

**First Church of Christ, Scientist
33 School Street, Concord, NH 03301**

*O may your temple and all who worship therein
stand through all time for God and humanity!*
~ Mary Baker Eddy (My. 158:27)

March 2022

Dear church friends,

It has been a while since we provided an update on the preservation work of the Concord, New Hampshire church edifice. Restoration has been ongoing, and we are pleased to report that the structural integrity of the majestic tower has been restored, extensive roof repairs completed, small stained-glass windows re-leaded and exterior glass protection installed, lighting systems refurbished, new flooring installed, and other essential projects accomplished.

A few projects remain to be completed. First is the preservation of the large auditorium stained-glass transept windows and the rose window located above the front door. These will be restored over a two-year time period. We've enclosed pictures and information about these windows. Mary Baker Eddy specifically chose the scenes depicted in the transept windows, and she sent one of her students, Edward Bates, to England to approve them. It was the installation of these windows that drew Mrs. Eddy to the edifice the one and only time she visited it.

Now, after a century, these large stained-glass windows need repair and restoration. The lead has become brittle, the exterior protective glass covering is damaged, and the structural supports weakened. The restoration process will require the windows to be removed from the church and transported to Sash & Solder in Portsmouth, New Hampshire. There the windows will be re-leaded and their structural frames strengthened, and then returned to the church to be re-installed. The same company chosen for this meticulous work has already restored all the smaller stained-glass windows located in other parts of the church. Recently, the nationally known television station WMUR in nearby Manchester broadcast a news segment about this company featuring the restoration work of our church's smaller stained-glass windows. This video may be viewed on our website at www.christianscienceconcordnh.org or at www.wmur.com/article/new-hampshire-chronicle-sash-and-soldier-portsmouth/37232548

For about a century the Concord church was heated by steam provided by the municipal steam heating district. A few years ago, the municipal district operation was shut down, leaving the church and adjacent government buildings in the State House District to provide their own heating system. At that time the church bought boilers to continue heating by steam. Since then, we have learned that the old steam heating pipes and radiators need replacement.

An energy consultant is evaluating other heating options to keep congregants warm in our cold New England winters, such as adding circulation pumps and copper piping to the current boiler system to circulate forced hot water rather than steam. Hot water systems heat more consistently and circulate heat efficiently. We're also looking into other possibilities, such as geo-thermal heating.

Weather also has taken its toll on the twelve large church doors, which need to be repaired and restored.

Over the past decade the Christian Science field has generously provided about four million dollars to restore this beautiful edifice. The estimated cost for all outstanding projects is about one million dollars.

We are sincerely grateful for the “love currency” shown by so many in helping to preserve Mrs. Eddy’s gift for Christian Science worship in Concord, New Hampshire. In her words, from the dedication message of the church: “May the towering top of its goodly temple — burdened with beauty, pointing to the heavens, bursting into the rapture of song — long call the worshipper to seek the haven of hope, the heaven of Soul. . . “
(My. 162:31-2)

Loving regards,



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