



Facility Stewardship Today

“Improving church health through Facility Stewardship”

www.facilityministry.org

Jim Rodgers—Architectural Pastor

Spring, 2016

Facility Stewardship Today

Under Construction is the theme for this 7th installment of Facility Stewardship Today—a newsletter about “Improving church health through Facility Stewardship.”

For His Service & Yours,

“Future Home” Signs—Then and Now!

Future home signs are a special part of God’s plans. They are installed on a piece of property with excitement about God’s work and hope for the future reality.



At NorthBridge Church, in Antioch, IL, this sign identified the future home. Like most church building projects, it took much longer than planned before the actual construction started. As time passed, it was tough to keep up with the vegetation that grew around it. This picture was from August 14, 2013.



By November 10, 2015, the sign was cleaned up and construction was underway!



On May 25, 2016, the sign was repainted with a new look and the project rendering. And the actual building is in the background!

Verse for Today (vft):

“Being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus” (Philippians 1:6—NIV 84).

Ministry Encouragement:

“The pastor or the building committee cannot expect to grasp, much less manage, the thousands of technical details involved in a building project. A large network of hundreds of participants must work together to produce, deliver, and guarantee the end result” (R. Leslie Nichols, “Managing Construction and Remodeling,” in Leadership Handbook of Management & Administration, editor: James Berkley—page 433).

Link Highlight:

For 36 years, Leadership Journal provided the best overall practical tool for pastors (along with legendary cartoons). Times are changing and Leadership will no longer appear in a print magazine format. They are launching a new, online resource at:

<http://ctpastors.com>

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[Prayer: The Essential Foundation of a Successful Project](#)

This view looks out from the Senior Pastor's office at the new building for NorthBridge Church. It may not be very impressive to highlight the concrete foundation wall, gravel subsurface, rebar reinforcing, and steel framing. All these structural elements will be covered by walls, windows, flooring, and finished surfaces—but these foundational elements will still be present within the building. Even though they won't be visible in the finished project, they are absolutely essential for the building to exist.

Many times I'm on the building pad and this spot draws me like a magnet. Before snapping any pictures, I pause for prayer. To me, this spot is representative of the staff and leadership team that have **given so much** to make this building vision become a reality. And most of all, they **prayed so much**.

The foundational structure is essential for a building, just as prayer is the essential foundation for any successful building project. The church traveled a long journey before construction began. The journey included vision, hopes, and dreams. But it also included many obstacles and difficulties. Those can be frustrating and discouraging. However, when prayer is a foundational element, then those frustrating obstacles are viewed through the lens of God's plans and providential workings. In addition, when



May 19, 2016

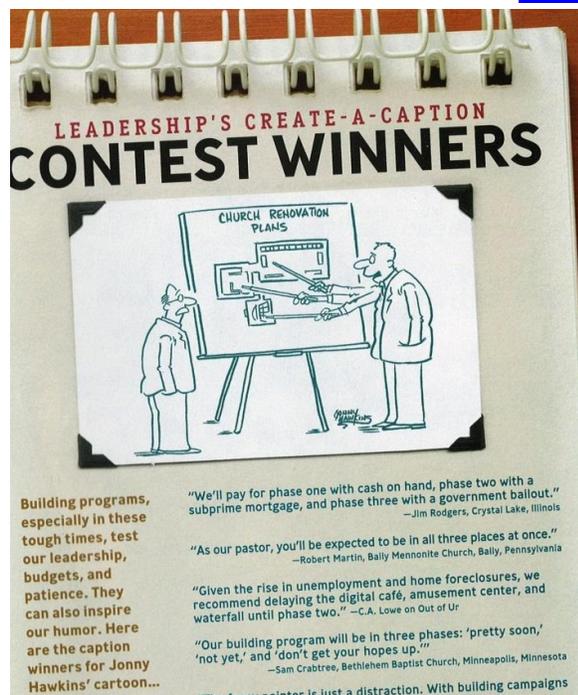
looking backwards, those challenges are seen as divine course corrections.

Every building project needs a solid foundation for success: the structural foundation by physical components and the spiritual foundation by prayer.



March 18, 2016

[Facility Funnies](#)



During construction projects there are times when laughter can be good medicine (see Proverbs 17:22).

When my Leadership Journal would arrive in the mail, I admit to first skimming through to check out the legendary cartoons. In the Spring, 2009 issue their Create-a-Caption contest included a facility cartoon, so I had to submit an entry.

I know many people who are much funnier than I am (in fact, I call myself comedically challenged). So I'm very thankful for those with the gifts of humor that help us keep our sanity during building projects!