

ST. ANDREW'S PARISH HISTORY CONTINUED FROM 1999

The following pages were not included in the 150 year history book published in 1999. This is information and activities that took place after the book was published. They were written and provided by Leonard Schraufnagel

On July 1, 1998 Father Charles Wester was assigned to St. Andrew's parish, Le Roy as the 25th pastor since the founding of St. Andrew's (April 23,1849)

Like his predecessors, Father Charlie carried on the mission of our faith through Christian education and celebrating the liturgy. However, pastoral responsibilities and time constraints out weight those of the earlier church since two parishes are now shepherded with one pastor. These responsibilities were accomplished to the fullest degree.

Other major concerns focus on the ever demanding structural upkeep of parish property. These challenges were met with prayerful study shared with council members.

The first major project was scheduled soon after the turn of the twenty first century, called for blacktopping the parking lot and cemetery road .



Right” Year 2000 .Grading and black-topping by Poboky Construction. .Estimated cost Approximately, \$60.000

Stained Glass Windows

Maintenance with Stained Glass Windows were of highest concern from year to year. The stained glass windows in St. Andrew's church are very special in terms of beauty, craftsmanship, architectural design, and the ever changing combination of color in tune with daylight hours. The decorative windows commemorate the religious, historical , cultural, and the generosity of those who made economic sacrifices in donating the cost of the windows in the early years after the completion of the church building.

In 1997 the fore- man working with the Conrad Schmitt Co. ask members of the building and grounds committee to inspect the windows while the scaffolding was still in place as the higher stained glass pieces had shown advanced departure from the lead came and buckling in the lower part of the windows have become more evident, Not only were the stained glass panels pulling apart, but the 90 year old wood tracery showed excessive deterioration from the elements. In light of compounded problems, the committee was faced with complete restoration of stained glass releading and in addition, the building of new tracery.

The concern of the building and grounds committee was the preserve the irreplaceable windows on a No. 1 priority bases, and a restoration program was formulated.

Vendors consulted were Thomas Blochwitz of VerHalen Company and the Pella Window firm of Madison and Dean Stewart of Green Bay. Gilbert Decker of Decker Studios of Winona , Minn, Merle Glasser of Wausau, WI. and Robert Kirshling Studios of Green Bay, WI.

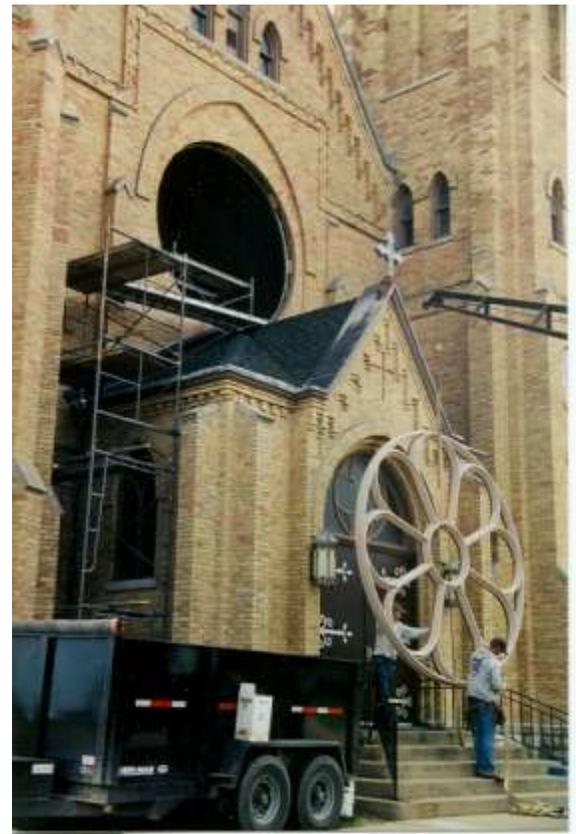
Once again, The Conrad Studios Inc. of New Berlin were the only vendors that offered to restore the stained glass windows and also build new traceries for St. Andrew's church. The other vendors were only interested in stained glass restoration.

The option of wood as opposed to aluminum tracery was discussed. The committee called on Wausau Aluminum Windows and met Les Raboin. It was pointed out that if St. Andrew's was interested in aluminum fabrication of tracery, some precious stained glass would have to be compromised resulting in a loss of its original beauty and integrity.

Further more, the cost to fabricate dies to produce extruded aluminum tracery was beyond St. Andrew's budget.



Left:: Installation of window tracery 2001.
Installation cost for Nativity and Ascension
Windows, \$250,000



Right: Workmen installing Rose Window tracery in 2003. In addition, the one-half round windows above the center entrance and bell tower entrance were also replaced with new tracery. However, the St. Andrew's window was re-leaded and the out side storm glass was replaced with tinted glass to enhance the color of the window for interior viewing .St. Andrew's window original tracery was retained. Extensive brick work needed in the lower part of window frame. The Rose window and St. Andrew were repaired in 2004 for a cost of \$90,000

Retirement was soon to come for Father Charlie in June 2005, however before Father's retirement a New Rodgers Trillium Organ was installed in St. Andrew's church. The Victorian Gothic church is now graced with an instrument of sound and beauty to enhance the worship experience. The \$50,000 instrument with multiple key board delivers music pleasing to human ears and especially when the organist has firm control of the volume control.

As we bid Father Charlie Wester a great retirement, the parish welcomed Father Tom Biersack July 2005 to shepherd St. Mary's and St. Andrew's parish

St. Andrew's continued the weekly Mass schedule offered by retired Father Robert Berhammer. The school children attended Mass every Friday on a regular schedule. The children's Friday attendance was always special for the seniors, as a reminder of our youth in parochial school, and at that time, when we attended Mass daily.

In 2007 the window trim on the exterior of the church was painted including the bell tower lovers.

In addition, Tuck pointing, Seal Coating, Shingles replaced, and Capping completed.

Parish Maintenance

Since St. Andrew's parish depended on volunteer maintenance in terms minimal repair work such as bulb replacement or clock timer adjustments, etc. however, a heavier job description called for some agreement between the provider of service and parish council,

Starting in the year 2000 Leonard Schraufnagel retired from all volunteer maintenance; Michael Vollmer carried on for several years assisted by Kenneth Bauer. In time, Gerry Weinberger undertook church and school maintenance for several years followed by new parish member Kenneth Kunstmann. Kenneth also entered into the service as a member of The Buildings and Grounds Committee.

In the Spring of 2009 several issues of special maintenance had to be addressed. St. Andrew's church was painted in 1997 by The Conrad Schmitt Studios of New Berlin. However, during the past 12 years a noticeable amount of soot had accumulated above the radiators showing shades of black and gray. Once again, volunteer Joan Collien, Joan Nitchke, Ruth and Gerry Gassner, Lavern Hinkes and Stella Bauer cleaned the church walls and provided the church with a new refreshed appearance.



Retirement was soon to come for Father Charlie in June 2005, however.

An agreement between St. Andrew's Parish and The Le Roy Athletic Club, the playground equipment was open for new ownership as plans of added parking space were formulated to alleviate the Athletic Clubs congested parking problem.



Former School Playground



New parking lot

The following message was entered into the parish bulletin October 23, 2009
“A very sincere thank you to the Waas family, Stan, Randy, Brian, Dave, and Duane for their time and equipment for the St. Andrew's parking lot addition. Your generosity in this project is greatly appreciated.

St. Andrew's Congregation and the Le Roy Athletic Club.”

Exterior Wall Restoration

The annoying leakage of rainwater showing discolored shades of paint below the two large interior windows called for professional analyses in the Spring of 2009.

On April 16, 2009 the Conrad Schmitt personnel performed a series of water tests on the installed window assemblies on the east, north, and west elevation of St. Andrew's church. The purpose of the water testing was to determine the sources of recurring leakage to the building interior. In general, the observation that were made called for immediate repairs in an effort to stop the recurring water entry to the building interior.

The multiple detailed page study with recommended steps and photos called for bids of reputable Building Restoration Contractors. Holton Brothers Inc. was awarded the contract to perform this specialized restoration project.



Repair in progress. November 2009



Volunteer service brought about the replacement of the handicap ramp early in the Summer of 2009 . Men and friends of the parish removed and replaced the attractive and sturdy ramp including a new entranced door.

As we look back a few years , perhaps 2004- 2005 , a strong straight wind took down some of the largest trees in the school playground area. This too was corrected in short order as down trees were soon cut up and new trees planted.

As the school year closed, in the Spring of 2009 it was decided that all children attending St. Andrew's would enter St. Mary's school beginning the Fall session. In light this change, playground equipment at the St. Andrew's was deemed a liability as supervision was no longer available.

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St .Andrew's The Apostle Catholic Church, Le Roy, Wisconsin was awarded a place on the State Register of Historic Places during a meeting of the Wisconsin Historic Preservation Board held at Eau Claire on October 23, 2009

