

The Eaton Bell

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The President's Report

It has been quite a year.

Our famous, non-denominational Community Church of Eaton (Little White Church) has had a fantastic year as we close our fiscal year this July. As in the past, we will have about 30 wonderful public events including weddings, services, memorials, concerts, recitals and just plain old fun community activities. Our strategy of numerous promotional activities via our website, www.littlewhitechurch.com, our brochures, our sign in front of the church and promotion activities by our professional concert people and just word of mouth continue to pay off, assuring the continuing fame and vitality of our very special New England landmark entity. Financially, we pride ourselves on



making every effort to see that these activities cover our operating expenses with a little left over for the facilities fund while maintaining our non-profit status. This year, however, that is not possible, so we are reaching out for your help to address the exceptional challenges that face us today. We are proud that to say

that key to the Church's smooth operation is our incredibly, wonderful community of volunteers all helping out our likewise wonderful volunteer officers and trustees, all of whom are only rewarded by the warm feeling in their hearts. (Our only salaried person is our janitor!)

Upcoming Events

In addition to weddings and private events, here is what is on the calendar:
June 28, classical pianist Natalia Shevchuk & clarinetist Steve Poppel will be in concert 7:00

pm. \$25pp.
July 13 and 14, Little White Church Yardsale - drop off items July 11 & 12
August 5, Annual Meeting of Little White Church Board of

Trustees
December 6, 7, 8, Dana Cunningham and Carol Noonan Christmas Concert.
December 25, Annual Christmas Pageant.

This Beautiful Building

As might be expected, a 140 year old church facility requires a lot of maintenance. We have replaced shutters with identical 1879 period shutters, begun restoration of our famous 1908 Steinway grand piano up to concert quality and repainted pews, the exterior, and repaired faulty window seals. Alas, now water is leaking into the sanctuary,

necessitating significant and expensive restoration of our beautiful steeple, seriously depleting our current maintenance funds. We have contracted with a local steeplejack who will begin work in June. To help fund this endeavor we will have one of the area's best yard sales in July, but we will need to augment funds for this and other pending projects like

carpeting and additional piano maintenance with another appeal from our very incredible supporting friends of the Little White Church.

Help us preserve this exquisite historic building, by donating online or by mail. Thank you and particularly, thank you friends of the Little White Church of Eaton!

President John Hartman

Become a voting member of the Little White Church. All that is required is your signature on the Church Register. Then come join us at the Annual Meeting!

Goals - Gotta Have them

In addition to the work needed on the steeple, there are other projects pending that will enhance the viability of this historic church as a preferred location for special events. For example, the carpeting needs to be replaced, the Steinway piano needs further maintenance, and there has been discussion of adding air conditioning to

increase the comfort of those special events during warmer summer months. Estimates for all this work bring us to a target goal for fundraising to \$65,000.

To wit, we have now set up additional ways for the Friends of the Little White Church to donate toward these projects. First and easiest is the "Donate"

button online at www.littlewhitechurch.com. Just a couple of clicks and it's done! Too, there is the tried and true check sent by mail to **Little White Church, P. O. Box 31 Eaton NH 03832.**

Oh, and cash is ok too.

Easy as pie!

R. G. Packer Painting Available



This beautiful framed oil on canvas painting of the

Little White Church in winter is by well known local artist, the late R. G. Packer. A gift to the Church years ago, it is being offered for sale to the highest bidder. Minimum starting bid is \$200, with shipping and

handling to be paid by the buyer.

Send your bid to the Church by July 31, 2019 and this remarkable capture of our breathtaking setting can be yours.

A Love Affair with a Piano by Dana Cunningham

It became clear after my arrival in 1998 that the the Little White Church is a treasure that graces the people of Eaton and beyond in both quiet and robust ways. With its simple, pristine, and well preserved beauty, the windows' wavy glass, it has provided a sacred place that has held the joys and

sorrows of our shared life here. Perhaps the church's most stunning feature, adding to its warmth and presence, is the magnificent Steinway O grand piano it houses – a rare treasure within a treasure. It has been a deep joy to both play and compose on this instrument, and to hear

it played – for services, concerts, weddings, memorials, the Christmas pageant. In so many of the events we share as a community, the piano is there for us, welcoming us in. Indeed we have in common the Little White Church and all that it offers.



Built in 1908, the Steinway now needs full restoration, part of which we have mostly completed in the piano's action. The next stage of the work will involve replacing the sound board, strings and pinblock. In all, the remaining restorative work will cost in the vicinity of \$15,000. I am deeply grateful to have the president of the

New Hampshire Piano Technician's Guild overseeing this project and have every confidence that his work is at the highest level. Let's look forward to the piano being played more often, by various artists. It is exciting to ponder the possibilities as word spreads of the caliber of our venue and its piano. Let us share it generously.

Kayaks and Casseroles, Spring 2019

A great evening was had by all at Kayaks & Casseroles, the event that has become a much anticipated spring into summer happening. Decorated kayaks (and canoes!) launched at the beach, circumvented the

lake and touched land. Following the lake crossing, 16 kayakers and canoe paddlers as well as about 35 "landlubbers" dined on an exceptional pot luck supper at the church. Join us next time!



Kayaks and Casseroles, a true Rite of Spring in Eaton

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of Eaton,
The Little White Church
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"Oh, bell, ring forth thy sweetest call to
all the people ' round!"

*From The Bell and the Church, poem
by Rev. H. F. Snow of GA*



We're on the Web!
www.littlewhitechurch.com

Little White Church Officers and Trustees

John Hartman, President
Wayne Bradbury, Vice President
Holly Fortin, Reservations
Joyce Blue, Treasurer
Cathy Ring, Secretary
Dick Brisbois
Debra Callis
Dana Cunningham
Barbara Holmes
William Weiss
Roy Alley

We invite you to join our Board to help us preserve and maintain this treasure of Eaton.

Ringing the Bell

Though the Little White Church was built in 1879, it was not until 1904 that a bell was purchased to sound the events within the community, ringing to announce church services, weddings, baptisms, funerals, and other important occasions. It was rung for the America's bicentennial observance in July 1976. It was rung 52 times a day - once for each of the Iran hostages - for the 444 days of their captivity from 1979 to 1981. It rings these days in celebration of weddings, vow renewals and other happy events.

We are ringing it now, figuratively speaking, with this newsletter to summon help and support from the community of friends of the Little White Church that it may continue the magnificence and future viability of this stalwart symbol of Eaton history.

In this magical location set against the beauty of Crystal Lake, the Little White Church is one of the most photographed and admired views in New England. This little church is still the very soul of Eaton.