



# Irish Rose

*"I am the vine, you the branches. Without me, you can do nothing." (John 15:5)*  
(This scripture passage was located on the north wall above the top of the window and pews in the choir loft.)

Spring 2014

## Reaching New Heights

By Jill Palof

Life unfolds a unique and unpredictable story for each one of us and history is much the same. I often wonder what was on the hearts and minds of the parishioners as they labored to build St. Rose. Did these recent immigrants wonder what the future held for this church and who would take care of St. Rose a hundred years later? Our current vision is most likely quite similar to their hopes and dreams as we continue to preserve this beautiful testament of pioneer history for future generations.

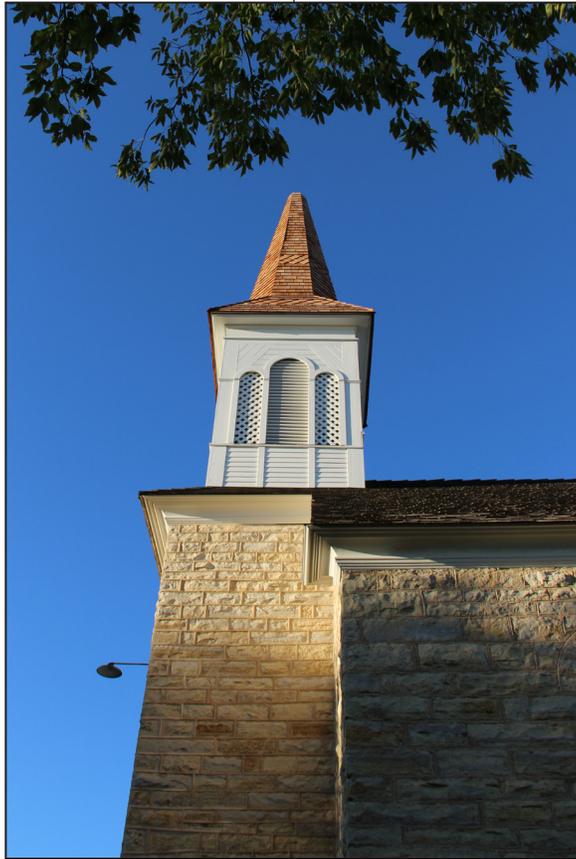
Since sending our last newsletter, we have reached both physical heights and preservation heights that these early settlers to Minnesota would have never imagined 136 years ago. The most impressive physical achievement was marked by the spire restoration of the steeple. The crowning preservation achievement was the designation of both St. Rose and the adjoining cemetery onto the National Register of Historic Places. For those of you who have followed our preservation journey these past twelve years, you know that this is a major accomplishment for the Friends of St. Rose, Inc. Thank you to all those who provided historic photographs and stories that made our National Register designation possible.

In June of 2012, tuck pointing was close to completion on the north and west sides when Christoph Henning left for home. Two days later, a devastating storm hit on June 14, 2012. We were in the final days of finishing our last newsletter and didn't know what the damage entailed yet. We began the process of collecting bids for repairing hail damage to the tuck pointing, spire shingles, window covers, millwork on the bell tower and the wooden entrance enclosure. It took us over a year to make all of the repairs necessary as a result of this major storm.

Fortunately, we had good insurance coverage which allowed us to recover both structurally and financially from this storm.

As a result, the storm changed our priority list and moved the spire restoration project to the top of our 'to-do' list along with tuck point repair, millwork repair and replacing window covers. The entire story of recovery is covered throughout this newsletter.

Since all of our attention needed to go towards storm repair, we didn't get to our newer projects until late in 2013. These new projects included refinishing the stairs that lead up to the choir loft and refinishing the double doors on the inside of the entrance.



Many of you may not know that these doors were present when we began the restoration process and needed a lot of repair before they could be hung. New hardware was purchased and installed in order to make the double doors fully functional once again.

Looking ahead, we plan to restore the altars back to their original state which involves rebuilding them since we were unable to find matching altars. Sacristy repairs are needed as well including cabinets. Other goals include sidewalks, step repair, and possibly retaining walls.

We wish to thank Carol Nelson for the great job she did as Treasurer for the past three years and welcome Corky Buckingham to our Board of Directors.

St. Rose will be open to the public on the third Saturday of each month from 10am to 4pm, May - September.

We thank all of you for allowing St. Rose to be preserved so that future generations can experience this piece of our rural Minnesota immigrant history.

We invite you to attend these upcoming events:

**Memorial Day Mass Monday May 26<sup>th</sup> 11:30am**

**Ice Cream Social Saturday August 16<sup>th</sup> 2:00-5:00pm**

**Candle Lighting Ceremony Sunday December 21<sup>st</sup> 2:00pm**

Visit [www.friendsofstrose.org](http://www.friendsofstrose.org) for more information.

**St. Rose Summer Hours: 10:00am - 4:00pm**  
**3rd Saturday of each month May - September**

# Memorial Day Mass



Our annual events begin each year in May as we celebrate Mass on Memorial Day. We remember our veterans and especially those who are laid to rest in the cemetery at St. Rose. The 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Memorial Day Mass was celebrated on May 27, 2013, with Fr. Erik Lundgren presiding. As you can see by these photos, the weather was cold and damp compared to years past, but this didn't stop a crowd from gathering outside during the cemetery blessing that followed. We welcome all those who wish to visit St. Rose and remember their loved ones to join us on Memorial Day at 11:30am Monday, May 26, 2014.



# Ice Cream Social

In contrast, we enjoyed ideal weather during the Ice Cream Social held on August 15, 2013. Ice cream smiles and these pictures tell the story of the fun day. Five different flavors of ice cream and frozen custard were provided once again by our two donors, Culver's and Cold Stone Creamery. Guests are always welcome to come up for seconds, thirds, or whatever your heart desires, especially if you want to try all the different flavors! 'Out of the Blue' Dixieland Band performed live jazz against this impressive backdrop of our rural pride. We welcome you to join us this year at 2:00pm, August 16, 2014.



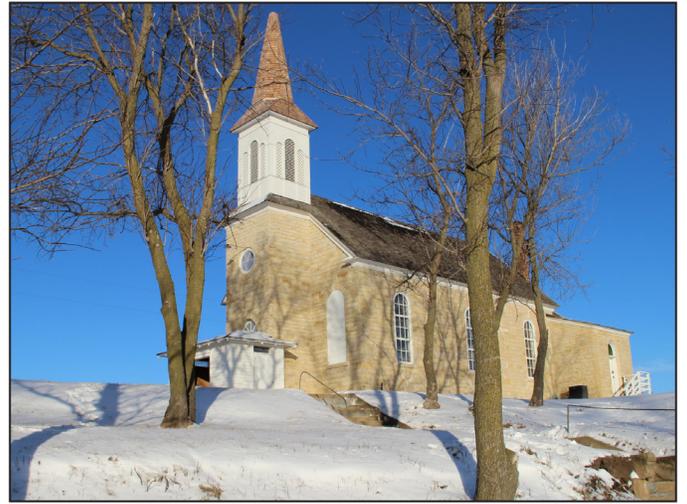
Five different flavors of ice cream and frozen custard were provided once again by our two donors, Culver's and Cold Stone Creamery. Guests are always welcome to come up for seconds, thirds, or whatever your heart desires, especially if you want to try all the different flavors! 'Out of the Blue' Dixieland Band performed live jazz against this impressive backdrop of our rural pride. We welcome you to join us this year at 2:00pm, August 16, 2014.



# Candle Lighting Ceremony

Our 11th Annual Candle Lighting Ceremony was held on December 15, 2013. We enjoyed a beautiful sunny day without a cloud in the sky and many people were able to attend.

Gwen Buckingham presided and her oldest daughter Cora Cromer, a music therapist, sang a perfect song that complimented the message.



Dianne Vangness brought her mom who is 99 years young to enjoy the day.

*Brass Etc.* filled the air with their outstanding brass quintet music once again. The acoustics inside St. Rose are perfect for this size of musical ensemble.

It's been so rewarding to meet such a wide variety of people who support this restoration. As a result, it feels like a family reunion during our annual events.



# The Calm before the Storm

Christoph Henning returned on May 17, 2012, to finish tuck pointing the north and west exterior walls. He completed the north wall of the Sanctuary just in time for our annual Memorial Day Mass on Monday, May 28, 2012. Several people took time to walk over and see his progress.

The scaffolding went back up the following day as seen in the photo below and tuck pointing progress continued for two more weeks. Christoph is shown here putting the finishing touches on in these photos that were taken shortly before he returned home to Connecticut on June 12, 2012.

Two days later, on June 14, 2012, a terrible storm swept through Cherry Grove Township causing significant damage. Little did anyone realize at the time, we were quite fortunate that the scaffolding was still in place at St. Rose. We also had the window covers on as protection while we were tuck pointing and these physical barriers significantly reduced the amount of hail damage.



As you can see in this photo of the north side, all but the furthest section to the east of the recently finished tuck pointing was protected by scaffolding. This far east section received much more hail damage as a result, and the areas with scaffolding still in place received far less damage from the hail. The aluminum window covers fortunately provided protection to the fragile stained glass windows.

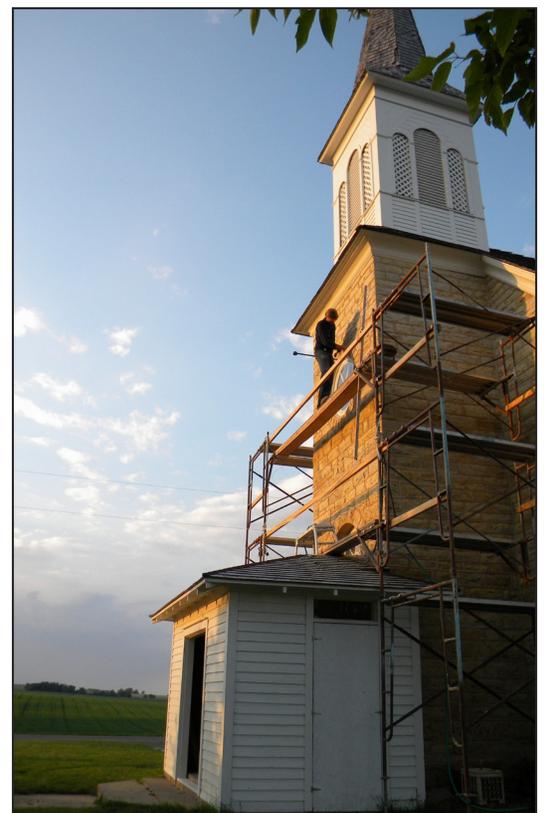


In years past, we've only kept the window covers on during the winter. Since then, we put covers on whenever the forecast includes hail. Thankfully, we have good insurance coverage which protected the investment made by our donors as well as labor of our volunteers.



Christoph needed to mist the newly tuck pointed joints with water frequently, as shown in the lower left photo, so that they gradually cured and did not dry out too quickly.

These photos also show the last step which is to remove the rough edges beyond the smooth convex surfaces on the north and west exterior walls.



# *Weathering the Storm*



The residents of Cherry Grove Township will not soon forget the powerful storm that came through on the evening of June 14, 2012. These photos depict the extent of damage found throughout the entire township. Those who live here will tell you that this storm appeared to know the exact borders of Cherry Grove Township and spared no one in its path.

Words can't express the full impact of this storm and the feeling of profound loss felt by these residents. In all actuality, St. Rose experienced minor damage compared to some

of our neighbors to the north. This was the scene only one mile north of the church. Burr oaks as old as St. Rose and trees of every variety were twisted like twigs. Fields of knee high corn were disintegrated. The wide black stripe shown at the top of photo below shows the path of the storm as it moved across this field leaving only rich black soil behind. Several homes and outbuildings were destroyed. The high winds removed the roof off the east side of the Cherry Grove Township Hall and scattered its steel debris across 80 acres to the south. Fortunately, there were no fatalities, but the landscape was changed forever. Cherry Grove residents soon went to work helping each other rebuild.



# *St. Rose on National Register of Historic Places*



Since we first began this preservation journey, we've discussed our desire to list St. Rose on the National Register of Historic Places. In our last newsletter, we announced that we were awarded a grant from the Minnesota Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund to assist us in writing our application.

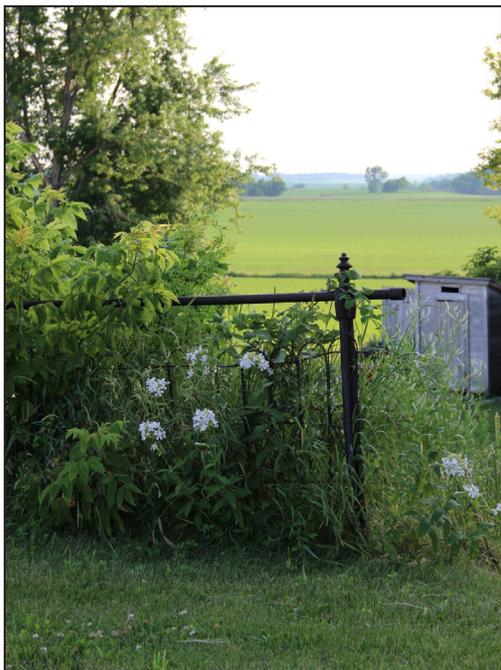
We knew that the National Register application would require a great deal of research in order to meet the integrity and significance criteria. This meant that it was critical to choose a writer with not only the ability, but the passion to represent this major preservation project well. We spent months gathering multiple bids from a variety of resources.

In the end, we decided that the best choice for this project was Jane Bisel and Steve Williams from Blue Planet Museum Consulting who are shown here at the Ice Cream Social. Jane

and Steve actually attended one of our earliest Candle Lighting Ceremonies and have watched this entire preservation endeavor unfold.

The grant allowed us one year to complete the first draft of the application and submit this to the State Historic Preservation Office for review. Jane quickly went to work writing the narrative portion of the application. An architect was hired to prepare a required site map that describes the structure and grounds in great detail. Hundreds of hours were spent researching every bit of St. Rose history that we've collected over the years. Jane uncovered several interesting facts including a significant discovery about a well-known artisan named Lalonde from St. Paul who completed the interior frescoing in 1919. This discovery was, essentially, the icing on the cake and the last major step in building St. Rose. We were strongly encouraged to also include the St. Rose Cemetery on the National Register application. We learned that historic significance applies to an entire site and not just the structures in the description.

We are very proud to announce that the entire site at St. Rose was officially listed onto the National Register of Historic Places in August of 2013. To read the complete submission, visit our website at [www.friendsofstrose.org](http://www.friendsofstrose.org).



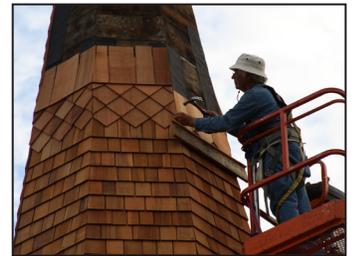
# Spire Restoration

Since we first began this preservation journey, we've also discussed the need to shingle the steeple spire and replace the missing cross that once adorned the top of the copper gilded finial.

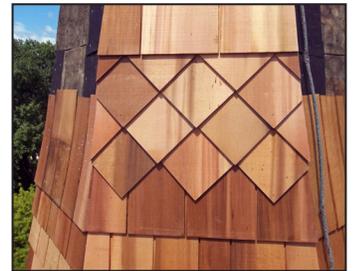


Mother Nature has a way of shifting your priorities in an unpredictable way. After the storm, we were faced with a much more urgent need of repairing the shingles as a result of storm damage and soon realized that this meant replacing all of the cedar shingles.

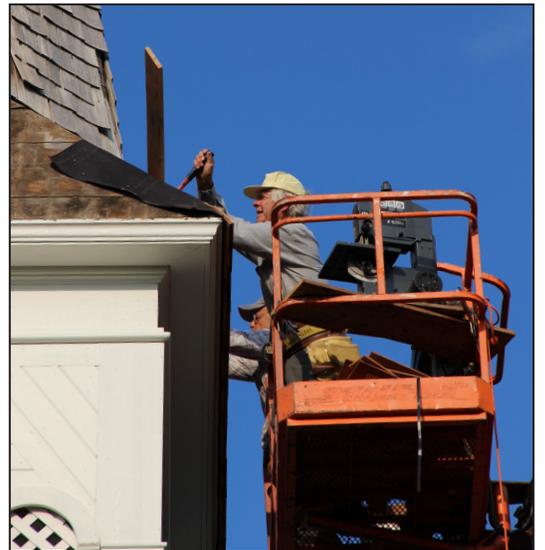
The top of the spire soars to over sixty feet above the ground. We needed to research using a lift truck instead of our usual approach of scaffolding to make repairs. We received outside bids and also discussed the possibility of volunteers making the repairs. Thanks to the dedication and commitment of one volunteer, who happens to not be afraid of heights or challenges, we decided to do the labor ourselves. Jerry Vettel is the man behind this incredible restoration success story and the following two pages of this newsletter are dedicated to telling the story through photos.



Every original cedar shingle and each square nail were removed by hand. These unique nails were given out as souvenirs on plaques during the Ice Cream Social. The woodpecker holes shown here were also repaired. The gradual taper of the octagonal spire required custom angle cuts. Jerry Vettel is shown here carefully installing cedar shingles including this historic diamond pattern.







Photography: Jill Palof, Jerry Vettel, and John Palof. Newsletter layout and articles by Jill Palof.

# Steeple Spire Restoration



We enjoyed nearly perfect weather throughout the spire restoration. Since there could only be two people in the lift truck at one time, Jerry Vettel either worked with the help of Roy Larson or alone in the lift truck while his wife Loraine Vettel worked on the ground keeping things tidy and organized while keeping an eye on Jerry for safety reasons. Some days were very hot but there is usually a gentle breeze when you're that high up which made this more tolerable.

The warm color of the brand new cedar shingles was quite stunning. This will gradually fade over time and eventually match the soft gray color you see on the remaining roof at St. Rose. When we installed the new cedar shingles to the roof in 2005, it took a year to fade to the final color state that exists today.

In total, this project took nearly 400 hours of labor, ten to twelve hour work days, and over two weeks to finish. As someone who is afraid of heights, I was happy to see this project come to a safe conclusion.

The copper finial was removed in order to install shingles all the way to the top. Once we saw the condition of the top of the spire and the damage to the copper finial up close, we knew this would not be possible while we still had the lift truck this year. A temporary metal cap was installed to protect the top of the spire from the elements until we are able to rebuild the missing cross and reinstall the restored copper finial. We plan to reconstruct the missing cross to match the original Latin styled cross and then rent a lift truck once again to safely attach all of the pieces onto the top of the spire in 2014.

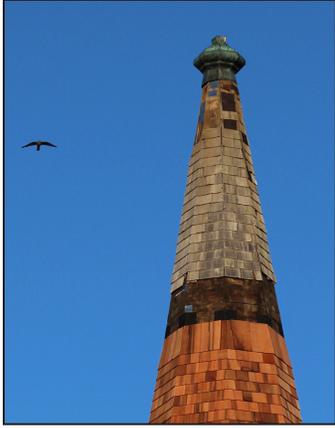


The number of cedar shingles needed per row decreased as Jerry Vettel worked vertically up the twenty foot high spire.

The number of angle cuts remained the same at sixteen per row as he traveled up the gradual taper of the octagonal spire.



# Copper Finial Restoration



We weren't sure what to expect with this challenging restoration project. This ornate copper finial is even more beautiful to view up close. We were surprised to discover that a pair of American Kestrel falcons called this copper palace their home with a view. The photo to the left was taken shortly before the finial was removed for restoration. The overhead view also shows where the top once supported a tall cross.

The widest point of this finial is an impressive 23 inches across. This shape mirrors the octagonal spire and protected an identical wooden base from the elements. Inside the center, there is one solid log running the entire length of the spire. Once repaired, a lift truck will be used to reattach the restored finial along with the missing cross.

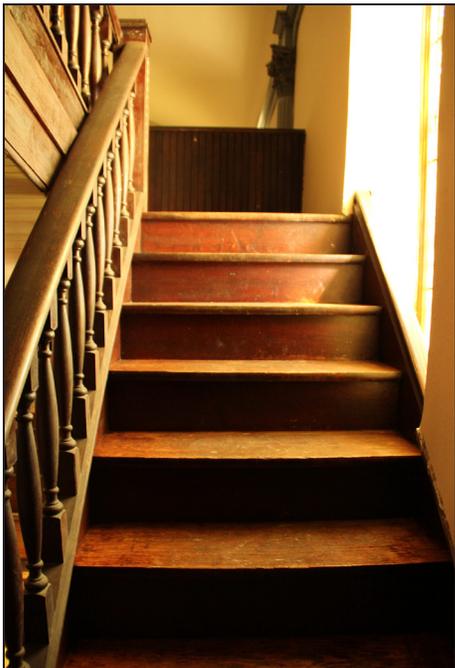


# Woodwork Restored



Other projects that were accomplished included the stairs that were completely refinished by Bev Jacobsen.

Board members also fixed and refinished the double doors in the entry. All new hardware was needed and the frames were refinished to make these fully functional.



# Renewal of Vows

It was a complete surprise for the bride when her husband brought her to St. Rose. Rick and Shannon Lisowski celebrated their 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary with their family and close friends on July 13, 2013.



# Tuck Point Restoration Revisited

The background image on this page shows the amount of hail damaged caused by the June 14, 2012, storm. The surfaces of so many mortar joints were all but destroyed. It was disheartening to see this amount of hail damage so soon after several volunteers and Christoph had worked so hard to finish tuck pointing the north and west sides.



Christoph Henning inspects the hail damaged caused by a devastating storm that occurred two days after he finished.



Christoph prepared the voids and skillfully applied a fresh bed of mortar before adding the final decorative convex shape to the top of each joint.

Everyone involved the first time we tuck pointed the north side knew what was needed for the repeat performance in September of 2013. Marv Bronner brought back all of this scaffolding and volunteers returned to help set it all up again. Kelly Ronningen transported the large water tank as well before Christoph arrived.

The newly shaped smooth surfaces needed to cure well before etching away the outer edges.



Christoph mixed the perfect consistency of lime, sifted sand, pigment, and water once again to create the correct consistency of mortar.





Since this was his third trip to Minnesota to tuck point at St. Rose, Christoph went back to work quickly when he arrived in mid-September of 2013.



The background photo on this page shows the most recently completed tuck point restoration.



The weather cooperated very well for his return visit. Christoph used hydraulic lime once again for the foundation and was able to finish all of the repairs to the damaged tuck pointing on the north and west sides in about two weeks without any weather delays.



Christoph completed about half of the south side during prior trips and was able to complete the remaining tuck pointing restoration on this side during this final visit to St. Rose.

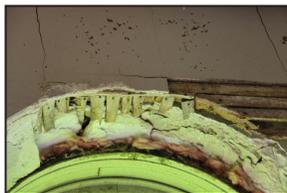
We are very impressed by the craftsmanship, quality of work, and the attention to detail. Congratulations Christoph for successfully completing this major restoration project.



## Future Projects

There are two projects slated for 2014 that can start as soon as the weather warms up a little more. One is to restore the Sacristy interior walls, ceiling, floor, exterior window frame and door frame. This room has had repairs made to fix a large hole in the floor that existed between the Sacristy and the Sanctuary, and a new door with a secure lock and window replacement but there is still much more work ahead. We also plan to build cabinets to allow for much needed storage space.

The other project that involves a great amount of accuracy is rebuilding the main altar and the two side altars. We were unable to find replacement altars to fit inside this area from other churches and will rely on photos such as this for details.



There are several people to thank for sharing photos. These were vitally important for our National Register application and to ensure historical accuracy restoring and preserving St. Rose.

We wish to give special recognition to Lucille Miller, who passed away recently, for sharing all of her 1947 wedding pictures including this interior photograph.

## Artifacts Discovered

When least expected, we discovered these two artifacts. These discoveries are like finding time capsules that provide a tangible glimpse into the rich history at St. Rose.

These original cedar shingles were uncovered while working on the spire restoration. The manufacturer imprinted onto the back side of both is 'H. Daniels' with Roman numeral 'XX' followed by 'Wausau, Wis.'



This company no longer exists but 'H. Daniels' was listed as a business in 1873 in an article as follows:

"In 1873, the following lumbermen were in business in Wausau: J. A. Stewart, Joseph Single, Benjamin Single, Cohn & Curran, Kickbusch & Bro., Lawrence & Peters, B. G. Plumer, Ed Zastrow, J. Leahy, J. C. Clarke, John Callon, Robert Parcher, **H. Daniels**, McIndoe & Co., Rufus Mason, Kelley Bros., M. Stafford, Herman Miller and James McCrossen. The whole number of buildings erected in 1873 in the city was 108. The amount of logs in the boom in 1875 was estimated at 30,000,000."

The H. Daniel's lumberman would have been impressed to know that their shingles lasted for over 135 years!

## Looking Ahead...

As we conclude this newsletter, we look ahead with high hopes of accomplishing our 2014 goals. We invite all of you to attend our annual events listed on the front page of this newsletter.

You may have noticed that it has been well over a year since we published our last newsletter. We discussed the unpredictable timing of this at a recent board meeting. This variable timing has caused some confusion by arriving between events that occurred within the same calendar year, especially concerning donations. We decided to send this at the beginning of the year instead to summarize the past years activities and progress. This will allow us to share the upcoming events and goals for the new calendar year. We hope that this will be a good decision for all.



This is the view from inside the lift truck looking south toward Dodge Center.

# Thank You to our July 2012 - February 2014 Contributors



## General Fund Contributions

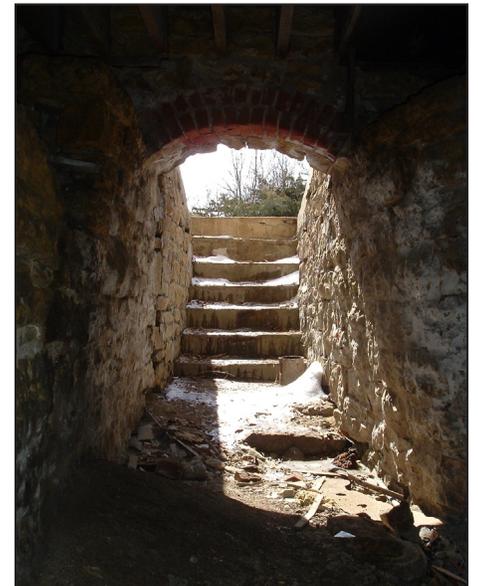
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Marilyn Anderson  
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Jeremy and Keri Vangness



# Thank You July 2012 - February 2014 Contributors continued...



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Deborah Hogan  
Mavis Kylo and Family  
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Rick McDermott  
Colleen Moore  
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Geraldine O'Kane  
Hugh O'Kane  
John and Rose Perra  
John and Jill Palof  
Jeff and Rita Pollard  
Helen Richardson  
Kelly and Joann Ronningen  
Lucille Ronningen  
Patricia Salo  
John and Lynn Stansfield  
Lyle and Donna Sundry  
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Wayne and Carolyn Swanson

**Rose Day Noser, Parents,  
and Family Memorial**  
Bonita Kundert

**Marion O'Kane Memorial**  
John and Lynn Stansfield  
Lucille Miller  
Mary Miller

**Richard O'Kane and  
Marion O'Kane Memorial**  
Geraldine O'Kane

**Sylvia Shoberg Memorial**  
Jim Shoberg

## Treasurer's Report

General Fund: \$15,411.96

Restricted Fund: \$4,727.15

[contact\\_us@friendsofstrose.org](mailto:contact_us@friendsofstrose.org)

[www.friendsofstrose.org](http://www.friendsofstrose.org)

Friends of St. Rose, Inc.

10155 505th Street

Kenyon, MN 55946

## General Fund Continued

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## Lucille Miller Memorial

Ervin and Mary Ellen Arendt  
Kirk and Pamela Aune  
Martha Baxter  
Delores Buck



*T*hank you for supporting the ongoing restoration and preservation of St. Rose over the past twelve years.

Thanks to those who graciously donated to our general fund and to memorials for their loved ones.

Thanks to all the volunteers for their valuable skills.

Thanks to those who support our annual events by bringing treats to share with us year after year.

Thanks to all the anonymously given cash donations.

We greatly appreciate the dedication and shared mission of historic preservation demonstrated by this significant amount of support.

Friends of St. Rose, Inc. Board of Directors:  
Rose Berg, Corky Buckingham, Rick Keane, Bonnie Lemmerman, Jill Palof, Kelly Ronningen, Jerry Vettel.