

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)

January 2024

Dear Clerks and Church Friends,

Please share a print or electronic copy of this letter with your members, which can be downloaded at www.christianscienceconcordnh.org

It's a joy to report that not since 1904, when the Concord church was built, has the edifice been more structurally sound and the interior so beautiful. Years of restoration projects, such as shoring up the majestic tower, granite masonry sealing, slate roof replacement, new electrical systems, plastering and painting, flooring replacement, plumbing repair, and much other necessary restoration have been completed.

In 2023 for the first time, the images of the beautifully restored stained-glass transept windows are clearly visible from outside of the church due to the installation of clear, insulating, ventilated, protective glass on the exterior frames. Only the Rose window above the front doors remains to be completed. This past year all of the large exterior doors also have been refurbished. It is divine Love's abundance and individual giving of the "heart's rich overflow" (Hymn 139) that have made this restoration possible.

Last year we sought ways to provide efficient heating for the building. Bids for conventional forced hot water heating came in around \$1 million dollars. This caused us to pause, "wait on God" (S&H p. 323), and pray with the *Church Manual* mandate of "wisdom, economy, and brotherly love" (Man. p. 77). In the meantime, for energy efficiency, we have completed insulation of the auditorium ceiling and organ loft.

In seeking the right heating solution, we are exploring geothermal heating with an experienced design company in New Hampshire. The estimated cost to install a geothermal system is comparable to a forced hot water system. Yet, the energy savings and payback with geothermal heating would be significant, and would provide natural, energy efficient dehumidification for the organ during the summer months.

The current restoration fund balance is about \$200,000, half of which is allocated for a few remaining small edifice restoration projects. For more information about our final projects, please visit our website at www.christianscienceconcordnh.org.

We are deeply grateful to have a structure and systems that will maintain the church edifice for another century of worship services that glorify God and demonstrate Christ-healing for members, the community, and all humanity.

Loving regards,



The Board of Trustees
Sandra Blanchard, Clerk



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