

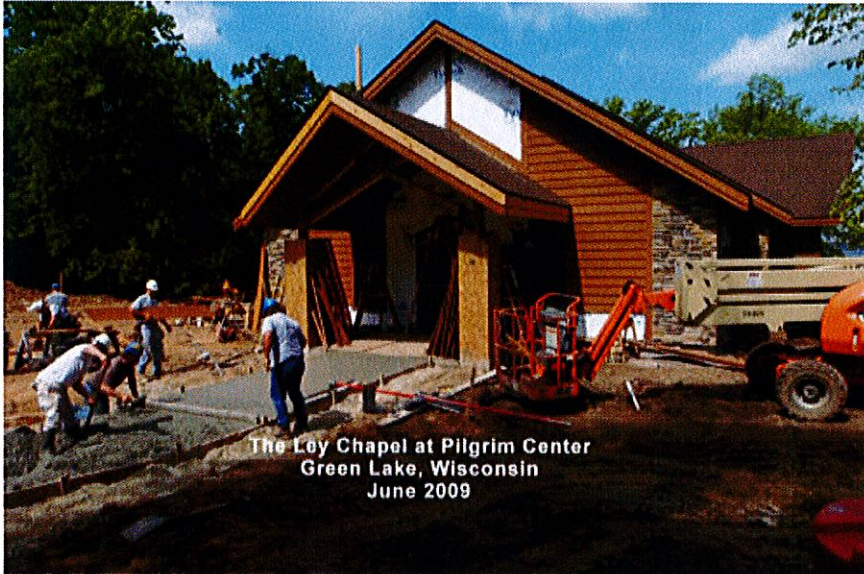
# THE PILGRIM PRESS

Green Lake, Wisconsin

Pilgrim Center

June 20, 2009

## Ley Chapel at Pilgrim Center Nears Completion!



The Ley Chapel at Pilgrim Center  
Green Lake, Wisconsin  
June 2009

***“Don’t let the architecture of people  
get in the way of the  
architecture of God’s creation”***

It was almost hard to believe when the construction managers from Ganther Construction in Oshkosh told us that they would begin work on the new chapel in January. Sure enough, the second week of the month they demolished the old chapel. Throughout one of the coldest Januarys in memory the construction team worked tirelessly to meet a June 14<sup>th</sup> “available to use” deadline. Despite the cold and several other unforeseen delays, the chapel was available for our campers with the Muscular Dystrophy Association Camp on June 14<sup>th</sup>.

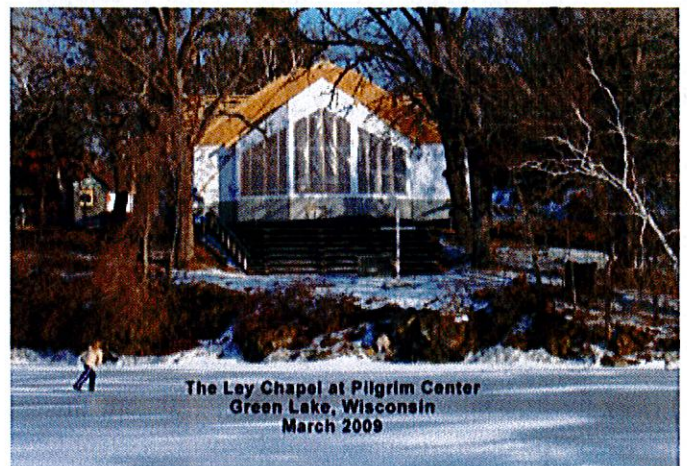
According to AJ Schmude, the construction supervisor, the remaining work will be completed by the first week of July. The exterior work is completely done and most of the interior is done, too. Remaining work includes trim around the floor-to-ceiling windows that overlook Green Lake, installation of plumbing and heating systems, and floor finishes.

As our architect was designing this building one minister advised the building committee “don’t let the architecture of people get in the way of the architecture of God’s creation”. The architect and building committee took this advice to heart. The new chapel features three massive floor-to-

ceiling windows with a beautiful view of Green Lake and the wooded area around Vesper Point. Earthy tones and textures were used inside to blend the indoors with the outdoors. Operating skylights and windows on the lake side provide a wonderful breeze through the sanctuary. The carpet in the sanctuary will include a labyrinth.

In addition to the architectural features of the chapel, the camp board invested heavily in earth-friendly green technologies. The windows have UV coating to reduce the tendency of the sun to heat the indoor space in the summer. The walls include two kinds of insulation to provide an airtight shell. A geothermal loop system will provide heating and cooling for this facility using the warm and cool stored eight feet below the ground. Although we have not yet raised all of the funds for this added investment, the board felt strongly that our building should reflect a commitment to care for God’s creation in word and action.

Most people who have toured the chapel – even while it is still under construction – use words like “stunning”, “amazing”, and “simply beautiful”. The chapel will provide a wonderful worship and meeting space where many thousands of guests will experience God and learn more about their own faith journey. This is a place where the community will gather for all kinds of celebrations for many generations to come!



The Ley Chapel at Pilgrim Center  
Green Lake, Wisconsin  
March 2009



## Have A Seat!



Over the last 9 months many campers, guests, and friends of Pilgrim Center have given generously to make sure "there is a chair in the circle for every camper". Donors provided funds – generally in increments of \$45 (the cost of one chair) to purchase beautiful, comfortable seats for this worship and meeting space.

Over the winter we tested

samples of the chapel chairs at meetings in our office. They are *very* impressive! A person can easily sit in one of these chairs for a couple of hours. That's not to say that it can settle a young squirming camper, but at least they will be comfortable when they squirm!

So far we have funds for 125 chairs out of a goal of 150. We are well within reach of our goal – only 25 left to go!

If you can help to make sure there is a chair in the circle for every camper with a gift please talk with Jeff Puhlmann-Becker, the director at Pilgrim Center, at 920-PILGRIM or by email to [jeff@ucci.org](mailto:jeff@ucci.org).

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## There's Still Space in Many Summer Camps Events!

Summer camp registrations have been quite strong, despite a challenging economy. "Camp is a value which defies calculation in dollars and cents" says Jeff Puhlmann-Becker, the director at Pilgrim Center. "Campers come to camp to have fun and make friends and, along the way, the learn more about themselves, about their faith, and about God. They experience God though others in the camp community – through a kind word or deed by a friend. They see God in nature."

Camp is a place where leaders are born, where confidence is found, and where generosity of the heart is an every-day occurrence. The "anti-bullying curriculum" in our schools has long been a part of the culture of camp.

There's still space for you – whatever your age! Call our office (920-PILGRIM) to check availability in an event for you and to register today!

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## A New Chapel – and Four New Cabins, too!



Last fall we started an ambitious building phase in the life of our camp. In addition to the new chapel, we started building four new cabins to replace some of the old 1950's cabins which have served us so well for many years.

The goal was the same as it was for the chapel – the new cabins needed to be "ready to use" on June 14<sup>th</sup> for our first campers. And thanks to more than 100 volunteers they were, with only a few hours to spare!

Last fall more than 50 people descended on camp and, over the course of 10 days the shells of four cabins were standing. This spring many more volunteers helped finish the interior of these cabins – and they are beautiful, bright, big, and airy!

In addition to the many people who gave of their time and skills, we're grateful to St. Marks and St. James UCC in Cleveland, Immanuel UCC in Plymouth, Congregational UCC in Neenah, and Bethlehem UCC in Kiel for the majority of the funding for these cabins. Thanks to their generosity and faith these cabins will be a home away from home for the next few generations of campers who will discover more about themselves and God at camp!

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Pilgrim Center is one of two camps owned and operated by United Church Camps, Inc. UCCI is a ministry of the Wisconsin Conference UCC. For more information about how you can help or give to further the camp ministry program; about our year round camps and retreats; or to inquire about renting our facilities for your church, non-profit, family, or business group contact our office.

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