

# The Eaton Bell

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### Join us on July 24!

The NH Preservation Alliance will be presenting an award for restoration of the steeple, to be followed by musicians dazzling you with the breathtaking sounds of the newly restored Steinway Grand Piano. And that's not all. Mango Groove will really get us moving with lively sounds of Caribbean steel drums while everyone enjoys an ice cream social.

**Everyone is welcome!**

**Join us!**

## WE ARE BACK!!! All Thanks to YOU!!

**It has been a long, strange time, but we have been busy!**

### *The Steeple*

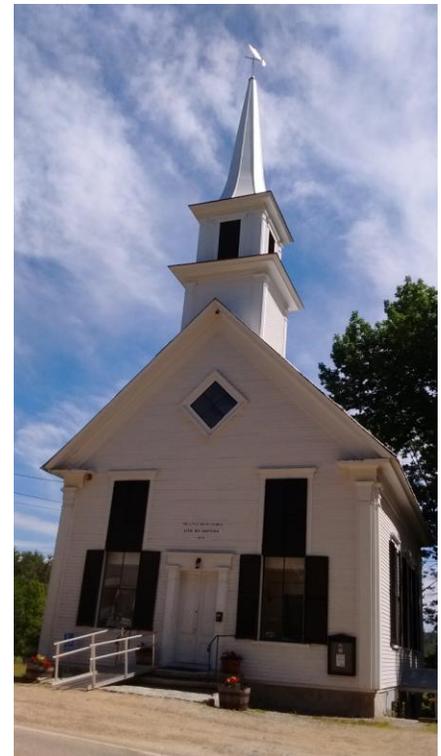
It was in June of 2019 that the Little White Church steeple was taken down due to years of dangerous deterioration. Fundraising and construction began in earnest through the winter, through Covid, and despite challenging times. But in December 2020, the gleaming refinished bell rang joyously again in the newly completed steeple!

The total cost of rebuilding the steeple came in at just under \$198,000. It is built with skill and quality that will last another 140 years. And it looks beautiful!

Thank you to all who contributed so generously to this historic project. Thank you Thomas Costello, carpenter, and to your team for such stellar work! Huzzah!

This could not have happened without you! Since summer of 2019, over \$250,000 was raised in order to replace the steeple. The additional funds allowed us to accomplish other long languishing projects such as the piano restoration, refinishing the stage to its original finish and color, and landscaping the lower entrance to the church to address runoff issues.

We're not done, however, and are now raising funds for other important projects. (See "So Many Plans", page 4.)



### *Note from Board President*

As Interim President of the Little White Church Board I am truly grateful for the support and encouragement that the Community has provided over the past year while we completed our steeple and piano restoration projects. This summer, as we emerge from the pandemic, it is wonderful to see events happening at the church again. Already there has been a wedding, memorial service, piano recital and vow renewal ceremony. Once again, the LWC is the heart of the community, providing a welcoming space to celebrate milestones and bring people together.

The Board is busy working on plans for events, concerts, and the next round of maintenance and improvements. We welcome community input and involvement. If you can offer the gift of your time and talent by sharing your skills, becoming a Board member, or offering occasional assistance with projects and events, we welcome the help.

The Board is looking forward to our re-opening celebration on July 24<sup>th</sup> and an opportunity to reconnect with both old and new friends from Eaton and from afar. Hope to see you there!

Eleanor Border

## Our Steinway O - It's Back



The fully restored Steinway O piano returned to the Little White Church on June 8<sup>th</sup>. Anticipation of its homecoming upon a newly refinished stage accelerated as real 'live' concert performances, recitals, and wedding plans bloomed in our collective imagination.

Just two days after the piano's arrival, Ellen

Schwindt's students played for their parents and friends — the wavy glass windows framing the shimmering world, resonant with the beauty and grace of the music within. As Kaitlyn Sakash and her father Mike performed the *Nocturne* by Lili Boulanger for piano and soprano saxophone, the audience listened, enraptured. And for a few moments, all was as it

should be.

The piano restoration was completed by Will Truitt, owner of Encore Pianos Inc. and president of the NH Piano Technicians Guild, and by Jude Reveley, owner of Absolute Piano Restoration. Tonewood Specialist and Sound Engineer, Tom Thiel of Sandwich, NH contributed time, knowledge, and not least, red spruce for the new soundboard.

The Little White Church board is overjoyed that this amazing instrument could be rebuilt to this high standard, especially during the concurrent steeple reconstruction, as well as the challenging Covid year. Our utmost gratitude goes to all those who made it possible, for all the unforgettable moments yet to come. Thank you all!

~~ Dana Cunningham

## Memorial Gifts ... What an Amazing Community!

Amidst our efforts to raise funds for the steeple, a number of families donated significantly in honor of friends or loved ones (living or deceased). We would like to thank each of them for honoring their love in such a generous way.

Among the people honored are:

Juan Sprague  
Mark Paris  
Louise "Stevie Ma'am" Thomas  
Karen Brisbois  
Ella Cunningham  
Joan and Donald McBrien  
Willis Williams  
Liz Snyder  
Florence Stewart Drew

These dear souls, through those who so loved them, made the restoration of the Little White Church possible. And there were so many others who aided the process. We are proud, humbled, and grateful for the heart it took to bring this to reality.

## Calendar

***Hooray! Things are happening again!***

**July 13, 4 pm** - Piano Workshop

**July 18, 2 pm** - Sunday Service, Camp Waukeela

**July 24, 2 pm** - **Reopening Celebration**  
New Hampshire Preservation Alliance award presentation followed by pianists Dana

Cunningham & Ellen Schwindt playing the newly restored Steinway grand piano. Then we'll hear sounds of the Caribbean played by Mango Groove as we all enjoy an ice cream social.

**August 2, 6pm** - Community Church of Eaton Annual Meeting for 2020/2021 Fiscal Year

**August 8, 2 pm** - Sunday

Service, Camp Waukeela

**August 14, 12 noon** - Reunion (private)

**October 15 & 16** - On hold

*Other events are currently in process of being scheduled, so please watch our website and local newspaper columns for upcoming activities.*

Call or email for booking info.



*Dressing up the outdoors a bit, too. The lower entrance to the church has been resurfaced to help with drainage and even to allow parking for the occasional vehicle. Though it is only large enough for a couple of vehicles, it will provide an easier and much more attractive access to events held on the lower level.*

## Annual Meeting Upcoming in August 2021

The Little White Church was unable to hold its regular Annual Meeting in 2021 due to the Covid pandemic, but we are back on track for 2021.

The meeting is scheduled to take place on Monday, August 2, 2021 at 6:00 pm.

At this meeting, we will elect officers for upcoming terms as well as review the accomplishments and the financials for the 2020/2021 fiscal year.

Among other things to be discussed will be the Revised Articles of Agreement and the By Laws which were filed with the Secretary of State earlier this year. These were necessary updates to comply with today's IRS regulations and to enable the Community Church of Eaton to continue pursuit of the official 501(c)3 Non-Profit status. While this process is ongoing, the church has been operating under the umbrella of the Eaton Village Preservation Society's non-profit designation which will conclude when our own designation is received.

## Board of Directors

The Community Church of Eaton, aka, Little White Church Board of Directors introduced Acting President, Eleanor Border in August 2020 when former President, John Hartman retired from the position. He had served

for 13 year with dedication and commitment. Thank you, John!

**Officers:**  
President - Ele Border  
Treasurer - Joyce Blue  
Secretary - Sandra Thoms  
**Other Directors:**

Dana Cunningham  
Holly Fortin  
Candace Maher  
Barbara Holmes  
Debra Callis  
Dick Brisbois

Please join us. Bring your ideas and vitality!

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*A White Mountains and New  
Hampshire treasure!*



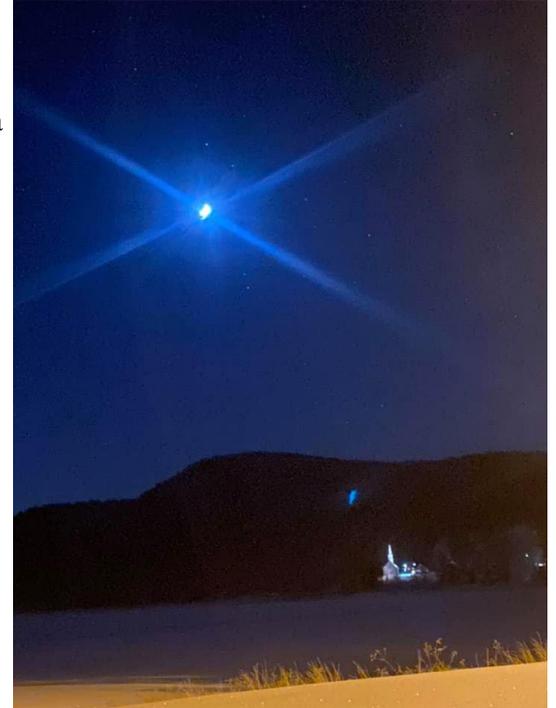
**We're on the Web!**

**www.littlewhitechurch.  
com**

## Joyous Moment

Christmas Eve 2020. The steeple had been completed and the bell mounted in the belfry again just days earlier. It was a perfect winter evening for the bell to ring again for the first time in two years. Numerous people gathered at the church, at the beach, and other places nearby at 5:30 on Christmas Eve as the bell was rung to the high heavens. There were tears, there was laughter, there was applause. It was simply glorious and raised our hearts skyward. Let's ring that bell every chance we get!

(Thanks to Linda Burns for this photo)



## So Many Plans -

We won't be resting on any laurels. Now that the major projects of rebuilding the steeple, restoring the piano, refinishing the stage, and resurfacing the lower level church access have been accomplished, there is still much to do.

The projects that we are organizing and planning and now beginning to raise funds to achieve include some biggies:

**Parking lot!!** This will be a significant cost, but is so badly needed for the long term. Discussions have been underway with an abutting landowner who has expressed working with us on this.

**Insulation  
Septic system  
Air conditioning  
Remove old brick chimney**

In addition to these things, we are allocating funds in order to bring in a broader variety of concerts, speakers, and other activities.

We welcome all donations and ask for your help in getting these goals going. It is easy to do, and you can pick the project that you most wish to support. Like the parking lot idea? Just write that in the memo section of your check. Or "concerts", or "a/c", or whatever you may most support, and those funds will be held for that specific purpose. And with our gratitude.

Not only that, but we would like to hear from you about the kinds of events and activities that you would like to see at the Little White Church. Now that things are revving up again, we're excited to get new ideas!

**Questions? Contact us at  
lwceaton@gmail.com.**

**Thank you!**