

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

April 2017

Dear Friends,

We're writing to give you an update on our church preservation project. As you may know, Mary Baker Eddy and Christian Scientists from the entire Field generously provided for the building of Concord's granite edifice. At the laying of the church cornerstone, our Leader wrote, "O may your temple and all who worship therein stand through all time for God and humanity!" (*My*. p. 158)

We were recently asked by a donor what our church plans are after our renovations are completed. Our answer remains now, as always – to heal! Mrs. Eddy wrote to a student, "Healing is the best sermon, healing is the best lecture, and the entire demonstration of Christian Science." (Yvonne Caché von Fettweis and Robert Townsend Warneck, *Mary Baker Eddy, Christian Healer, Amplified Edition*, p. 209)

We invite you to read the account by one of our members of a healing that came through the demonstration of Church. It's published in *The Christian Science Journal*, April 2017, p. 34-35, and titled "Healing after a fall." This testimony shows how the Bible Lessons give us a spiritual understanding of God and man that brings healing.

Preservation progress is evident throughout our church edifice. On the east wall that was recently restored, three healing quotes from the Word of God appear side by side as requested by Mary Baker Eddy in 1904:

Christ is the head of the church and he is the saviour of the body.
Ephesians

That Life is not contingent on bodily conditions is proven, when we see that life and man survive this body. *Science and Health*

He sent his word and healed them, and delivered them from their destructions.
Psalms

Considering these truths together helps us to see how Christ, Truth, heals all human conditions, and how divine Love meets all human needs each step of the way. Members and friends from around the world have again generously supported the restoration work. Donations totaling \$750,161 toward the \$2.5 million preservation project budget have been received.

In the past three years we have completed the following work at a cost of \$610,527:

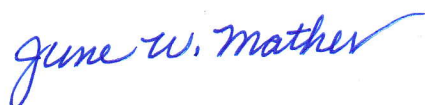
- The church tower has been strengthened with structural support and masonry work.
- The roofs for the clerestory, board room, and Mary Baker Eddy's room have been replaced.
- Masonry spot pointing and repairs to coping, flashing, and window seals have been completed, eliminating known water intrusions.
- The interior water-damaged walls and ceilings have been repaired and painted in half of the auditorium.
- Exterior large stained glass windows have been restored and painted.

Now we look forward to working on the following restoration projects at an estimated cost of \$450,000:

- Install new heating furnace (gas-fired steam boilers) after closure of *Concord Steam* utility this spring.
- Replace century-old electrical wiring and lighting and install new fire and smoke alarm system (code requirements).
- Repair interior walls, stained glass windows, and paint remaining walls and ceiling in the auditorium.

We are grateful for all the progress that has been made, and welcome an opportunity to talk with you about our preservation activity. We invite your prayerful and financial support as we continue to move forward.

With love,



June W. Mather, Chair
Board of Trustees



Lynn Dermott, Secretary
Church Preservation

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