

“Praise the Lord. Praise God in his sanctuary; praise him in his mighty heavens. Praise him for his acts of power; praise him for his surpassing greatness... Let everything that has breath praise the Lord. Praise the Lord.” Psalm 150:1-2, 6

We are continuing to progress toward worshipping in our new building. As work draws closer to completion, this edition of the newsletter looks at the new organ, the structure’s progress, and inviting more members to the congregation.

Organs – Old and New

By Barbara Boertje DeVries

Praise the Lord - Our Dobson organ made its trip safely on May 20 from our current sanctuary to its new home in the chapel balcony of Trinity English Lutheran Church in Fort Wayne, Indiana (see photo)!

I’d like to share some information about the organ that is being built for our new sanctuary. And before I go any further, welcome and many thanks to one of the newest members of Cornerstone Church - Gerald Van Dusseldorp (and welcome to his wife Janny as well!) – for his important guidance in designing a new organ for our new sanctuary. Gerald is a fine organist who has had much experience playing on a larger organ of this type in the church where he served in Colorado before he and Janny moved to Pella last year.

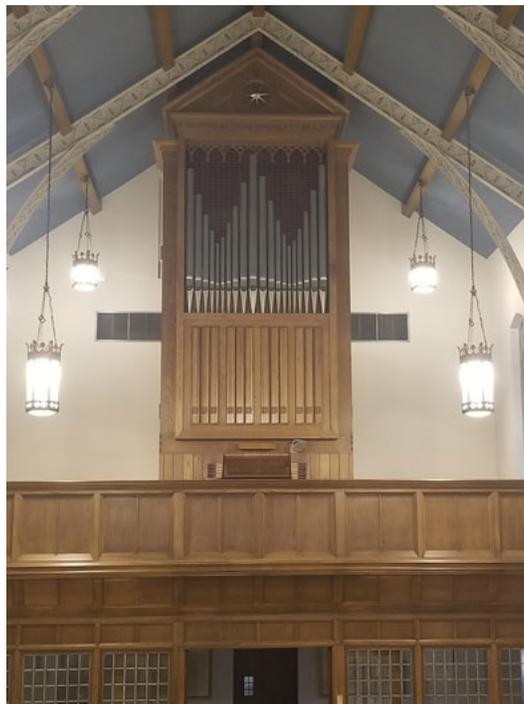
After contacting and researching information with several organ companies,

our organists and Barbara Boertje DeVries decided it was best to have an organ custom-built for our new sanctuary by Jerry Akers, an organ builder/technician who installed a 4-Manual Walker organ in the church in Colorado Springs, Colorado, where Gerald was organist at the time.

The new Walker organ for Cornerstone Church is designed to be a musical instrument that can lead traditional worship, as well as add non-traditional (contemporary) musical sounds through the integration of a MIDI sound module.

I asked Gerald and Jerry to explain our new organ in laymen’s terms:

The organ console, the large wooden cabinet that contains the keyboards, stops, pedals, pistons, etc., is the control center for the organ. It feeds information to the multiple speakers which produce the sound. (We are saving a considerable amount of money by Jerry refurbishing a used console.)



The organ console has two keyboards, each with 61 keys (5 octaves). There is a pedal keyboard that has 32 keys and is laid out in the same pattern of white and black keys as the other keyboards. The pedal keyboard is larger because it is played by the organist’s feet. It takes a great deal of practice and coordination to be able to play with both

hands and both feet simultaneously. The pedals control the lower sounds of the organ.

Unlike the piano, which makes a sound each time a key is pressed, the organ makes no sound unless a “stop” is pulled on. The term “stop” refers to the earliest pipe organs where a mechanical lever was used to “stop” the air from flowing into the pipes, hence the name we still use today. We have all heard the phrase “pulling out all the stops.” This is a reference to a pipe organ being played very loudly because all the stops were pulled out, allowing air into all the pipes.

The other difference between the piano and organ is that when a note is played on the piano, the sound dies rather quickly. On the organ, as long as a note is held down, the sound will continue.

The new organ for Cornerstone Church has 45 stops, most of which make a distinctive organ sound. There are a few stops that sound like chimes, bells, and a harp. Two stops give the organ a vibrato effect.

The sound that the organ makes is dependent on what stops are pulled and how they are combined. There are many combinations that the organist has to choose from. A specific song and how or where it is

used in the service determines what sounds are used. The organ can be nearly inaudible or can be very loud and assertive, depending upon how the organist has selected the combination of stops.



Each of the stops on this organ has been carefully selected to support the musical needs of Cornerstone Church. The sounds have been digitally recorded in high fidelity and stored in the sound engine of the organ. These sounds are then recalled and played back through a very sophisticated digital to analog converter which makes

them sound just like the organ pipes did when sampled. There are many nuances to the sounds of a pipe organ, and the control system is able to simulate them all.



When the organ is fully installed, the stops will go through a process we call “tonal finishing”. This is a lengthy process where each note of every stop can be adjusted to sound its best and to blend together in the acoustic environment of Cornerstone Church.

The end result should be a cohesive and thrilling real organ experience.

The organ’s control system allows for all the possible combinations of stops to be manageable. There are buttons, called pistons, under each keyboard. They can be set with any combination of stops the

organist wants. The organist can then recall a specific sound combination by pushing one of the pistons. This organ can be set up to give each organist his/her own account, so the organist does not have to worry about another organist changing what they have set for their use on the organ.

If you would like to learn to play the organ, we encourage you to let Barbara Boertje DeVries or one of our organists know!

We pray that the new organ will be used, as previous organs have been, to assist us in musically expressing our worship of God.

To God be the glory – Great things He has done (and *continues* do)!



An Update on Our New Building

By Steven Talsma

As we move into this final phase of building there is much work to be done. We're into the "finish work" now. Things like trim, sealing floors, grouting floors, installing fixtures, cabinets, etc. Unlike the previous stage of putting up walls, drywalling, and windows, this final stage's progression is less obvious. Nobody is as impressed with a picture of an installed toilet or trimmed windows as they are when they see walls going up. Though both of these steps are necessary in a building project one draws more attention and excitement.

The building project continues to progress. The classroom wing is insulated, drywalled, and painted. Next steps are to install the ceiling and trim the windows. But first some behind-the-scenes work needs to take place. Duct work and sprinkler heads need to be installed in the rooms before the ceiling can be installed or the floors can be finished.

In the sanctuary the drywall is up but now needs to be textured. It needs to be textured before it can be painted, which needs to

happen before windows can be trimmed, before the stage can be built. And yes, finishing floors is in there too at some point. There is still much work to be done, but all these little steps have to happen in sequence before the next one can start. Rest assured things continue to move forward even if these little steps aren't as impressive.



The administration wing is similar to the sanctuary. The insulation is in, the drywall is up, and next steps are texture, paint, ductwork and ceilings. Then floors, doors, and trim will have to follow as well.



As I think about the work that needs to be done, I think about how God works in our lives. We are settled into life, there's no major changes, the foundation and structure are set, but yet God continues to refine us because the work is not done. We sometimes may feel

like we're "stagnant" in our growth, or that not much is happening in our lives spiritually. Sometimes we need to stop and look closer. What areas in our life need work? You don't stop building once the foundation is laid or the walls are up, for what good is a foundation when nothing is built upon it? And what good are walls without proper insulation or sealing?

While the building continues to progress and we prepare to move into the new location, take some time to reflect and prepare our own hearts. What "finish work" is God trying to complete in our lives?

Inviting Others (Outward Reaching Practices, Part 3)

By Pastor Paul Bradford

In about two months, as most of you know, Cornerstone Church will begin worshipping in our new building. When a church builds a new building, momentum often builds – people in the community are curious about this new church on the east edge of town, and people in our congregation are excited about our future. What's more, in addition to a new building, we have a new name, which will intrigue people even more.

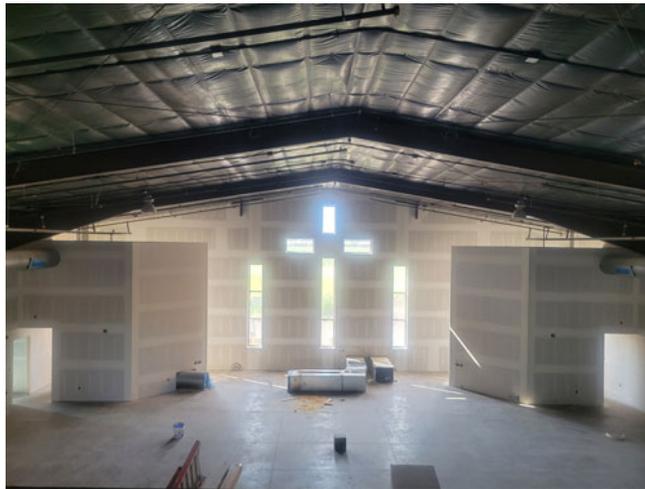
They'll wonder, "Is this a new church?" Or, if the community member knows this is 2nd CRC renamed, they may wonder, "Are they doing things in a new way?" There's going to be a lot of buzz going around Pella!

Our current building has been a wonderful blessing. The time and love invested in constructing and upkeeping our current building will not be forgotten by the Lord or our people. It was an effective and charming design when it was built in 1925. But times and needs have changed.

The new building has been well designed for ministry in today's world, and will give us increased opportunities for effective ministry. The lobby will increase our ability

to connect with newcomers and with each other. We'll have an even more effective kitchen and fellowship layout for even larger groups. The children's wing is right off the lobby and will be easier to find, larger, more inviting, and more secure. The building will be fully accessible for those with disabilities. Just yesterday I was talking with our oldest member, Martha Slings. She hasn't been able to come to church for years, but she thinks that she'll be able to come occasionally once we get into the new building because it's all on one level. For young and old, this building will be a blessing. And it provides a great opportunity to invite people to join us!

In the Pastor's Pen articles, we've been discussing four important practices of an outward reaching congregation. Those practices are:



① Connecting – We need to be intentional about seeking to develop relationships with those who aren't connected with Christ or the church.

② Inviting – We need to step out and invite people to come to services and events at

Cornerstone so that community members can connect with the church and hear the gospel.

③ Welcoming – We need to be intentional about welcoming people when they visit.

④ Enfolding – In addition to inviting and warmly welcoming people when they attend, we must seek to enfold them into our circles

of relationships, including them as part of our church family.

We've already discussed connecting and welcoming. Let's talk about inviting.

With the growing momentum of a new name and a new building, this is a wonderful opportunity to reach out and invite people to Cornerstone! People's curiosity will already be high.

A study done awhile back found that only 2% of newcomers came to church because of an advertisement, and only 6% came because of an organized evangelism campaign. On the other hand, *86% of newcomers came to church because they were invited by a friend or relative.* What's more, a recent study found that 63% of Americans who don't attend church said they'd come if they received a personal invitation from a friend or neighbor. That friend or neighbor could be you!

Most of us feel a bit nervous when we think about inviting a friend to church. What if they say "no"? Behind that fear is the fear of being rejected by our friend. Take heart, the chance of that happening is about zero! Nearly everyone who is invited in a gracious, non-pressuring way will not be put off at all, and most will appreciate your thoughtfulness. And many will actually accept your invite!

Here are some practical suggestions as you step out to invite friends to church.

- ① When you ask, have a reason for asking in mind; that'll make bringing up the subject of church feel more natural. The reason could be as simple as, "Our church just started worshipping in a new building, and we're excited about where

we're heading as a congregation. I'd love to have you come with me to church some Sunday. Would you be interested in joining me sometime?" The reason could also focus on a current or upcoming sermon series, a special service or event, or the great music at church, to name a few.

- ② Be positive, upbeat, and unapologetic. You are offering the person something of great value. Connecting with the church will be a blessing for them, and might even change their eternal destiny!
- ③ At the same time, even while being encouraging, don't put any pressure on your friend. Be ok if they say "no". If they do, thank them for considering. A good follow question is, "Do you think you might be interested sometime in the future?" Often, they'll say "yes" and that keeps the door open.
- ④ If they do say "yes" – which is actually quite likely, arrange a time to meet them at church. Let them know you'll be in the lobby waiting for them, or better yet, that you'll meet them outside the main entrance. One of the most frightening things for a newcomer is walking into a church where they don't know anyone, and standing around awkwardly in the lobby trying to figure out what to do next and where to go. If they know you'll be there waiting, they'll relax. In some cases, it's even appropriate to offer to pick them up and bring them with you.

With these simple ideas in mind, many of you will have the joy of bringing a guest soon. Who knows the impact your kind invitation might have on their lives, their families, and their future!



Charles Spurgeon Quotes

Those who receive by faith everything which they find in Scripture, will receive many things which they can never harmonize into a definitive creed.

The best of our good works are but a painted pageantry for your soul to go to Hell in! You may as surely go down to the bottomless pit by the religious road, as by the way of the wicked.

I feel that, if I could live a thousand lives, I would like to live them all for Christ. Even then, I would feel that they were all too little a return for His great love to me!

Let us never think that we have learned a doctrine, until we have seen its *fruit* in our lives.

Welcome!

Craig and Sara Roose with children
Ciera and Cody from Calvary CRC.

Gerald and Janny Van Dusseldorp
from Village Seven Presbyterian Church

In Memory

Sylvia (Vander Molen) Langstraat



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Pella II Newsletter invites your contribution. Drop a note in the mailbox of any one of our editors.

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