

# The Eaton Bell

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

What a Year!	1
Upcoming Events	2
Capital Campaign 2023	2
Non Profit Designation	3
Story of the Steinway Grand	4



## ***HAPPY HOLIDAYS TO EVERYONE!!!***

*What a year  
2022 has been!*

The candle lights are in the church windows, and snow will soon be upon us. As the year winds down and we conclude the 2022 season, we would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you who have participated in making it such a success. After having being closed since 2019 during the reconstruction of the steeple, the pandemic then made for another long stretch of inactivity. In 2021, the Little White Church resumed operation with a very limited schedule, but 2022 brought us back with a roar. Along with the introduction of a new concert series, we hosted community events, numerous weddings and vow renewals, and held memorial services for lost loved ones. There were several piano recitals which gave many students the inspiring opportunity to experience playing the magnificent fully restored 1908 Steinway piano. There was even an open piano night that invited community pianists to play this fine instrument for



those who attended as well. It was awesome!

Here are some of the events that were offered:

Early in the season there was a wonderful concert given by world class artists, **Laura Kargul and Ronnie Lantz** performing their "**Love and Nostalgia**" concert that wowed the audience.

**Village Harmony** graced an enthusiastic crowd with their lovely voices shortly afterwards.

Later in July, **Theo Martey and the Akwaaba African Drums and Dance Ensemble** absolutely raised the roof with their wonderfully thunderous drums, singing, and incredible dancing. It was like nothing the Little White Church had ever experienced. It got everyone to their feet, dancing and

laughing, and all were aglow as they left the concert.

In the fall, we were treated to the remarkable sounds of the **Artful Noise String Quartet** which made for a wonderful and uplifting evening.

**Kayaks and Casseroles**, the annual gathering to kayak Crystal Lake, then enjoy dinner at the Little White Church function room, also took place. Thanks to everyone who attended.

There are still several seasonal events ahead which will fill out the last month of the year. Be sure to check the second page of this newsletter or go to [www.littlewhitechurch.com](http://www.littlewhitechurch.com) for information on what is upcoming and how to get tickets .

## UPCOMING EVENTS

*The Little White Church will close for the season at the end of December and will open again in April 2023. Stay tuned and watch for more wonderful occasions for everyone to enjoy in 2023!*

**Friday, Dec. 9, 7:30 pm to 9:00**

**Dana Cunningham and songwriter, Carol Noonan**

Tickets available through  
StoneMountainArtsCenter.com  
or call 207 935 7292

**Saturday, Dec. 10, 4:00 pm to 5:30**

**Dana Cunningham with saxophonist, Mike Sakash**

Tickets \$40.00

**Sunday, Dec. 11, 4:00 pm to 5:30**

**Dana Cunningham solo performance**

Tickets \$30.00

For information and tickets, go to DanaCunningham.com

**Friday, Dec. 16, 7:00 pm to 8:30**

**Little White Church Holiday Concert**

No ticket price, but donations requested. Concert features Puckerbrush Celtic band and friends the Promise Singers from Bridgton, Maine. Donations will go toward the upkeep of the Little White Church. Light refreshments will be served after the performance.

**Saturday, Dec. 24, 6:00 pm**

**Annual Christmas Service and Pageant**

No admission cost but donations encouraged.

### **Board of Directors Officers:**

**President** - Eleanor Border

**Vice President** -

Dana Cunningham

**Treasurer** - Joyce Blue

**Secretary** - George Diller

### **Directors** -

Debra Callis

Barbara Holmes

Dick Brisbois

Candace Maher

Patricia McMurry

Dale Schofield

## New Capital Campaign Coming in January 2023.

In 2023, we will have a new capital goal of **\$75,000** for the projects that lay ahead of us. This amount was decided upon by looking at the following goals to be accomplished:

### **1. Construction of the new parking lot.**

Conditional approvals have been received from the Planning Board and we are awaiting satisfaction of the final condition. Closing on the purchase of the lot is expected in January. The plan is to begin construction when warm weather arrives. Prices of materials, equipment and labor have increased dramatically since the original projection 3 years

ago. Landscaping and lighting is also included in our projection. Such an important safety matter, we hope that friends of the LWC will contribute generously for this exciting addition.

### **2. Repairs to building exterior.**

There is significant weather damage to the eaves at the back of the building just below the roof. It is tall work, and will cost several thousand dollars.

### **3. Ramp replacement.**

The moveable old aluminum ramp is in rugged shape and does not add to the character of the building. We are process of settling on a design that is more

aesthetically pleasing, and of stone. Such a change will be a notable and functional enhancement to the building access.

### **4. Sun-shading blinds for the sanctuary.**

Summers can be hot, but with the addition of automated sun shades such as the one we have in the window by the piano would be a great improvement. The plan is to place these shades on the west side only, since morning sun is rarely an issue.

**Please help with these projects if you can. Donate now and take the tax advantage for the 2022 tax year! And THANK YOU!**

The 2022 Concert Series included these performers and more!



**Akwaaba African Drums and Dance Ensemble with Theo Martey**



**Artful Noise String Quartet**



**Village Harmony**

**Little White Church Note cards**

Available at the Eaton Village Store and at events held at the church, you can purchase packets of note cards picturing the Little White Church. These cards are stunning photographs taken by our own Debra Callis. These are done seasonally, so winter is available now.

**Non Profit Designation Official!**

A two year process was required, but the Little White Church has now received the official 501(C)3 designation from the IRS, ensuring that we are tax-exempt. Changes in the IRS rules regarding churches necessitated this process, so we buckled down and got it done.

**Eaton Village Preservation Society** was gracious and a huge help that allowed us to continue operations under

their non-profit status. We owe them a huge thanks! That's what community is all about!

Now that the partnership agreement with the EVPS is concluded, all donations to LWC are again held by the church. It's back to normal, folks, so henceforth, **all gifts should again be made out to the Little White Church (or you may use the formal name of Community Church of Eaton).**

We also have the ability to accept stock transfers, for those who might have the interest. Just contact Treasurer, Joyce Blue (603 447 8472), for information .

**As we begin our Capital Campaign for 2023, we welcome your donations. No need to wait for the new year. Take advantage of the tax advantage in 2022!**



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)

## Story of the 1908 Steinway Grand

Though active as a church for the last 140+ years, it was not until 1947 that Articles of Agreement were developed and the Little White Church officially became the Community Church of Eaton. The first president was Arthur Evans, of Wonalancet and Waukeela fame. It was also around this time that the Christmas Pageant was inspired by Elizabeth "Libby" Edge of Rockhouse Farm, herself a minister's daughter, setting in motion this beloved annual event for all these decades since. Ah, the history.

There was a piano then, but what kind and where it came from is lost to history. Probably an old upright, we guess. However, William "Bill" Stevens, a native of Montreal, attended Camp Wonalancet each summer, and as an exceptional student of piano, he would give concerts at camp. As he grew, he attended McGill Conservatory of Music in Canada. World War II paused his studies while he served in the Royal Canadian Navy, then after the war he became affiliated with the Quebec Conservatory and played concerts in Canada and in much of the United States.

As an adult he continued to return to Eaton each summer, giving concerts at the church, such as the one held in 1949 where he and artist Mary Nevery and accompanist John Raymond, played to a standing room only crowd. He also played for services held at the church. Motivated by his craft, he yearned for a better piano for the Little White Church.

As it happened, he had a friend named Mrs. William Lee who had a beautiful 1908 Steinway Grand O piano that she was willing to sell. So at his behest, the board of the LWC agreed to purchase said piano from Mrs. Lee in 1949.

It is not clear from the records what the actual purchase price was, but funds were raised to offset the purchase price. Donations were not large - mostly between \$1 and \$10, though some gave \$25. Bill Stevens himself contributed \$10, while Mrs. George Monroe gave \$50 and the "camp boys and staff" gave \$74. Total collections for the piano totaled \$346. Boy, times are different now. Compare that to today's appraised value for the fully rebuilt and restored piano at \$50,000.

*Incidentally, the "alms basin" still in the sanctuary was a gift that same year. It was given to the church by Mr. and Mrs. Norman Grant in honor of "Monty" Moore and Sam Fuller.*

Who knew! The things one learns when reading old board minutes.

