

Buildings and Grounds Committee Report

November 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 has moved into the administrative and support role. Martha is still joining us and will conclude this commitment with the completion of Juniper.
2. Building Exteriors-
 - a. 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.
 - b. La Paz has some minor work required on the entry decking and bedroom deck railing.
3. 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. UPDATE: Father Bill has purchased the ovens and the electrical wiring has been upgraded to handle the higher amperage.
 - b. The HOP dishwasher has been replaced. Brother Joe installed ceramic tile to the floor below and in front of it. This is a big improvement that will better protect the floor from the heat and moisture of the machine.
4. Juniper-
 - a. The main living space- Martha is 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.
5. The Chapel-
 - a. The Reading Room has some issues with mice. UPDATE: Brother Joe is going to pull down the ceiling tiles to expose the area. This will enable us to better see the problem areas.
 - b. The new screen / storm doors continue to need repairs. It's not a question of their quality, but of the traffic. There is a long-term solution in (early) discussion regarding the building of a vestibule area.
6. 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. We have a price for the carpentry required to house the batteries in the HOP.
 - c. 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.