seton School’s Facilities for the Future Committee said two priorities are driving all other needs involving the facilities.

One of those priorities is turning the current worship space into a second multipurpose area and cafeteria, separate from the gym. The other major priority, Mann said, is to gain more direct access to the kindergarten/first grade area from the school offices.

The committee outlined a number of other school-facility needs, but Mann says nothing has been set in stone. Decisions will await cost estimates

of the various projects and results of a feasibility study.

The proposed timeline for school renovations:

Now: Preliminary discussions are taking place with the architect (Zenon Beringer Mabrey, the same firm that is working with St. James on the church) about options and costs.

August 2002: A feasibility study and focus groups will look at the school’s needs, priorities, and the financial and other support that can be expected from the St. James and St. Elizabeth Ann parishes.

December 2002: With the expected completion of the new St. James church, the current church space becomes available for school renovation.

January 2003: A Capital Campaign kicks off. 