

# The Eaton Bell

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

What A Year It Has Been	1
Laura Kargul, Pianist	2
NH Piano Tech Guild	3
A Much Better View	3
Back in the Groove	4
Coming in 2022	4

## Upcoming Events

**Dec. 11,** 11 am to 2 pm  
Eaton Community Circle  
Christmas take-out lunch .  
Take-out only. For more info or  
to place order, email  
fbholmes2008@gmail.com or  
call 603 447 4365

**Dec. 11,** 7 pm (doors open at  
6:30) Dana Cunningham and  
Max Dyer concert will perform  
concerts on Sat. & Sun,  
description below.

**Dec. 12,** 4 pm (doors open at  
3:30) a concert of music of the  
season will be presented by  
Dana Cunningham, pianist and  
composer, with Max Dyer,  
cellist. Tickets can be ordered  
online by going to  
danacunningham.com. The  
tickets will be held for you at  
the door. There will only be  
100 tickets sold and those  
attending must wear masks and  
have proof of vaccination.

**Dec. 24,** 5:30 pm, front of  
church. Join us for caroling,  
cider, cocoa, and bell ringing to  
celebrate our community and  
the season.

## What A Year It Has Been!!

It was just a year ago that the steeple reconstruction project happened and the bell was rung again on Christmas Eve. Since then so much has happened. The Steinway piano, fully restored, was returned to the church in early June, and music filled the church once more. In addition to several weddings, vow renewals and anniversaries, baptisms, memorials, a summer camp reunion, and camper Sunday services, there have been piano recitals and workshops, technicians "voicing" the piano, students and well known artists practicing. Oh, the sound of the restored piano! It fills the church with such beautiful sweet tones that it simply mesmerizes.

*So a proper reopening was in order.* On July 24, a spectacular blue bird day, the New Hampshire Preservation Alliance formally honored the church with an award for the restoration of the steeple! Following their presentation, Dana Cunningham and Ellen Schwindt gave a short program of piano and violin music, demonstrating the restored majesty of the Steinway. As the string music subsided, Mango Groove Steel Drum Band began to play under the tent outside, stirring the enthusiastic audience with the thrilling sounds of the Caribbean, enhanced by the sweetness of ice cream sundaes served to the attendees. Laughter and fellowship filled the church grounds and even reached into the passing traffic. A car of travelers experienced a flat tire in front of the church, but were quickly helped by two ice cream social attendees who got them handily back on the road. Not getting the helpers' names, the travelers didn't know who to thank, so blessed the church with a donation to show their gratitude. Kindness and generosity. Well done, Good People!

Dana Cunningham and Ellen Schwindt



## Covid Policy

As with last year, we must again forego the traditional Christmas Pageant due to covid-19 concerns. The Little White Church has adopted a covid policy that limits seating to 100, and masks are required indoors for church sponsored events.

For visiting artists, it is up to the performing artist whether proof of vaccination may also be required.

Private events are responsible for regulating their own events.

## Laura Kargul, Pianist Extraordinaire



Over the course of the summer and fall, the newly restored Steinway piano has been finding its voice; its rare red spruce soundboard is ripening, allowing the rich color of sound to deepen and bloom. Built in 1908 in New York, the instrument has graced the Little White Church for over six decades and is an intrinsic part of the magic one feels upon entering the sanctuary. Sitting on the newly refinished stage, the piano now offers an even greater capacity to dazzle and thrill, providing joy and excitement for concert goers and players alike.

This was evident in late October this year with

pianist Laura Kargul's stunning program featuring breathtaking interpretations of Chopin's *Barcarolle* and Debussy's *Estantes*, as well as the technically demanding work of Haydn and Schubert. Even non-classical fans were wowed! An attendee, a Mountain Top Music board member wrote:

*"Wow – what a fabulous concert that was yesterday — Laura really blew our minds — such speed, such feeling, and such complexity . . . Love the new/old Steinway too – the high end is positively bell-like. Congrats and many thanks to you and all of the others who made this happen."*

And, to hear young and adult piano students exclaim that *this Steinway is one of the best pianos they have ever played* is a heartening affirmation of the hope that musicians of all ages, abilities and genres will feel welcome to participate in the vibrant musical life of The Little White Church.

The church looks forward to offering concerts that inspire, uplift, and even unify us — if but for a few moments — through our shared appreciation for beauty and grace. Again, sincere gratitude to all who support this remarkable, successful endeavor.

Dana Cunningham

**The Board of the Little white Church is very appreciative to past residents of Eaton, Kathy and Dean Williams. The Williams' generously sponsored the October piano concert with Laura Kargul. If you would like to be a sponsor of one or more Little White Church fundraising events, please contact Patricia McMurry at 603 447 6822 or Dana Cunningham at 603 447 7039.**

## NH Chapter Piano Technicians Guild Visits

On September 11, the NH Chapter of the Piano Technicians Guild held their Annual meeting at the Little White Church, hosting some of the finest technicians in their field including Will Truitt, Jude Reveley, Tom Thiel, Mark Dierauf, Bill Ballard and several others. The LWC Steinway was a joint project among a number of these exceptionally skilled technicians, so the completion of the rebuilding of the Steinway was an occasion to review the specifics of the restoration process. More remarkably, it was an

opportunity to hear it played by gifted artists.

Eric Donnelly, RPT, of the Guild, wrote afterwards:

*" To everyone at the Church: You might be surprised, but rarely do we get to sit back and listen to performances together. Most of our meetings focus on the technical aspects of piano work and you most certainly got treated to what was basically three complete technical presentations in one afternoon by three of the finest specialists in our industry, Will, Jude, and*

*Tom. And from my perspective, I got to play and listen to a one-of-a-kind, buttery, newly-rebuilt Steinway O by world class performers. Without having to worry about my unisons going out of tune!"*

**Thanks to you all for the splendid work that you have accomplished with our beloved piano!**

---

### A Much Better View!!

It was brought to our attention during the summer that the trees behind the church were becoming so overgrown that they were blocking the iconic view of the church from the beach, and from other ideal photographic angles as well. And the Board agreed!

In September, with the gracious permission from the owners of the land

where there trees grew, and thanks for the generous gift of the NH Charitable Foundation and the Juan Sprague Memorial Gift Fund, the trees, some of which were threatening the church roof, were taken down and the view opened up again!

Get your cameras ready!

## Board of Directors

### Officers

President - Ele Border  
Vice Pres - Dana Cunningham  
Treasurer - Joyce Blue  
Secretary - George Diller

### Directors

Holly Fortin  
Candace Maher  
Barbara Holmes  
Debra Callis  
Dick Brisbois  
Patricia McMurry  
Sandra Thoms

We are delighted to welcome new members to the Board of Directors, George Diller and Patricia McMurry!.

---

The Community Church of Eaton, The Little White Church  
2371 Eaton Road  
P. O. Box 31  
Eaton NH 03832

Phone 603 447 1881  
E-mail  
lwceaton@gmail.com

*A White Mountains and New Hampshire treasure!*



We're on the Web!  
[www.littlewhitechurch.com](http://www.littlewhitechurch.com)

## Back in the Groove



July 24 Reopening, Dana Cunningham and Joyce Blue receiving award from NH Preservation Alliance. Mango Groove Steel Bank playing their rousing tunes under the tent, sunshine and ice cream everywhere one looked!

## Coming in 2022

We have been talking about this idea for a good while because of the safety issues associated with parking on Rt. 153 for Church events, but the Church now has under contract a parcel of land to serve as a proper parking lot.

Once a house lot long ago, the parcel was sold to the Edge family in the 1970s and served as a vegetable and flower garden, and even sported some fruit trees. It has lain fallow for many years, but this fall the Edge family agreed to sell the land to the Church.

There are many interim steps - Town and Planning Board visits to present a professionally designed site plan, not to mention the construction process, etc. This will take a few months to work out, but it is our fervent hope that all will go well. We are over the moon that generous local benefactors have offered to fund the purchase! (More details at a future date.)

Still, funds must be raised for the actual construction of the parking surface. Please help if you can. It will be such a relief to have safer parking for all LWC events!

The Events Committee is also working on scheduling several events for the upcoming year, in particular, a concert series. We are actively looking for sponsors for this series and hope that you will be a part of it.

Donations should be made out to LWC/EVPS, 501(c)3 partners.

### Closing for Winter

**The Church will close for the season at the end of December, to reopen again in April.**