

Allen Keith restores storm-damaged church

From a small group of twenty people meeting at a local high school in 1956, Community Church of the Portage Lakes has grown to a thriving congregation with hundreds of members. Church meeting facilities grew accordingly: By July of 1999, the physical plant consisted of the church, offices, classrooms, library, and meeting rooms, serving the Portage Lakes and surrounding communities.

On Friday, July 9, 1999, disaster arrived from the west. A ferocious storm blew through the Portage Lakes. It tore across Manchester Road, through the church parking



Over 7,000 square feet of tarpaulins provide temporary protection (left). At right, all roof sheathing has been replaced, with installation of new shingles nearly complete.

lot and directly toward the west end of the church.

Significant structural damage

When the storm quieted, the community witnessed the damage: The wooden steeple

was gone. The brick chimney was gone. Large sections of the church roof and ceiling—trim, shingles and four-inch-thick, tongue-and-groove sheathing—gone!

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Our team puts people's lives back together

*Daniel Keith Hanlon
 President, Allen Keith
 Construction*

Teamwork.

From accounting to switchboard, receptionist to office manager, the Allen Keith staff works together efficiently, for the utmost customer satisfaction. The same is true of our construction personnel. Estimators, managers and construction crews work together to get the job done.

Allen Keith hires reliable team-players... unlike many construction companies that sub-contract their work.

Our team is there 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Our customers demand it. That is why many insurance agents and adjusters, fire and police

departments, and small and large businesses call on us time and again. We want to be part of their team!

We recently sent our "A-team" to a large reconstruction project in Coventry Township. Read about tremendous wind damage to the Church of the Portage Lakes in this issue of Re-Constructions. No job is too large or small for the Allen Keith team.

We also assisted a Stark County condominium association after a fire destroyed its community center. Photos and story inside...

Once again, Dave's LifeSavers offers common-sense ideas and tips on home and business safety. Dave DeMeo's column is a pro-

active measure to enlighten "Re-Constructions" readers. Dave is a well-known Safety Consultant, available to speak to your company or group.

Please share this newsletter with others in your organization. Or send us their name and address and we will include them on our mailing list. Your comments and suggestions regarding "Re-Constructions" are valuable, and I invite you to call, mail or fax them to me.

Thank you... from every member of our team.



Frank Hegarty & friends ... Cleaning up after the big ones

Franks Hegarty knows first hand about the damage nature can inflict. Again and again, he's seen how raging fires, flooding waters and high winds wreak havoc on homes and businesses.

With 30 years of experience in reconstruction (the last five with Allen Keith Construction Co.) it's second nature for Frank to oversee the successful repair and rebuilding of damaged sites. As an Estimator (he's one of six at Allen Keith), Frank has made it his life's work to help home and business owners pick up the pieces, rebuild and recover from the effects of fire, smoke, soot, water, wind, vandalism and vehicle damage.

A graduate of Ohio University with a BSC in finance, Frank has worked on both sides of the construction business, for an insurance company and for construction companies. His first job out of college was with the General Adjustment Bureau (GAB). "After that, I took a position with a small contracting company in Cleveland and then started my own construction company. I worked for myself in fire restoration for 22 years. And since then, I've been with Allen Keith."

He has the integrity, experience and know-how to oversee the restoration of property to pre-loss condition. "I've seen the results of many disasters. Wind storm damage is the most common we encounter, followed by fire and water damage from leaking pipes, or ice and snow backup under shingles in the winter."

Calculating costs

Job #1 is to estimate the cost of repairs. "I take an accurate scope of the project,



Allen Keith Estimator Frank Hegarty, has 30 years restoration experience.

make a complete list of what's damaged, and then calculate the amount of possible repairs. We use a computerized system to calculate the cost of the job," Frank explained.

"Since we specialize in insurance restoration work, I work with claims adjusters. I often meet with them on the premises

and we measure rooms together, listing all the items that have to be repaired. Then we [Allen Keith Construction Co.] present a bid, and they [the insurance company] scrutinize that. After we reach an agreement with the insurance company about what should be done, then everything else—project costs and time for completion—falls in line."

Frank supervises production from start to finish—through material selection to completion of the job. He works with Allen Keith employees—including brick layers, siding crews, carpenters, painters, dry-wallers and cleaning crew—and Allen Keith subsidiaries—including heating and electrical contractors. Together, they find ways to save money while providing the highest possible quality.

A great bunch of people

What does he like most about his job? He is quick with an answer: "I love Allen Keith Construction Company and the people who work here. I think we're the premier fire restoration contractor in northeast Ohio—and our people get the credit for that. The office staff, the production department, the help in the field—they're a great bunch a people, and they're all hard working, and they get things done right.

Sometimes a crew works until 2 or 3 in the morning doing emergency board-up work. That's tough to come to work the next day and do your job—but they do it."

Taking care of customers

In his line of work, it's expected to deal with the unexpected. After a major storm, "we have to move the labor force to take care of trees on homes, windows broken out, etc., and you might have to give up manpower on an ongoing job to get the emergency handled," Frank explained.

"Coordinating completion of each job while satisfying the needs of the average homeowner is one of our major concerns and one of the most important things we

have to deal with.

"Coordinating completion of each job while satisfying the needs of the average homeowner"

"We're all here in the morning at 6:30 a.m., scheduling labor for the day. Usually you have a certain crew, but they can be switched around—we share labor. You'll sit down

with one of the other Estimators and work things out so that everyone gets the help they need. That's part of what makes this company great. And the ultimate benefit is to the customer."

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Storm-damaged church

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Ceiling lights and wiring were torn from their fastenings, some hanging limp in the open air inside the sanctuary. Sections of steeple, roof, chimney, gutters, downspouts, and more littered church grounds. Glass from a steel door leading to the church was blown out. Offices and meeting rooms were spared the brunt of the storm, but water damaged the ceilings, walls, carpet and furnishings.

How did Allen Keith Construction “make the Church of the Portage Lakes right again?”

A church trustee called Allen Keith Construction at 7:00 PM. Ten Allen Keith employees faced a daunting task that evening. Covering the gaping holes in the roof of the sanctuary was the first priority.

Warehouse works wonders

The workers hauled 150 sheets of plywood, 100 2'x4'x16' boards and 7,000 square feet of tarpaulins from the Allen Keith warehouse to the church grounds. They hoisted the building materials and their tools 60 feet in the air to the church roof. Allen Keith employees worked all night Friday, as



Allen Keith construction crew replaces north side of sanctuary roof—making it right again, one board at a time.

well as Saturday and Sunday to board up and secure the building to prevent additional damage to the church interior.

Outside, clean-up was a major effort—several semi-truckloads of debris were picked up by Allen Keith workers and hauled from church grounds.

Fast response saves thousands

The company’s prompt action yielded tangible benefits. Allen Keith employees were able to move and clean the church pews so that refinishing was unnecessary—tens of thousands of dollars were saved.

Nearly the entire roof over the sanctuary was removed and is being replaced with new tongue-and-groove sheath-



Allen Keith company-owned truck and dumpster hauled tons of debris.

ing. Water damaged carpet and tile will be replaced.

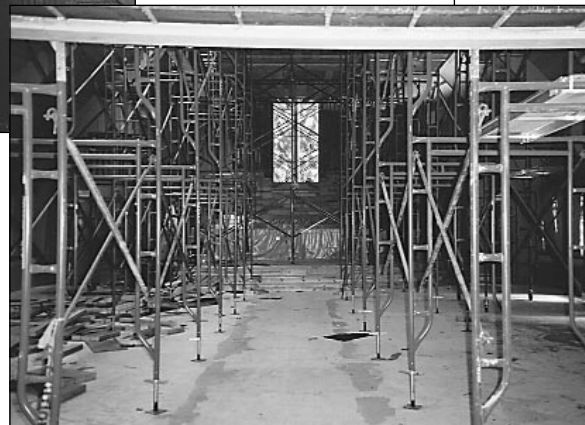
Additional repairs include rewiring the sanctuary, hanging new light fixtures, repairing the furnace and its supports. Water-damaged ceilings, walls, carpet and furnishings in the offices and meeting rooms were cleaned and redecorated.

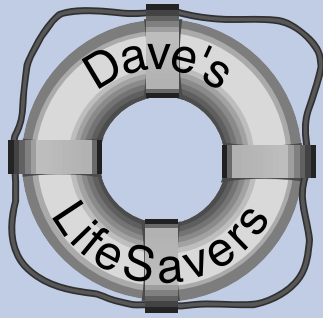
As this newsletter goes to press, the rebuilding continues.

Allen Keith Construction will make the Church of the Portage Lakes right again.



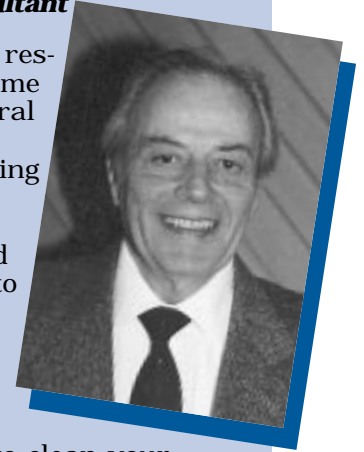
Interior of the Church of the Portage Lakes: Scaffolding replaces pews and obscures the view of stained glass, as construction crews rebuild the church roof and decorate the interior.





Home safety advice

No. 4 in a series from David DeMeo, Safety Consultant



Fire claims the lives of 5,000 Americans every year... and injures upwards of 25,000, making the United States one of the most dangerous industrialized countries in terms of fire-related deaths. A recent study of 14 such nations found that only Hungary had more fire-related deaths per capita than the U.S. With at least 80 percent of fire-related deaths occurring in the home, home fire safety is critical for everyone.

Bedroom

Nearly 1000 Americans die every year from fires that originate in the bedroom, the most common household site for electrical fires to start.

- Don't trap electric cords against walls (heat can build up).
- Portable heaters demand extra care and extra space. Keep combustibles (including bedding, curtains and clothes) at least three feet from space heaters.
- Make certain your electric blankets are lab approved, with no frayed cords.

- The leading cause of fire deaths is careless smoking; never smoke in bed.
- If your mattress was made before 1973, when the Federal Mattress Flammability Standard was instituted, replace it.
- Maintain and test smoke alarms regularly. (Three-fifths of residential fire-related fatalities are in homes where there are no smoke alarms.)

Children

Children set more than 25,000 house fires per year. Keep matches and lighters locked up and away from children. More than 30 percent of the fires that kill young children are started by children playing with fire.

- Look under beds and in closets for burnt matches and other signs that your child may be playing with matches.
- Teach your children that fire is not a toy.

Fuel-fed appliances

More than one-third of Americans use fireplaces, wood stoves and other fuel-fed appliances as primary heat sources in their homes. Many do not know of the fire risk. Heating fires—many due to creosote buildup in chimneys and stovepipes—account for 36

- percent of residential home fires in rural areas. All home heating systems must be maintained regularly to function safely.
- Hire a certified chimney specialist to clean your chimney or wood stove every year.
- Install stovepipe thermometers.
- Keep your wood stove's air inlets open; do not restrict air supply to fireplaces. Restricted air supply may cause creosote to build up, which could lead to a chimney fire.
- Burn seasoned hardwood. Soft wood leads to faster creosote buildup.
- Build small fires; they burn completely and produce less smoke.
- Stack firewood at least 30 feet from your home.
- Use a mesh screen spark arrester to cover your chimney and keep debris off your roof.
- Remove branches that hang above your chimney, flues or vents.

Condo clean-up



Allen Keith Construction was called to Bretton North Condominiums last July after fire destroyed the Bretton North Recreation Association Community Center. During the

course of the fire, vinyl siding on a nearby residence melted. An Allen Keith board-up crew secured the residence and temporarily weather-proofed the building with a tarpaulin.

