



# MINISTRY SPOTLIGHT

February 2024



First Presbyterian Church of Ambler  
4 S Ridge Ave., Ambler PA 19002 fpcambler.org

## UNSUNG HEROES RENOVATE CHOIR ROOM

**The following excerpts are from Bruce Ruhf's blog, edited by Jodi Wolper.**

For more pictures and the entire blog follow this link:

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/9RNU73WPQRjtwAs2A>

or scan the QR code.



With unwavering commitment and a touch of secrecy, Bruce Ruhf, Rich Myers and others have spent many hours over the past three months renovating the choir room in the basement.

This comprehensive transformation included:

- painting the ceiling grid
- replacing the ceiling tiles
- installation of new lighting
- scraping and painting the walls
- stripped, waxed and buffed the floor
- installed new base moulding



There were some interesting things discovered in the ceiling. We found an old door bell that allowed the Music Director (40 years ago), to let music students into the building from the door on Ridge Avenue. We removed the disconnected wiring, but left the bell.

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## CHOIR RENOVATION (continued)



Sunday December 3, We attacked the bad walls. First, we laid plastic to collect the debris. Next, we began scraping. The the wall was cleaned with a wire wheel on a drill. To finish, we painted with a sealer.



This section shown above needed masonry patching and then was painted.

The idea to paint the ceiling grid with the tiles in place proved to be a bad idea.

Now we need to scrape excess paint off the sides of the grid. Rich wanted me to go around the room and do this with a scrapper while he was installing ceiling tiles. My engineer hat was placed on my head and I made a tool that could be used from the floor. It's made from a wet mop handle and a putty knife/taping knife.



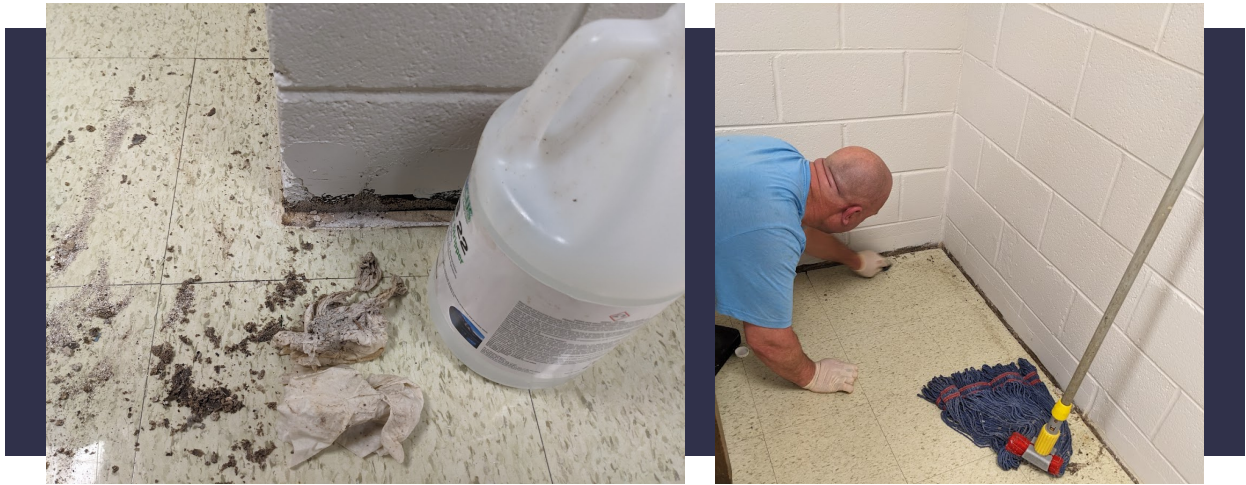




## CHOIR RENOVATION (continued)

Next up: Floor border at the walls – hand stripping. We'll be on our hands and knees cleaning the old finish and the dirt from the wall/floor joint.

Rich tested the method of getting the edges of the floor cleaned. It was not as fast going as hoped but he did about 20 feet along the front wall. Session meeting prevented my assistance. Rich and I finished the cleaning of the tile edges on our hands and knees again, praying the job will be lifted from us.



Superbowl Sunday, we will strip the floor with the buffer. The Smiths, Todd, Troy and Elliott, will join us. John Ingram is supposed to help but he sprained an ankle jumping hurdles at the Session meeting on Tuesday night!





## CHOIR RENOVATION (continued)

Men from the church moved the furniture out of the room before the South Ridge service began. At 1:00 pm, a team consisting of Elliot, Troy, and Todd Smith, Rich Myers, John Ingram, Ryan Balsan and yours truly went to work stripping the old finish from the floor. It has been 40 years since I have done this but it came back quickly. I had to learn about the modern floor finishes used today. They are very different. Monday night, the first coat of floor finish will be applied. 2nd coat Tuesday night. Thursday, the wall base will be installed. Saturday at 9, the furniture will be moved back in.

Monday, February 12 – first finish coat was applied. ***When I left, the floor looked like glass.***



Thanks goes to many but let me try to capture all: Rich Myers, the B&G project manager; Todd, Troy, and Elliot Smith, floor cleaners supreme; Linda Ruhf, Dave Wise, Suzy Moore, Don Kazen, Sandy Rawlins, Nancy Davies-Hathen, Mike Joy – the melodious cleaners; John Ingram, John Astler, Chuck Brumbaugh – the muscle bound shakers and movers of B&G; a group of men from South Ridge who moved the heavy items out for floor cleaning; and then the curmudgeon bear who has written this story (Bruce Ruhf.)

***Thanks be to God for His provision making this project a success.  
May God bless those that use this room in preparation for leading worship  
and may the sounds they make bring joy and meaning to all. Amen.***





## YOUTH PHILLY BLITZ WEEKEND

Our youth launched into the new year with a Philadelphia Project “Blitz” retreat weekend, February 2-4, 2024. The mission of Philadelphia Project is to partner with a local church, serve our most vulnerable neighbors, and provide transformative service opportunities.



“It was a good time to be with the youth group and get to know some of the kids better. When we went to Mrs. Williams house and worked she really appreciated it and she was such a nice lady. My favorite part was when we played Dutch blitz because it was fun and we were laughing but at sometimes it was really intense. -Troy Smith (youth student)



“This trip was special for me because it was the first time I did a service project with my son Troy.

It was a great weekend of serving, playing games, connecting with the youth, and most importantly, growing in our faith.

Todd Smith (youth parent)



# HOLY WEEK

**Palm Sunday, March 24**  
Sunday worship 9am & 10:30am

**Maundy Thursday, March 28**  
Light supper at 6:45 pm  
and Communion in Fellowship Hall.

**Good Friday, March 29**  
Worship in Sanctuary at 7:30 pm

*Easter Sunday, March 31*



## EASTER SUNDAY

7:00 AM Sunrise  
8:45 AM Traditional  
10:45 AM Contemporary



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Join us for a **Easter Egg Hunt**  
on **Easter Sunday, March 31!**

We'll host our church and community members  
between services starting at 10:15 am.

This is open to all kids from birth - 5th grade  
and their families.



**First Presbyterian Church of Ambler**  
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A place where lives are changed by Christ  
and we live out our faith together.

