



Irish Rose

Thou art Peter and upon this rock I will build my Church. (Matthew 16:18)

(This scripture passage was rediscovered on the south wall of the sanctuary and above the sacristy door at St. Rose.)

SPRING 2011

Upon this Rock...

By Jill Palof

St. Rose has stood proudly as an historic landmark in Cherry Grove Township for the past 133 years. Those of you who farm in this area know that deep beneath this rich dark top soil lies limestone. In fact, all throughout southeastern Minnesota you will find limestone ledges as you travel into valleys.

The Irish who immigrated to this area in the 1800's chose to settle in Cherry Grove Township for its diversity and selected a high point in the township to build St. Rose. This church was a true testament to their faith in this new land of opportunity. St. Rose is located at an elevation of 1,210 feet. Many of you may have noticed that the land surrounding St. Rose gently slopes down hill in every direction. The elevation of Rochester is 989 feet above sea level and if you look far beyond the parking area you can actually see the wind turbines located 17 miles due south between Dodge Center and Hayfield.

It seems most fitting that we recently rediscovered the following scripture passage on the south wall of the sanctuary while restoring the trompe l'oeil imagery; *"Thou art Peter and upon this rock I will build my Church."* The pioneer parishioners who settled here built St. Rose with their own hands using limestone quarried from the Thomas O'Kane farm located 1.2 miles to the east. The stone mason was Samuel Tunks and both men are laid to rest in the cemetery at St. Rose. The quality of this limestone and their skilled craftsmanship have certainly withstood the test of time.

We hope that our preservation efforts would please these early settlers. We thank the many volunteers and the incredibly generous financial supporters for making this all possible and for believing that this piece of history is worth preserving.

We fondly remember these pioneers during our annual events and have celebrated new memories with many more weddings throughout the past year. This has placed interior restoration projects, such as restoring the sacristy, as high priorities. We also celebrated the return of the original pump organ and continue to make progress with the ongoing trompe l'oeil restoration.

Exterior restoration last year included new cedar shingles on the entrance enclosure as well as the completion of what we refer to as 'phase one' of steeple restoration. You can see in this photo that wooden louvers and lattice were installed at the base level. A cross will return to the top of the spire and bring the steeple back to its original splendor.

As we've mentioned before, the most labor intensive project we face is tuck pointing. Most of the facade is in stable condition but closer inspection revealed that many areas are also in critical need of repair. We plan to address these critical areas first to ensure stability and make additional tuck pointing repairs as funding allows.

Our board wishes to recognize the many contributions of Bonnie Lemmerman as our Treasurer and her dedication while serving on our Board of Directors. Bonnie will be greatly missed and continues to actively volunteer. We thank Carol Nelson for filling the position of Treasurer.

We hope you enjoy the following pages of this newsletter. May our efforts continue to provide opportunities to experience this unique historical landmark with future generations.



We invite you to attend these events in 2011:

- Memorial Day Mass - Monday, May 30th 11:30am
- 7th Annual Ice Cream Social - Saturday, August 20th 2 - 5pm
- 9th Annual Candle Lighting - Sunday, December 18th 2:00pm

Visit us at www.friendsofstrose.org for more information, photos, articles, to make a donation or schedule an event.

Annual Events

Our 3rd Annual Memorial Day Mass was held on May 31, 2010, with Fr. Hoffman presiding. A large crowd gathered for the cemetery blessing that followed where Tom Comstock tolled the cemetery bell and Taps was played by Rick Keane and echoed by John Palof on their trumpets. 'In Flanders Fields' was respectfully recited by Hugh O'Kane to honor our veterans.

Mass will be held again this year with Fr. Erik Lundgren on Memorial Day, Monday, May 30, 2011, at 11:30am.



The 6th Annual Ice Cream Social was held on Saturday, August 21, 2010. The sun eventually burned through the dense fog on this sweltering hot summer day. Those who attended greatly appreciated the air conditioning inside St. Rose and the cold ice cream and frozen custard donated by Cold Stone Creamery and Culver's of Rochester. People traveled from as far away as Colorado to reunite with friends and family and to see the recent restoration progress at St. Rose.



Dixieland Jazz music was performed by 'Out of the Blue' and Arvid Boyum of the 'T-Totallers' joined us for the third year in a row with his antique Model T. Arvid also provided the warm ice cream topping heated on the engine block in the 'cooker'.

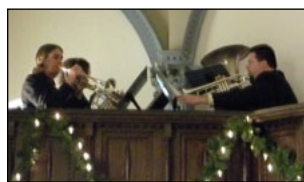
We invite you to join us for our 7th Annual Ice Cream Social on Saturday, August 20, 2011, 2-5 pm.



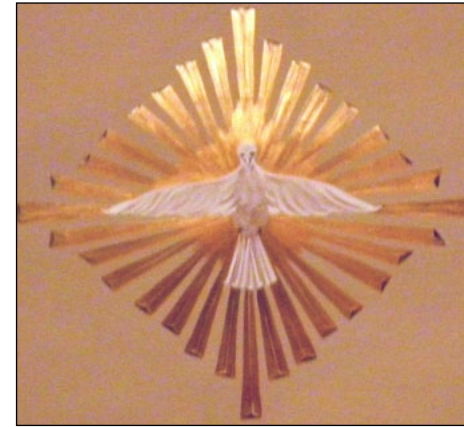
Our 8th Annual Candle Lighting Ceremony was held on Sunday, December 19, 2010, with a full church and Reverend Don Bakken of Cannon Falls, MN, presiding.

'Brass Etc.' performed as we celebrated the re-dedication of the original pump organ played by Carol Nelson.

Our 9th Annual Candle Lighting Ceremony will be held on Sunday, December 18, 2011, at 2:00pm.



Trompe L'oeil Restoration



Certain projects demand artistic skills which very few people possess. When you consider the number of people who are this skilled and willing to volunteer such talent, the number becomes much smaller. Helen Distad is the uniquely qualified and generous individual who has been quietly and methodically restoring trompe l'oeil to the walls and ceiling of St. Rose.

This realistic imagery creates an optical illusion that makes objects appear in three dimensions as you can see in these photos. We are impressed and amazed at what Helen has restored thus far.

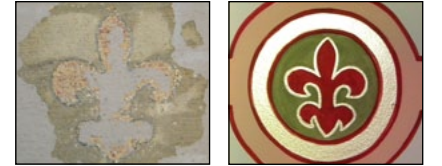
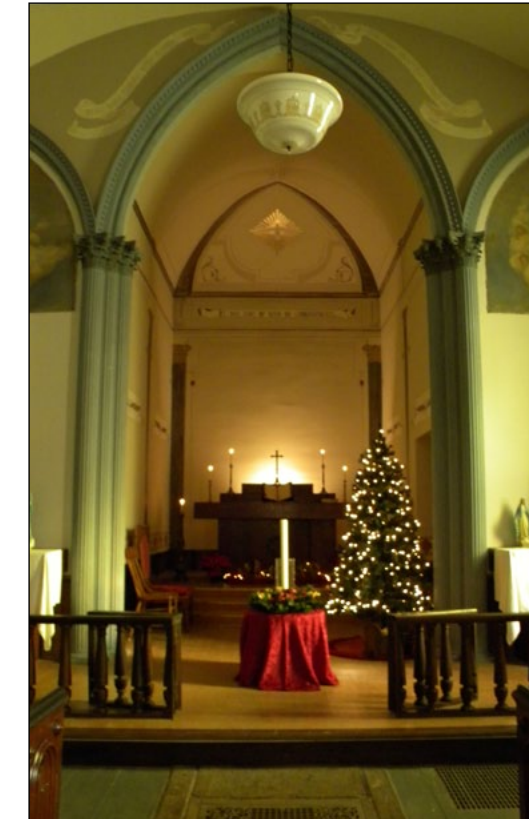


A steady hand and a lot of patience is apparent to recreate every inch of detail within this design.



The photo to the right was taken during our Candle Lighting Ceremony. This was the first time many people were able to see the progress Helen has made to the sanctuary restoration.

Scripture passages that belong inside the blank ribbons on the walls and remaining ceiling details will be restored next.

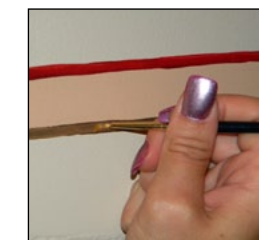


These 'before' and 'after' photos illustrate what was unveiled beneath layers of paint and what is possible through restoration.

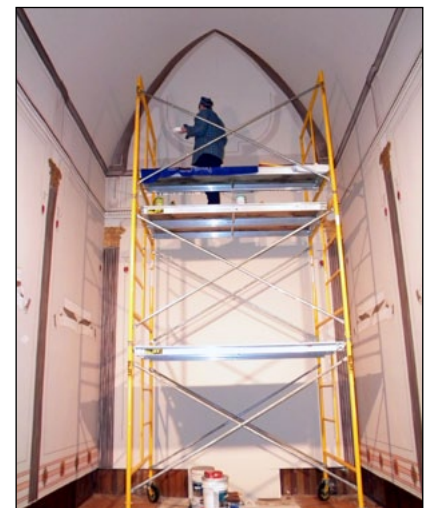
Helen carefully documented the graphic elements found throughout the church and is restoring history to the interior walls and ceiling.



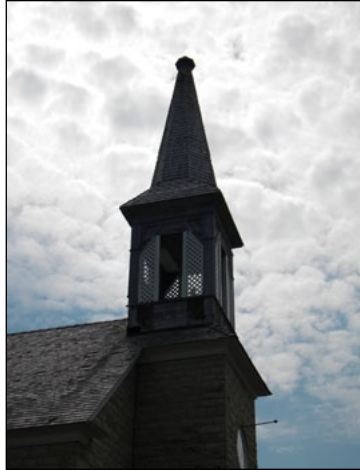
Another requirement for this project is to have no fear of heights. Three towers of scaffolding are needed to reach the ceiling inside the sanctuary. The photo to the right shows Helen high above the floor as she began to recreate the holy spirit dove.



The preparation often includes painting an area white first to allow the correct colors to be revealed as shown in the photos to the left.



Steeple Restoration



1.) A cross will return to the top of the spire as we move on to 'phase two' of steeple restoration. This major project has been one of our toughest challenges to face. Fortunately, we have many talented volunteers to thank for the progress we continue to accomplish.

The photos below show the extent of need for repair and include a view to the east from inside the bell tower.



2.) Who would have guessed fifty years ago when Myron Schettl planted white pine saplings that he would be harvesting these trees for St. Rose? Myron Schettl of Shady Haven Tree Farms generously donated the lumber and assembled both the lattice and the louvers from trees he not only planted, but also harvested, milled, and dried. It's worth noting that he planted these trees at the same time St. Rose was closed.

4.) No one but Marv Bronner knows how many days were spent clearing out debris and making structural repairs inside the bell tower. These pictures reveal the moment all his efforts became visible to the outside world. Marv also discovered interesting relics such as the original 1896 shipping tags for the bell itself and a board with the words 'Spring Creek' hand written in pencil.



Marv Bronner spent many days over the years preparing the bell tower for this day. See photos of what he discovered in the bell tower on our web site, www.friendsofstrose.org.



3.) The lattice and louvers were part of 'phase one' which took all summer to accomplish and included several steps. It was time for primer and paint once Myron finished the assembly.

Jerry Vettel is shown delivering the pieces and John Palof is shown oil priming and painting the lattice and louvers using a paint sprayer. Two top coats will keep the tower in good condition for years to come.



Aspiring Heights

Now that the twelve pre-built sections of lattice and louvers are built and installed, it's time to begin working on the outside trim details of the spire. Jerry Vettel is the brave soul who was lifted high up inside the bucket to take measurements and see how our first attempt at the arches looked. Many minute adjustments will need to be made as we calculate the subtle variations on each side of the tower. New lumber is needed for both the siding and decorative elements and will be primed and painted to match existing trim. Our goal is to have the bell portion completed this summer.

The most difficult task will be replacing the cross that once belonged on top of the spire. We estimate that this cross was five feet tall and four feet across with the top extending an incredible sixty feet above the ground.

This entire project will involve a tremendous amount of scaffolding and possibly a crane to install the cross. We also plan to work on the shingles and make necessary repairs to the spire while we are up there.



Entrance Roof Restoration

The entrance roof was replaced last summer with grant money provided by Operation Round-Up through Goodhue County Cooperative Electric.

Old photographs suggest that this entry was built in the 1920's. New cedar shingles were installed to be historically correct and to match the church roof replaced in 2005. Mike Prescher is shown removing multiple layers of shingles including brittle asphalt underneath worn out cedar shingles. This revealed bead board still in good condition.

Careful planning, attention to detail, and a lot of patience was required to install the varying sizes of shingles. New felt underlayment was put down first and over seven bundles of #1 cedar shingles were needed to cover this roof. As shown in these photos, Jerry Vettel and Mike Prescher recycled the original ridge caps and repaired the leaking flat area in front of the fan shaped stained glass window.



Marv Bronner and Mike Prescher discuss how to approach this project. The five different roof sections required several calculations before they could cut the multiple angles involved. This seemingly small entrance roof covers nearly 200 square feet and required over seven bundles of #1 cedar shingles.



Original Pump Organ Returns



Organ in the home of Ed Bartelt.

We are thrilled to announce the return of the original pump organ on June 7, 2010, thanks to Ed Bartelt and the help of many strong and determined volunteers.

The last Mass was held on June 4, 1961. Mrs. Bartelt eventually asked the priest if she could purchase the organ to practice for St. Paul's services at home. Father Campbell sold this for ten dollars and the organ has been in the care of the Bartelt family for nearly forty-nine years.

Jerry Vettel took the organ apart for a thorough cleaning and made repairs including the bellows pictured below. The organ was missing its keyboard cover until Jerry built a new one made of walnut and stained it to match the 130 year old instrument.

The original stool was also re-upholstered by Penny Vogelgesang and the cost donated by Bev Jacobsen. The organ was re-dedicated during the recent Candle Lighting.



Jerry Vettel carefully cleaned and made minor repairs to the bellows of the pump organ at the Pine Island Senior Center and crafted the missing keyboard cover out of solid walnut.



Standing in choir loft L to R: Rick Keane, Riley Keane, Jerry Vettel, and his two grandsons, George and Micheal Boettger. Carol Nelson played the pump organ during the Zenk wedding.

Weddings at St. Rose



The first day of spring was also the first wedding held at St. Rose in 2010. Paige Grove and Brandon Vedder were married on March 20, 2010.

The month of March made history in 2010 as the first on record with no snowfall since March of 1878 during the famous 'year without a winter'. Coincidentally, this was also the year St. Rose was built.



The second wedding held in 2010, shown to the left, was another beautiful warm sunny day with temperatures reaching the low seventies. Erica Schettl and Aaron Ness were married on Saturday, September 11, 2010.

The church was filled to capacity and the receiving line that followed stretched from the front doors all the way to the west stairway.



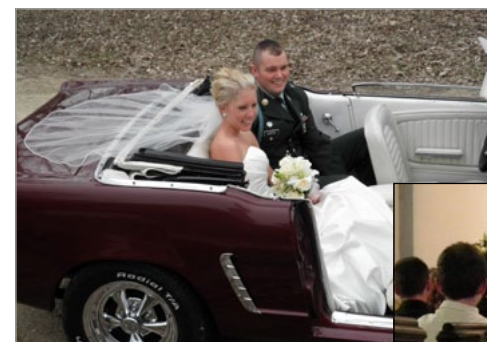
Phyllis Bakko and Walter Zenk were married at St. Rose on January 15, 1955.



A sentimental wedding was held on Saturday, January 15, 2011. Dan Zenk and Emmy Fung, shown above, were married at St. Rose this past winter on the fifty-sixth wedding anniversary of Dan's parents who were also married here. Phyllis Bakko married Walter Zenk at St. Rose on Saturday, January 15, 1955. Dan's parents have since passed away but where certainly here in mind and spirit.



On January 2, 1960, Jim Meyer married Anne Brisance at St. Rose as shown in this marriage certificate. They were the last couple married at St. Rose before the church closed on June 4, 1961. Their grand-nephew, Dan Zenk, married Emmy Fung fifty-one years later in 2011.



The newlyweds were escorted to their reception in this classic 1965 Ford Mustang convertible owned by a family friend.



The most recent wedding held at St. Rose was on April 9, 2011. The church was filled with family from near and abroad for the marriage of Mitchell Harris and Alicia Williams. A large number of family members traveled all the way from England to be with Mitch and Alicia on this day. Mitch will soon be deployed to serve our country with the Red Bulls.

Looking Ahead...

When we began this endeavor nine years ago, we never could have imagined how far we would come in such a relatively short amount of time. The physical labor and fund raising required seemed almost insurmountable. The single greatest reason we have achieved so much progress is that we are not alone in the mission to preserve St. Rose thanks to people like you. In the summer of 2002, our mailing list started with under 75 names and has grown to over 600 mailing addresses. The last 500+ came at the request of interested supporters who added their own names one at a time.

As many of you know, the progress at St. Rose has been made in great part by the efforts of tireless volunteers who freely give of their talents. We have been blessed by incredible financial support as well which has resulted in large restoration projects such as the new roof, electricity/lighting, heat pump furnace/air-conditioner, ceiling restoration, re-leading the stained glass windows and more.

It is still our goal to respect the integrity of this historic preservation with fiscal responsibility and shared vision as we look to the future of St. Rose. This includes communicating needs and researching options for grants and other fund raisers. We've also added a Paypal account which includes a new donation button on our web site at www.friendsofstrose.org.

Grants this past year included a grant from the Operation Round-Up program at Goodhue County Cooperative Electric for cedar shingles and another for outdoor lighting in 2011. A technology grant was also awarded through IBM for \$1,000. This grant allowed us to purchase hardware and software for administrative use.

We have several active projects in this newsletter such as tuck-pointing, steeple restoration, and interior restoration but there are many more needs.

PROJECTS IN NEED OF SUPPORT

Grounds and Landscaping:
 Additional off street parking to the south
 Sidewalks and steps
 Fencing/retaining walls
 Sacristy door repair

Interior Needs:
 Sacristy walls, ceiling and floor restoration
 Flooring repairs to Nave and Choir Loft
 Columns and capitals restoration
 Interior door repair
 Pew repair

Artifacts:
 Historically correct Altars
 Stations of the Cross (to match original below)
 Cherubim/Seraphim Angles (match originals)
 Chalice, Ciborium, and other Mass items
 Candle sticks (match originals)
 Eternal Flame candle/fixture
 Sacristy storage/wardrobe
 Credence table
 Holy water font
 Light fixtures
 Lectionary stand
 Sanctuary bells
 Altar linens



Thank you to our gracious April 2010 - April 2011 contributors



Thank you to everyone who has supported our restoration and preservation efforts over the past year. Thanks to everyone listed below who has graciously donated and those who have specified memorials, to all who have volunteered their labor, to all who have supported our events by bringing treats to share, and to all of you who have anonymously provided cash donations. We greatly appreciate all of your dedication and shared mission of historic preservation.

Friends of St. Rose Board of Directors: Rick Keane, Carol Nelson, Jill Palof, John Perra, Kelly Ronningen, and Jerry Vettel.

General Fund Contributions

Jane Adams
Joseph and JoAnn Adelman
Dennis Ahern
Gary and Van Bakko
Janet Bauch
Evelyn Benrud
Lyle and Rose Berg
Arvid and Gloria Boyum
Todd and Linda Broin
Marvin and Alice Bronner
Jean Buckingham
Corky Buckingham
Robert Budenski
Jim and Phyllis Buehler
Mark and Diane Burfeind
Wayne and Norma Clark
Michael and Lisa Comstock
Tom and Ruth Comstock
James and Janet Edlund
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Dawn Fellows
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and James Flicek
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IBM
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Beverly Jacobsen
Thomas Jeanson
Judy Johnson
Gary and Kathleen Kasten
Rick Keane
Father Marvin Klaers
Paul and Susan Klipsic
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Kelly and Joann Ronningen
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Elaine Stettler
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Ren and Ann Tescher
Isabel Theobald
Harvey and Margaret Tri
David and Julie Tufte
US Bank
Jeremy and Kerri Vangness
Gerald and Loraine Vettel
Wanamingo Catholic Women
Clara Yerke

Lyle Berg Memorial Rose Berg

Paul Comstock Memorial
John and Mary Ann O'Kane
Robert Quimby

Ray Demers Memorial
John and Mary Ann O'Kane

Belle Fitzgibbons Buehler Memorial
Janice Sathrum

Desmond and Hildegard Kindseth Memorial Fund
Deborah Eggen
Mary Grant
Mike Kindseth
Deanna Lurken
Martha Rhorbacher

Robert Rhodes Memorial
Marvin and Alice Bronner

Ione Shorter Memorial
Bette Marcuson

Genevieve Sylvester Memorial Fund
Glenn and Eileen Frisch
Greg and Kathy Luebke
Craig and Luann Lewer
Mary Miller
John and Mary Ann O'Kane
Jack and Lynn Stansfield

Treasurer's Report

General Fund: \$9,772.18
Restricted Fund: \$3,704.77

Carol Nelson, Treasurer, Friends of St. Rose, Inc.

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Visit www.friendsofstrose.org for more information.