

St. James Church crumbling walls stabilized

By David Scribner

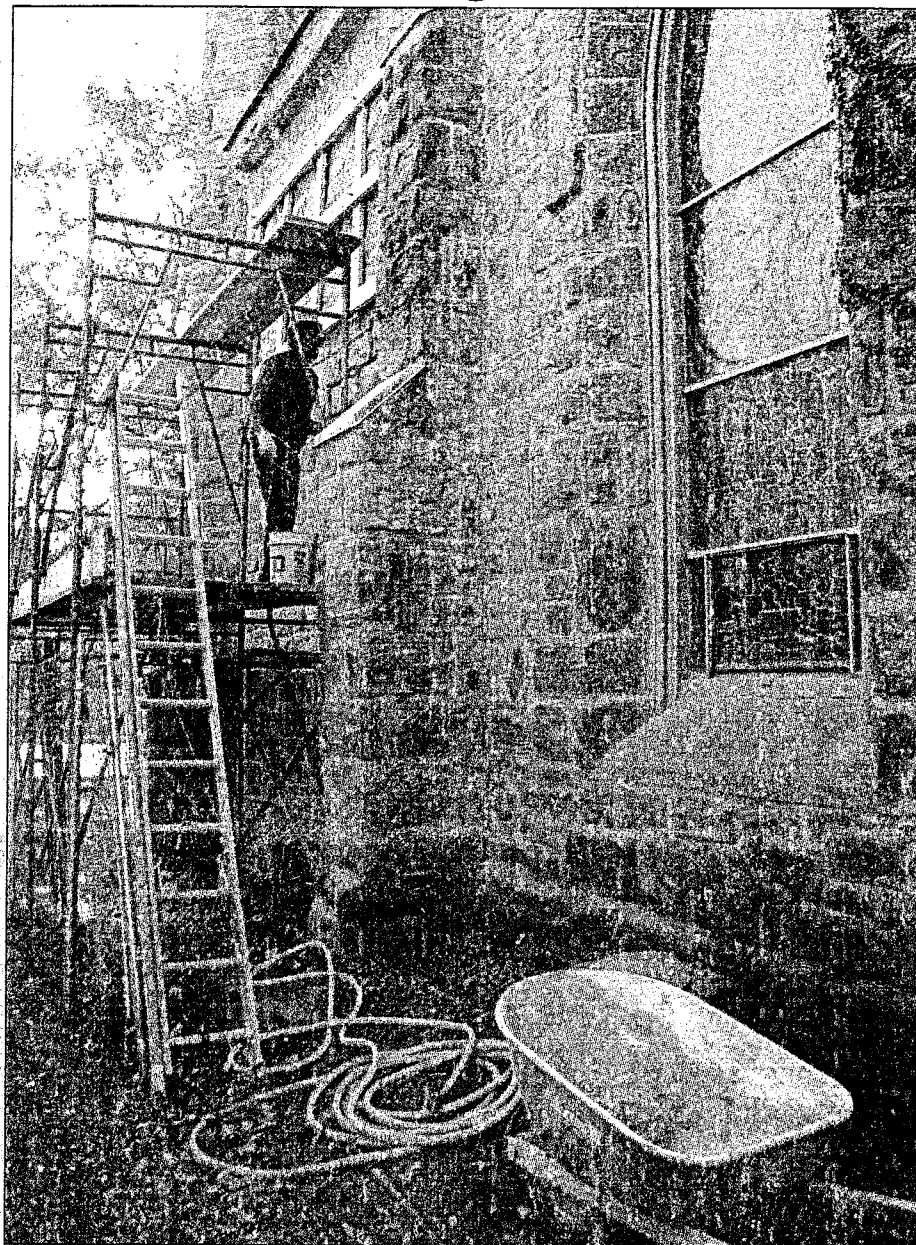
GREAT BARRINGTON — By mid-November, if all goes as planned, the 154-year-old blue stone walls of St. James Church at the corner of Taconic Avenue and Main Street will no longer be in danger of falling down.

Over the past two months, workers from Allegrone Construction have been repointing the stone work and injecting grout into the cavity between the interior and exterior walls in an effort to stabilize the structure.

In the summer of 2009, the back wall of the sanctuary partially collapsed, pitching a large hunk of stone onto the car of St. James' rector, the Rev. Frances Hill. Fortunately, she was not in the vehicle, but the event prompted Building Inspector Edwin May to declare the building unsafe for occupancy.

What a preliminary examination revealed was the interior and exterior walls had not been tied together, allowing them to spread apart.

Faced with the massive expense to repair and maintain the church — and to refurbish the Parrish House — the 85-member St. James congregation sold the property to parishioner Sally Harris, who envisioned transforming the church sanctuary into a performing arts venue and adjoining par-



David Scribner

Work is being done on the interior and exterior walls to stabilize the structure.

ish house into a center for nonprofit organizations. She named the nonprofit complex

St. James Place, and hired the Community Development Corporation of South

Berkshire as the project

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Foreclosure buyers their in High court ru could void p

By Jim Russell

Keeping an eye on National Bank is becoming a full time job for Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court.

When U.S. Bank National Association [US Bank] foreclosed on a property — more than 10 weeks before it had been signed the actual mortgage — the error set in motion a chain reaction of misadventure for Francis J. Bevilacqua.

It is the second time in two years the state's highest court has found U.S. Bank transferred property in a foreclosure mortgage action — when it lacked authority to legally assign the property.

This time, U.S. Bank National Association is holding the property.

Bevilacqua had recorded a master deed to establish four condo units — after 10 years of "possession" of the property five years ago. He since "sold" three of the units.

Last week Mass. Superior Judicial Court Judge Bevilacqua he does not them.

"Bevilacqua has identified no basis on which it might be concluded that he has retained title to the property," located at 126-128 Summer Street, Haverhill, the court ruled Oct. 18. The case is Francis J. Bevilacqua, III, vs. Patricia Rodriguez. Rodriguez's whereabouts is unknown. He did not appear at the Superior Court or at a previous action involving the state land court.

This mortgage was started in 2006 — two years before the financial meltdown of the US economy.



Jim Russell

Entrance to 9-acre property at 502 Woodman Rd.

O'Brien case before ZBA drags on without resolve

By David Scribner

GREAT BARRINGTON — Perhaps the town needs a lawyer to represent its interests.

Building Inspector Edwin May certainly does in order to have a chance to explain his determination of what constitutes a violation of zoning

and desist orders, finding that O'Brien's multifaceted operation on Roger's Road does not comply with the town's residential zoning criteria. At the hearing, despite a call from the Board of Selectmen for the ZBA to have counsel and despite a reiteration of the board's support for the building inspector

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people say "try me" and I tell them, the question is always the same - "so is that like, near Boston?"

Recently, my uncle, a long time employee of Boyd Converting company in

he had left. I immediately got in my car and made the seven hour trek to BMC to see my uncle for one last time.

His daughter was there with him. She told me that

was shocked. There, along a long line of buffet tables, sat several items donated from local businesses for raffle as well as a huge array of beautiful framed sports memorabilia for a silent auction. I flipped through the pages of local businesses and families that donated money. I looked around the room and saw several people donating the most precious gift of all—their time to make this happen.

I met Randy Koldys, the man behind this wonderful organization "Friends of Moe." It is an organization to help families dealing with cancer. He has clearly dedicated his heart and his soul and is truly passionate

proud to be from Great Barrington, a small town with a big heart.

I cannot begin to express my gratitude to all the local businesses and individuals who have made this possible. I most would like to thank Randy Koldys, the person who made this possible. I hope he understands what a phenomenal job he is doing for this community. He has given my family a great peace of mind and hope that he will continue to do this for future families. Thank you to everyone that participated in any way for this event.

Nicole Nowobilski lives and works as a veterinary technician in Columbia, MD.

St. James' crumbling walls being stabilized

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manager.

"I was just astounded that the back wall had not completely collapsed," recounted CDC project manager Hank Henward who is overseeing the rehabilitation of the church. "The back wall had bulged out 15 inches. It was a miracle it hadn't fallen down. Allegrone is doing a really good job. They anticipated problems before they happened."

To rebuild the back wall,

and to maintain its historic integrity, each of the stones was numbered when it was removed, and put back in its previous location.

"It was quite a complicated process," Henward noted.

To satisfy building code regulations, the walls will be x-rayed to make sure the space between the walls is filled with mortar. Henward explained that the structural stabilization completes Phase I of what is anticipated to be a \$5.7 million renovation of church and parish house.



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