

St. John's renovates for the next 200 years

Re-dedication of the renovated St. John's Lutheran Church building will take place on Saturday, Sept. 13, when tours will be provided from 5:30 to 9 p.m. The community is invited.

By Richard Graalfs

SPECIAL TO THE LAND PARK NEWS

The year was 1911. A group of citizens in Sacramento decided to invest in the construction of a new building.

They sought out the finest craftspeople of the day. This building was to be one of a kind, a house of worship that would be an inspiration to future generations. It would have to last for a long, long time.

Fourteen months later, in 1912, the building was complete and members of the Sacramento community entered the doors of St. John's Lutheran Church at 17th and L streets for the first time.

The carpenters who originally installed those doors must have done a good job. The doors have been swinging open to welcome people for nearly 100 years.

For the future

In 2006, the congregation of St. John's decided that it was time to invest in the complete renovation of the building. They wanted to ensure that the building would continue to be an inspiration for another one-maybe two-hundred years. They sought out the finest craftspeople of the day.

The bid was awarded to Otto Construction, a union contractor with a long history of quality construction in the Sacramento region.

Otto Construction put up to 12 union carpenters to work on the project under the supervision of Gary Davis, construction superintendent. The goal was to preserve and renew the original exterior and interior architecture of the building and at the same time strengthen the structure, and install modern, state of the art mechanical systems, new electrical, plumbing and heating and air conditioning. Accessibility needed to be improved by installing ramps, a large elevator, a new exterior stairway, and many interior fire-resistant corridors, doors and frames.

A labor of love

Davis said the carpenters demonstrated real skill and creativity adapting modern techniques and materials to achieve these goals. Steel framing components and fire-resistant drywall were

The carpenters who originally installed those doors must have done a good job.

The doors have been swinging open to welcome people for nearly 100 years.

used to match and extend the original curved walls and ceilings.

Laminated veneer lumber columns were used to frame and anchor the elevator shaft to the original masonry building. The old church basement was opened up into a large "fellowship hall" complete with commercial kitchen.

Scaffold was erected in the soaring main sanctuary so that workers could refurbish and reinstall the original stained glass win-

dows, some of which had been in storage since 1949.

One other goal was to improve the acoustics of the sanctuary. This was accomplished by using lots of wood interior finish -- on the walls, around the pipe organ in the newly expanded choir loft and by installing hardwood flooring throughout the church.

One carpenter said he was proud to do his best work on a building that will have so much meaning for so many people for so many years to come.



Church at 17th and L streets is celebrating the restoration of its building with Second Saturday tours.

Photo by Richard Graalfs



FRANK FAT'S OUR ANNIVERSARY DINNER

\$24.95 per person

APPETIZER

Chinese Chicken Salad

ENTREES

New York Steak Frank's Style

Honey Walnut Prawns

Chicken with Mixed Vegetables in a spicy Garlic Sauce

Young Shew Fried Rice

DESSERT

Fat's Famous Banana Cream Pie

**Celebrating
69 Years!**

SIMPLY, THE BEST CHINESE FOOD!

WINNER sacramento magazine's
Best of Sacramento

KCRA 3
A list

806 L Street Downtown Sacramento 442-7092 www.fatsrestaurants.com
Two person minimum. Does not include tax or gratuity. Offer expires 9-30-2008