

**First Church of Christ, Scientist**  
**Concord, New Hampshire**  
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*We are labourers together with God: ye are God's husbandry, ye are God's building.*

-- 1 Cor. 3:9

April 2019

Dear Friends:

We cannot adequately express our gratitude for the significant role you've played in the restoration effort of the church edifice Mary Baker Eddy gave to the Concord community in 1898. Every donor's expression of generosity continues to be valued and appreciated as we rejoice in the work completed thus far (see enclosed list).

Your generous support has been far-reaching, going well beyond monetary donations. We've been embraced and blessed by the heartfelt prayers from so many all over the world who are not personally connected to the Concord church, but who share our love for Mrs. Eddy, the teachings of Christian Science, and Christ-healing.

After 11 months of construction and meeting in our Sunday School building, we returned to our edifice and held our first service on Sunday, December 9<sup>th</sup> in a beautifully illuminated auditorium with lovely new flooring and a resounding organ. We are quietly appreciating the less visible improvements made in bringing our edifice up to current building codes.

In the midst of all the progress made on the building, it might be tempting to think we've collectively and satisfactorily demonstrated Christian Science in restoring a material structure. Worth noting, however, is Mrs. Eddy's address after the construction of The Mother Church in which she, in the words of Stephen Gottschalk in his book *Rolling Away the Stone*, "partook not at all of the spirit of self-congratulation. Rather, it was a sharply worded wake-up call to a more vigorous and steely Christianity." (p. 236; see *Miscellaneous Writings*, p. 106-110)

One of you lovingly reminded us: “*We are all on the wall with Nehemiah.*” Donor comments and metaphysical insights like this have supported the real work of Church, showing us the oneness and wholeness of the structure of Truth and Love, even resulting in renewal taking place within some fellow branch churches.

Our real work is glorifying God, divine Love, and it is in this spirit that we all continue moving forward, opening the doors of our thought and edifices to a broader, more inclusive love of God and man in service to our communities.

Moving forward with a project of this magnitude has provided opportunities for growth in trusting the divine Love that meets every human need. The recent discovery of an unanticipated repair on our church tower involving water penetration required the enlistment of a highly recommended engineer who has worked on over a hundred churches (including The Mother Church). After a thorough inspection and follow-up report, we are looking at extensive repointing and roof-related repairs to the tower at an additional cost of \$250,000. Other projects we had hoped to complete in 2019 have been postponed in order to pay for this crucial work.

While we can see the light at the end of the “restoration project tunnel,” the tower and several other unfinished projects require funding beyond what we originally anticipated. We are once again making the need known with immeasurable gratitude for your prayerful and practical generosity in the past, and whatever supportive form it may take in the future as we go forward together.

With unspeakable thankfulness,

Larry Wolfe  
Chair, Concord Church Preservation Committee

Peter Wright,  
Chair, Board of Trustees

[www.christianscienceconcordnh.org](http://www.christianscienceconcordnh.org)

## PRESERVATION PROJECTS COMPLETED IN 2018

- Replaced electrical wiring throughout entire edifice, bringing it up to current codes
- Installed a state of the art fire alarm system connected with local fire department
- Refurbished brass auditorium light fixtures
- Replaced all lighting throughout with energy efficient LED light bulbs
- Installed new platform, auditorium, and organ lighting
- Installed new auditorium and vestibule flooring
- Re-plastered and repainted auditorium walls
- Repaired ceiling plaster and painted entire ceiling
- Cleaned all ceiling woodwork
- Replaced steam supply pipes
- Replaced interior plumbing
- Re-lettered wall quotations
- Refurbished rooms used by readers, organist, and soloist
- Replaced ladies room windows and window well cover
- Completed painting of exterior windows
- Added attic insulation
- Replaced roof access hatch into the attic
- Replaced port cochere roof
- Added tower lighting

## PROJECTS TO BE COMPLETED

- Church tower (roof replacement & extensive exterior repointing)
- Finish sealing tower interior
- Add lightning protection (Direct strike, grounding and bonding system)
- Install steam heating unit to lower part of tower
- MBE Room (Remove, repair, re-lead and reinstall stained glass windows)
- Install protective window covers (Replace rot-inducing plexiglass window protection with vented, laminated glass on approximately 30 stained glass windows)
- Replace wooden window ventilation boxes
- Reupholster pew cushions
- Repair and refinish all exterior doors
- Repoint front granite steps
- Complete patio reconstruction