

BUILDING A SPIRITUAL SPACE

'GO' DECISION IN 2017, FINISHED IN 2019

PITTSBURGH FRIENDS MEETING 9/12/22

What we started with ...

Purchased in April 1966,
along with another mansion
where the parking lot is
now, the first Meeting for
Worship was held October
23, 1966, with 126 present.
There is a carriage house in
back.



425
MANSION
SOCIETY OF FRIENDS
CHURCH
18th & North Street
ANNONCE
Services on Wednesdays
10:00 AM
Book Meeting Place
www.mansionsociety.org
612-801-2444

Wedding in 2014

Note clerks' chairs at left, the tables outside for hospitality. There was a porch but much smaller than now, and no raised patio. There was a chair lift directly left of the camera, the only access for handicapped.



Hospitality indoors, also 2014, also for a wedding. Not usually this fancy. Note plethora of goodies, bulletin boards, mantel with plants at right. Picture taken from kitchen door with coffee out of frame at left. At the EXIT sign were stairs into the meeting room to the right.



Seminar in 2012.
New corridor would be to
the left. Taken from the
stairs into the meeting
room.



Report to Called Meeting for Business

April 30, 2017

Building Spiritual Space Committee

The decision was made in
2017

This is what the back and
east side looked like before
we began.



Our Requirements

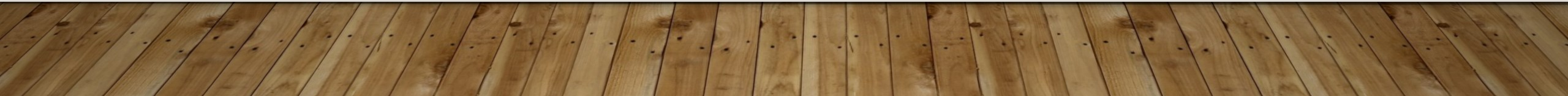
- Easy access for all through at least one entrance
- Minimal disruption from people entering room
- Durability
- Energy efficiency
- Minimize future maintenance cost
- Full accessibility to the Meeting Room and first floor
- ADA compliance
- Fire alarm system

Our Vision

- Light - more light in the room, preferably including more natural light
- Sense of connection to the outside natural surroundings
- Acoustics - internal: enable all to hear
- Noise - minimize external (e.g. parking lot, second floor)
- Comfortable seating
- Plainness/simplicity - in the Quaker tradition

Finance
Committee
toasts the go-
ahead.

Plans were
drawn up and
approved, a
contractor
hired, and the
loan was
signed June 3,
2019.



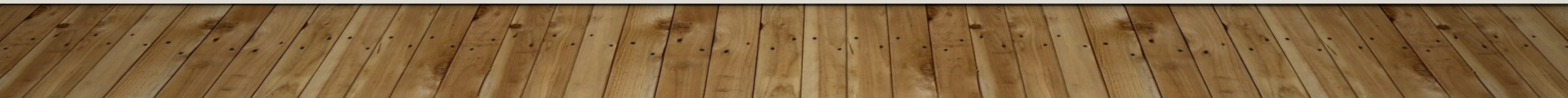
Foundations



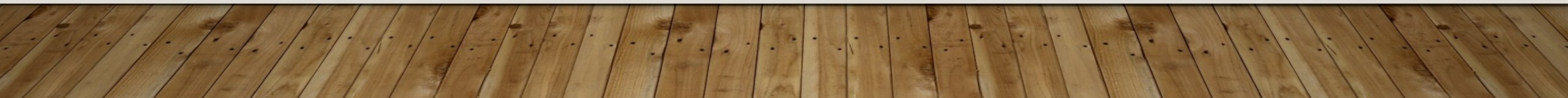
Foundations



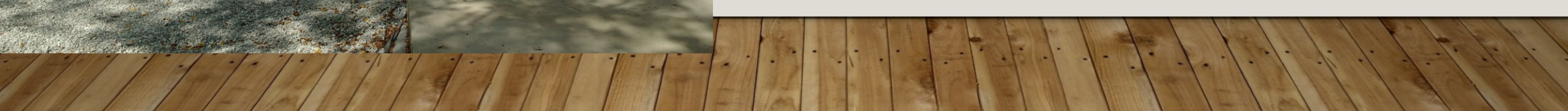
Back porch
started!



Worship in the driveway tent during construction.

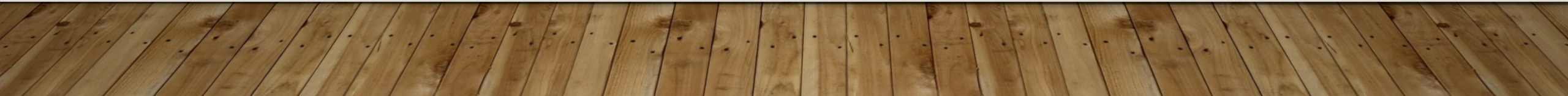


Construction Begins ...
Patio below, entry to the right



Inside Work ...

Note the double doors, now gone, leading to the rest of the first floor. The wood wall siding was taken down, refinished, and put back up for the walls we have now.



Summer stretches
into autumn. It's
getting closer.



And winter ...
It's usable now
but don't fall off
the patio!





Finally we are wheelchair accessible!

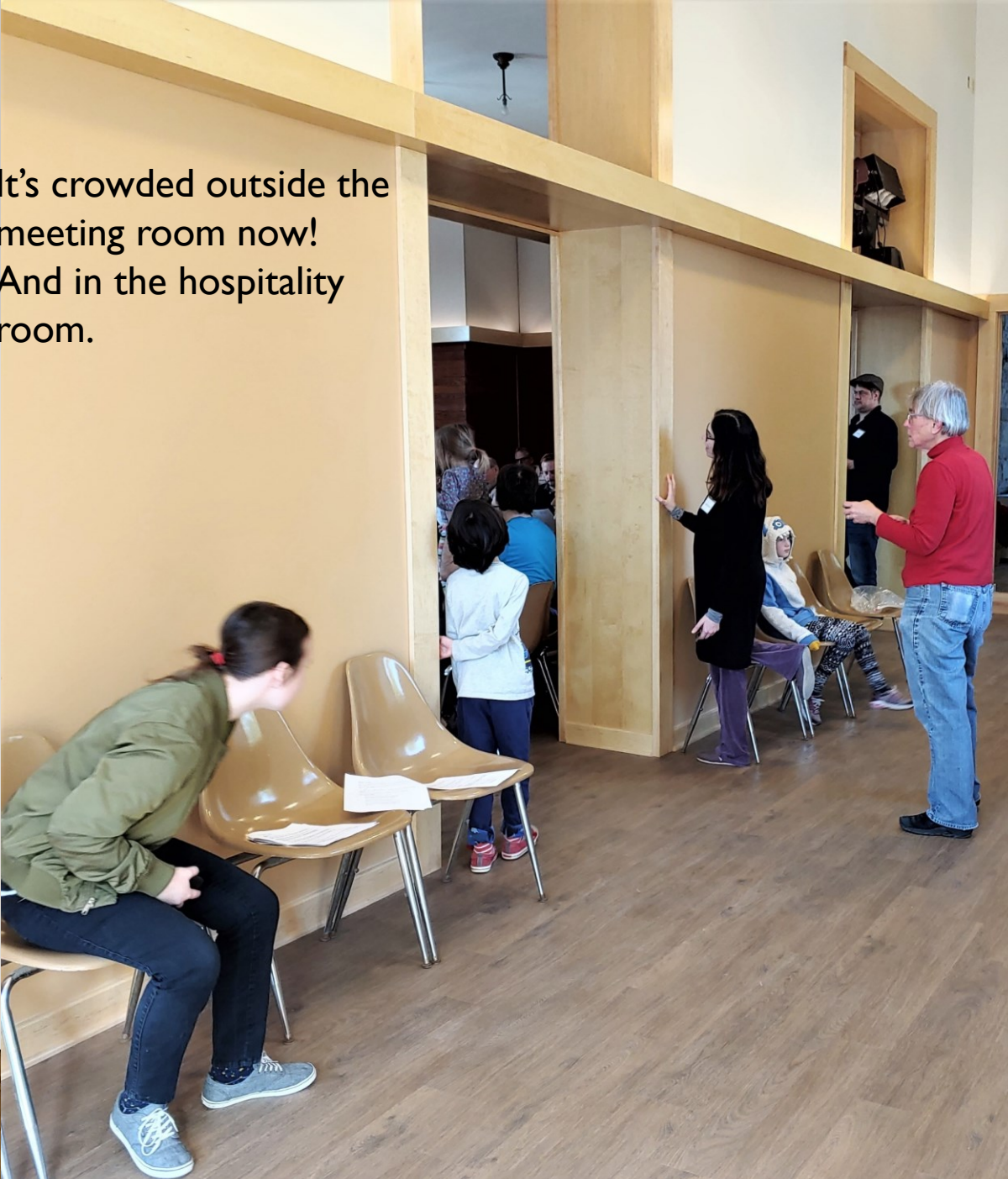


December 2019 – Big party!

Not completely finished, but close. It actually took another year to do the details.



It's crowded outside the meeting room now!
And in the hospitality room.



Aren't the skylights pretty?

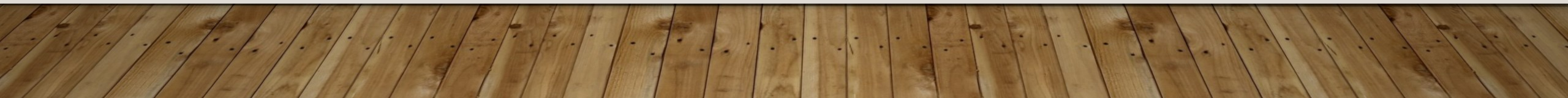


Signing the
Commemoration



Christmas Singing 2019 and tending to green friends ...

And a couple weeks later, COVID strikes.



We didn't know the impact of the pandemic at Christmas 2019, but we've got this shiny part-new Meeting House, and were fully using it for 4-5 months, then everything shut down in the middle of March 2020.



Beautiful with the light,
including skylights,
accessible. A young Friend
sketched the renovated
Meeting House.



I like to remember moments like this, with a small crowd meeting and greeting.

We're going for it.

JOIN US!



SLIDE SHOW BY ERIC STARBUCK

Photos by Elise Yoder and Eric Starbuck
Architectural Drawings by Cochran Associates

