



The Nelson Church had a long and rich legacy of serving their community. Weddings, funerals, baby dedications, baptisms, banquets and community service of all sorts were some of the many ways that the church had been a blessing to the people of their community. They are "dedicated to affirming the worth and integrity of all creation by standing in solidarity with marginalized and oppressed people; educating the congregation and community about issues of social justice, peace and the environment; offering opportunities to participate in effecting change; and by nurturing the emerging spirit of new life and hope in our world."

basement floor was finished with a beautiful mosaic pattern of carpet tiles – 4 different tiles arranged in a pattern designed by a local artist. The investment of tens of thousands of dollars for the carpet tiles was deemed an appropriate expense to create a multipurpose room that could facilitate many different kinds of community gatherings. In fact, 1200 people each week were fed here through their Food Bank and Day Care program for needy families.

Sadly, heavy spring rains added up to create a flooding hazard the congregants had not anticipated. Instead of hosting the attendees of baptism, the basement itself was baptized in the kind of water deemed utterly inappropriate for any baptism ceremony. The storm sewer had backed up causing a drain pipe full of grey water to back up into the church basement. The main meeting area with the lovely mosaic carpet tile pattern, kitchen and washrooms were all flooded. The hot water tank was also compromised and had to be replaced.

What could be done with the carpet tiles? Tens of thousands of dollars had been spent on this unique creative floor art that had now been baptized in sewage. Thankfully the restoration job was given to Clean-Scene Restoration, a member of the Esporta Certified Operators of North America – restoration contractors who are certified in the operation of the Esporta Wash System for soft contents. Clean-Scene removed the 2' x 2' carpet tiles and washed them in the Esporta Wash System. The carpet tiles had an ATP contamination reading of over 1400 RLU prior to being cleaned in the Esporta. After the Esporta patented computer controlled cleaning process the tiles had an ATP reading of 12 RLU – food grade clean.

The parishioners were delighted that they did not have to submit an insurance claim for tens of thousands of dollars for the floor tiles – as was the insurance company. The insurance company gladly covered the cleaning and restoration costs. They were even more delighted that the carpet tiles could be cleaned when, 20 minutes after finishing the reinstallation of the cleaned carpet tiles in the original mosaic art pattern, a flash flood occurred and reflooded the basement.

Once again, Clean-Scene Restoration utilized the Esporta Wash System to clean and decontaminate the floor tiles to food grade clean. The floor was twice baptized in sewage, but was twice blessed by the work of Clean-Scene Restoration.

Yes, they are an important part of this small community in which they are located. Every area of their church building is used throughout the week for many different meetings involving a wide variety of members of their congregation – all united in their common purpose to make a positive contribution to the lives of the people in their community. The main sanctuary was typically reserved for Sunday mornings, but the rooms in the basement of the building were frequently home to smaller groups of passionate people dedicated to positive change.

The church building was located on a hill which enabled the basement to have windows just above ground level. The main entrance to the facility was on the uphill side at street level, while the back side of the building was on the downhill side ensuring that the basement had a ground level entrance as well. It was a striking modern building of stone, spires, a soaring vaulted ceiling, floor to ceiling windows and unique architectural angles creating a structure that inspired a certain degree of reverence in this small community.

Not only was the woodwork and structural design of the main sanctuary impressive, but the thought and materials that went into the design and construction of the basement made it a very pleasant room for groups of close to 300 to gather. Lots of natural light, facilitated by the larger ground level windows, ensured that the basement felt nothing like a typical basement. As a brilliant creative touch the

“Baptized in Sewage”

STRANGER THAN FICTION

CLEANER THAN NEW

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“Stranger Than Fiction – Cleaner Than New” is a series of articles highlighting true stories encountered within the soft contents restoration industry. Names have been changed to protect the insured. These stories are brought to you by the Esporta Certified Operators of North America™ – restoration contractors certified in the Esporta Wash System for soft contents restoration. More information on Esporta Certified Operators can be found at www.RestoreDontReplace.com)