

### **Report of the Volunteer Services Coordinator**

So far this year I have worked in three churches in the Synod of Mid-Atlantics and all three I will be returning in the future to further my work.

First New Brunswick: At this moment I am working there. For the past two and a half years I have been spending two 2-week periods yearly renovating the sanctuary windows. These windows are in deplorable condition as they have not been painted in the last 25 plus years. It takes me nearly a week a window to scrape, remove putty, repair, sand, prime, caulk and putty and then do a final latex coat. The second floor windows have 60 panes which makes this a very tedious job especially when 25 feet up on a ladder. The work I started several years ago is holding up well so I think I am on the right track in this task. I am amazed that the church can actually heat the sanctuary as the air leaks are quite large in these windows and many of the panes have the putty falling off. One can look through the side or bottom on many panes and see the sanctuary. So not only does this work improve the appearance of the church, but it saves it lots of fuel money.

Faith Chapel, Paterson: I was called to do emergency work there this summer as water was coming into the basement and ruining the walls of the sanctuary. I discovered that much of this water was entering through the side of the roof where a concrete strip was falling apart. During heavy rains the water would enter the sides, come down the walls, and accumulate in the basement. There were also issues with the gutters. In one I removed a tennis ball, some packing foam and other materials caught in down spouts. I also did extensive caulking on the roof of the narthex and caulking concrete on the front of the church. The church told me the water "was stopped dead" in the narthex and there was little water in subsequent storms. I have had no report after last month's devastating rain storm. The fix I did there was temporary because all I could do was go up as far as a 40' ladder would go and use concrete caulk and tar caulk. To do the job properly will require a man lift as the roof is slate, is quite steep (more than 12/12) and needs a platform to work from to apply the concrete properly. Only this is a permanent solution. While on the man lift the slate roof needs to be inspected carefully and repaired as needed.

Lots of water has gone into the basement. All the woodwork in the basement had to be removed and trashed because of huge mold issues. When the water issues are taken care of, only then, can the walls be reconstructed. There is probably mold behind some sanctuary walls that probably have to be removed as well. I have been in conversation with mission services of the RCA to see if the Hawleys can spend a month to six weeks at Faith next summer to do the necessary interior work. But before they can start the roof issues must be taken care of or all will be for nothing down the road.

Primera Iglesia Reformada Fuente de Salvacion, Clifton: I spent two plus weeks starting to paint the exterior of this church. There was much help from the congregation as well as Faith Chapel which sent four to six volunteers each day. A man from the congregation was able to secure real good scaffolding free which was a great help. I will return next spring to paint the windows.

As you know part of my work is with the Warwick Center that is half owned by RSM-At. I have spent extra time at Warwick this year because of the deterioration of certain buildings where wood rot is at high risk. Roland Ratmeyer helped me scrape, sand, prime and repair the South Side porch on East House which was in very poor shape due to water damage. I spent a great deal of time on the Sun Room exterior walls which were in horrible shape and looked terrible. Everything was double scraped, double sanded, re-nailed, primed and over 22 canisters of caulk was put around the vinyl thermo windows that I raised the funds for back in 1996. These had not been installed properly and were leaking lots of air because they were very lightly caulked when installed. Since this wall receives heavy sun light and the westerly winds, I slowly did the very best I could with it in the hopes that this paint job will last. There are many others areas of East House and the tunnel structure that must received serious attention in 2011 or we will lose the wood.

If you know of churches that could use volunteer help in 2011, please have them contact me.

Happy Thanksgiving and Peace,

Paul Nulton