

Buildings and Grounds Committee Report

September 2024 Board Meeting

The primary function of this committee remains to support the core community of Mount Irenaeus in the stewardship of the land and buildings of the mountain. The leadership has set a path toward making the mountain more ecologically sustainable. This is consistent with our values and our history of using the resources of the land in our buildings, our meals, and our ministry.

1. Transitions- Father Bill is moving into the administrative and support role that Martha created as she moves strictly to the Finance team.
2. The Land- Mike Fenn has made significant progress in the negotiations. See Mike's report.
3. Building Exteriors-
 - a. Roofs- We have completed the replacement of the roofs on the House of Peace, The Chapel, and The Other House.
 - b. Juniper's front entry deck has been reconfigured to allow entry directly rather from the side. This November the contractor will replace the small roof with a more substantial one that fits the new entry.
4. The House of Peace-
 - a. In our last report, we noted that the two stoves in The House of Peace need to be replaced. The core community was consulted and have agreed with the plan of changing to electric rather than propane. The models originally chosen are not available. Mike Sullivan has been able to research two other options which Martha and Father Bill will check for availability and price. The electrical wiring will need to be upgraded to handle a higher amperage.
 - b. The HOP dishwasher is no longer working. Mike Sullivan is working to procure the replacement. We also plan to add an automatic soap dispenser to provide accurate and consistent soap usage for each load.
5. Juniper-
 - a. The main living space- Through the work of several volunteers (myself, Paul Aroune, Jim Plukas) and the Mountain staff we were able to purchase and install new kitchen cabinets and top, a new electric stove top, new sink and faucet, a new ceiling fan, new engineered wood flooring, and new wood trim . Joe is making a new coat rack, and Martha is also purchasing some new furniture to complete the living space.
 - b. The bathroom- This work is going to be completed by a contractor. Rich Bump has been hired and is expected to begin in November. Martha is purchasing the plumbing fixtures, vanity and top, and accessories.
6. The Chapel-
 - a. The Reading Room has some issues with mice. We have several ideas on how to deal with that. Since it will require accessing the ceiling the preliminary plan is to change out the ceiling tiles and possibly the lighting. We are just beginning this process. More to follow as we develop the plan and gain community input and approval.
7. Solar-
 - a. We are continuing to develop the plan for back-up batteries. Brother Joe and Father Bill are planning to meet with an electrician to help us figure out the amount of battery capacity that would be needed in the event of a one to two day outage.
 - b. Mike F. is looking into options to add more panels to replace those that were removed from The Other House. The current thinking is to extend the size of the solar array in the field.