

First Church of Christ, Scientist
Concord, New Hampshire
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Dear fellow Christian Scientists,

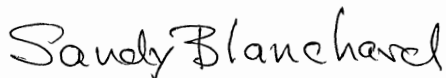
What an expansive vision of Church our Leader had! More than a structure with finite dimensions, Mrs. Eddy understood Church to be “The structure of Truth and Love . . . rousing the dormant understanding from material beliefs to the apprehension of spiritual ideas. . .”¹ Her definition of Church in *Science and Health* calls her followers to action. Certainly, the events of this past year have caused us to think deeply about what constitutes Church as Truth’s idea, and how best to fulfill its mission to glorify Love’s allness and further the Cause of Christian Science.

Completed restoration projects include the church’s interior and exterior lighting. Restoration of the church tower lighting now enables it to be seen at night from a great distance. Refurbished brass lighting fixtures provide beautiful illumination both within and without the auditorium, highlighting images in the stained glass windows, the installation of which drew Mrs. Eddy to the edifice for the first and only time she came into the building. It is not lost on us that these improvements have a deeper significance. We are reminded of Jesus’ words in the Sermon on the Mount: “Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.” (Matt. 5:16) We are committed to being a beacon in our community, where the light of Christ draws all to worship God, good.

At the time of our last writing, we had hoped to install a lightning protection system to safeguard the completed restoration work. We are pleased to report that the lightning system is in place. Also, in our last communication, we thought we were nearing the end of large restoration projects. When yellowed plexiglass coverings were removed from the stained-glass windows, however, it was discovered that the windows are in need of repair and restoration. Some repair work has been made on the lower-level windows, including installation of ventilated, laminated glass coverings. In 2021, repair and restoration of the upper-level clerestory stained-glass windows is proposed. Restoration to the remaining lower-level windows will be completed in 2022. The work for the clerestory windows is budgeted at \$259,340. Funds for this work are not yet in hand.

We are grateful for the many contributions received throughout this decade-long process. It is heartening to join with fellow Christian Science branch churches, societies, informal groups, and individual Christian Scientists to let Christ, Truth, lift “material beliefs to the apprehension of spiritual ideas”² and to let the spiritual light of infinite Love shine for all.

With loving appreciation,



The Board of Trustees
Sandra Blanchard, Clerk

P.S. For a virtual tour of completed restoration work, visit our website at www.christianscienceconcordnh.org

¹ *Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures* by Mary Baker Eddy, p. 583.

² *Ibid.*