

Sewer: On December 14, February 3 and 17, and March 17, <http://gustafsonplumbing.com/> cleared small amounts of tree roots from our building sewer west of the northern Lounge toilet. New signs warn congregants to avoid flushing paper towels, which catch on such roots, so we will not need plumbers as often, until denser roots cause clogs. Gustafson video-inspected our sewers, then bid to repair a disjointed pipe, install a 6" clean-out, and re-clean. We are also checking again with Worcester Parks Division if they agree to remove their diseased tree that causes the root clogs and possibly threatens other utilities; our tree task force accepts this plan. Any repair/replacement of our building sewer, even on City property, would likely be at our expense.

Recycling and trash: With Dave gone to Florida for the winter, Catherine Roberts, Ruth Silver, and Kim McCoy improved kitchen/classroom recycling container locations and labeling, advised custodian Steve McNally, and requested bids for centralized recycling/trash including a 2 cu yd recycling bin and a 2 cu yd dumpster, replacing our 4 cu yd dumpster. Both will fit in our rear parking lot in locations (near the bollards) accessible to the hauler's trucks and out of P&L Plowing's snow-dump path. Waste Management had a 3-year escalating contract that Kim and others had overlooked. Republic (through our generous new member Bill Ellis) and Casella bid half or less of WM's price. We chose Republic, and Aaron negotiated ending the WM contract.

Maintenance: Steve has seen ants unusually early this spring. He believes spraying on Mondays, then airing out the church before Sunday services, would be safer than ant traps that kids might pick up.

Last summer and fall, Steve painted, oiled most Sanctuary woodwork, urethaned woodwork trim, cleaned, and did at least half the mowing and yard work, even after his hospital visit in September. He and others are concerned about rotting window frames, we hope to replace six in FY14.

In July, Gustafson Plumbing fixed a problem with our water heater pilot light, and recommended a new heater and flue. We tried to resolve some confusion about that heater and the old gas stove, confirming that the dishwasher electric booster heater and stove also work fine. Kim (agreeing with Dana Dorsett) responded: "I agree that tankless is not cost-effective for the church. Hot water heaters can be replaced in a week or less, so I think the cost-effective/safe/green solution is to see how long our hot water heater, which presumably has a new thermocouple, lasts. If it lasts until our furnaces are breaking down (5 - 10 years?), then replace it with an efficient gas-fired heater for space heat and potable water. If it or its pilot lights break down much sooner, then get an all-electric heater for just bathroom/kitchen water, that would not need a new flue."

Yard: Volunteerism and shared expertise and leadership continue to be appreciated. Several teams are coordinating landscaping plans. Last spring, Betty, Lori Burns, and Robin Caracciolo planted trees in a good location east of our parking lot, related to our Mass ReLeaf Ministry grant project at Lakeside Apartments in October. Lance McKee is helping Blackstone River Coalition review possible rain garden sites to attenuate runoff from Bancroft's parking lot and ours; we're hosting workshops by the City and water/land use organizations on stormwater management and open space planning, such as a rain garden workshops scheduled May 2. Steve continued to take the lead on yard work, occasionally using his noisy leaf blower, and raking most leaves and grass clippings to the street for DPWP's fall leaf pickup, or to our compost pile. Krista Patton, Kim, and others helped Steve with mowing; Kim returned the mowers to his garage for winter storage; at least one will need maintenance in the spring; Bob Currier's maintenance has been reliable and inexpensive. Craig VanBatenburg's son and Kim, among others, haul brush to DPWP when we have a vehicle load. Bulb plantings by Krista, Jan Cutman, and others in recent years are emerging well this spring. After a rough winter of plowing, Kim and Steve did some basic yard cleanup, and P&L Plowing agreed to return soon to re-seed.

Bart Hill and others helped the Sanctuary Aesthetics Team hang the new curtains. Ana Bediako and Judy Savage worked on a possible Clara Barton District Chalice Lighter Grant for accessibility projects such as railings.

Aaron continues to host building summits for planning and task assignment, and takes the lead on important weekday negotiations with contractors and vendors. Projects for spring 2013 or FY14 include insulating the MSG attic, replacing about six rotted windows in classrooms and offices, and continuing to inspect our attics for leaks in our pitched roofs, hopefully using a ladder promised by Mike Peckar, then developing roof repair/replacement plans as needed and cost-effective. Aaron continues to work on ordering and installing a shed behind the MSG

room. Major projects with slow payback, like roof replacements, efficient/convenient sanctuary lighting, and parking lot improvements are considered in budget development, but may continue to be deferred pending work of a board committee on long term space planning, and pending possible realignment of Shore Drive.