

From Upper Lodge to Fellowship Lodge

Early in the history of Krislund, two lodges were built which were geographically called “Upper Lodge” and “Lower Lodge.” The story of the Lower Lodge will be told in a later article, but this is how the Upper Lodge became Fellowship Lodge.

The Upper Lodge was surrounded by 4 cabins beautifully made with knotty pine walls and bunk beds to sleep



8 campers. The cabins were nice enough for campers but had no bathrooms. Campers traveled to the Upper Lodge bathrooms.



As the camp board determined to develop accommodations that would be attractive to adults for retreats, one of the options was determined to be enlarging the Upper Lodge to include four large bedrooms with bathrooms which would replace the cabins that utilized the Lodge for meeting space. (Since the sewage system would not accommodate additional occupancy, environmental regulations required that the cabins be demolished.)

In true Krislund style, very little of the old cabins was wasted. The knotty pine ceiling was taken down, cleaned, stained and made into wainscoting for the new rooms that would be attached to the old Upper Lodge. Volunteers, led by Maintenance Director Kent Rischel and volunteer from the State College Presbyterian Church, Kevin Lloyd, spent the winter of 2009/10 preparing the wood.



Rick Carrier (Logan Valley Church) and Rev. Al Wilson (retired) plane the pine.



Holly Kithcart (Phillipsburg Church) and Bob Dannaker (Bellefonte Church) helped stain the boards and Rev Barry Vance (retired) explained how the wainscoting would look.



Also during that winter and spring Krislund staff and volunteers designed and made the bunk beds that would go into the bedrooms. The beds were built to accommodate the double mattresses that were donated to the camp from Toftrees, thanks to Kevin Lloyd. Many hands made the job of creating the 16 bunk beds as a joyful task.



Spencer Hauenstine sanding, Jim Crawford routing the edges, Bill Haughaut and many other painting the finished bed stands.

Building of Fellowship

Once the weather broke in 2010 construction of the new 4 bedroom addition began under the guidance of Kent Rischel and Kevin Lloyd. These two men kept the enthusiasm for the project high and Rev. Barry Vance helped to rally volunteers from throughout the area. Throughout the Spring and Summer of that year, volunteers came nearly every day to help with the construction of the building. Once the foundation of the building was dug, volunteers were responsible for much of the construction and finishing of the building.



Kent and Kevin prepare the foundation for the concrete wall Dick Kithcart (Phillipsburg), Carl Jaymens (Shade Gap) and Jim Crawford (Sinking Valley) work to replace the roof of the old Upper Lodge.



Kevin Lloyd prepares the rafter to receive the flooring. Barry Vance and Kevin haul the flooring while Nancy Simmons (East Kish Church) prepares to nail the flooring and Dick Kithcart and Barry carry in the wall frames that had been made and donated by the Derry Church.



The roofing went on with the help of professionals and volunteers, a deck connecting the old and new was added and the siding was added to match other buildings at Krislund.

Holly Kithcart helped spray the siding which was cut and sawn on the camp property utilizing the saw mill.

Much activity occurred during the summer of 2010 and the volunteers formed lasting friendships. It was during this time that it was decided to rename the building "Fellowship Hall."

Once the structure was under roof, there was still much work to be done. The flooring for the rooms, for example, had been cut from Krislund wood and sent to be kiln dried. Further, volunteers also made the baseboard and trim that was needed to complete the wainscoting. The boards were cut to size, run through the shaper and stained to match the knotty pine wainscoting.

The oak floor boards were sawn to width with lap joints to fit together and wood plugs were made to fill screw holes that held the flooring in place. One difficulty arose when installing the flooring, Some of the boards had warped while waiting to be installed and the task of installing became difficult. As a result the last two bedrooms were covered with oak flooring that was purchased.



Dick Kithcart, and Jim Crawford along with Jeff Eyet and Barry Vance putting down the flooring while Bil Haughaut sweeps and Dick Kithcart looks for straight floor boards.

Linda Vance gluing in the hand made wooden plugs.

Many volunteers did a variety of different jobs. If the volunteers didn't know how to do something they soon learned. For example, volunteers hung doors and installed the wainscoting, the baseboards and chair rails which were all made in the Krislund shop. Volunteers also took the old insulation from the four original cabins and insulated underneath the floors of the new bedrooms. They finished building the beds once the frames were inside the rooms, installed shelving, and hung pictures. The chairs donated by Toftrees were reupholstered, matching curtains were made, and Dick Killam made 4 conference tables to be placed in the rooms. Outside they planted holly and boxwood bushes, day lilies and other donated flowers. As 2010 came to a close, staff and volunteers at Krislund celebrated the tremendous work of the year: the year that the old Upper Lodge was revitalized into the Fellowship Lodge. The lodge is cozy, contains bathrooms in each bedroom, handicapped accessibility and a brand new kitchen. However, the rustic atmosphere of the original building remains.



Old Ktichen



New Kitchen