

North New Portland Community Church

The Church Renovation

Spring 2009
Volume 1, Issue 1

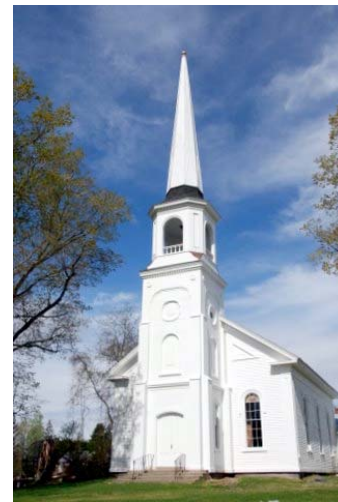
The North New Portland Community Church represents both the history of our community and our future. In 2003, the Church Renovation committee was formed to begin a decade long renovation project.

The mission of the project is to create a beautifully restored and active church at the center of a vital congregation where a community is built to reflect the local heritage and culture.

The overall goals of the renovation project were to revitalize the congregation by honoring life's celebrations, to become the center for community activities and to boost the community's pride.

As we work to renovate the church's physical structure, additional work goes on to revitalize the spirit of the church. We are committed to move against the tide of the region by emphasizing our commitment to open the church for worship year round.

It is our hope that the church will become a center for the arts and performers will be able to take advantage of the building's acoustics to highlight the region's indigenous musical traditions.



North New Portland Community Church
Spring 2009

The Work Ahead



*I will lift up mine eyes unto
the hills, from whence
cometh my help.*

Psalms 121

At the Gateway to the upper Kennebec Valley, the North New Portland Church stands as a testament to the extraordinary people who have lived for generations and those who have chosen this community as their home.

Our hope is that through this renovation project, the North New Portland Community Church will become part of celebrations of our daily lives and will lift up our spirits.

The North New Portland Community Church will continue

exterior renovations over the coming summer. Our plans include painting the church roof, completion of the exterior painting and the repair and painting of the remaining side windows.

In addition, the Renovation Committee will develop a plan for the church's interior renovations including plaster repairs and replacement of the heating system.

With Our Thanks

The building renovations were made possible by the craftsmen who were responsible for maintaining the integrity of the church through their dedication, attention to detail and extraordinary workmanship.

The project was funded by grants from the Maine Steeples Project of the **Maine Community Foundation** and the **Sandy River Charitable Trust**, along with private donations from more than one hundred individuals and families.

We hope to add your name to our growing list of contributors, please donate today so that we can complete the church renovations.



Thank You for a Job Well Done!

Greg West
 CLC Landscaping
 T.C. Hafford
 Mid Maine Restoration
 Jerry Nash and Alan McGillivray
 Richard Emery – Ace Electric
 Michael S. Wales
 Phillip Charles
 Richard Jordan
 Michael King

History of the North New Portland Community Church

1867

Union Church building was completed

1957

North New Portland Church became part of the Presbyterian Church

1985

Addition of the Joyce Pease Meetinghouse

2003 - 2004

Rebuild the basement walls, install a new drainage system and improve exterior drainage

2005

“The building, itself, has changed very little over the years.”

Repair and paint the steeple and two apron roofs

2006 – 2008

Repair and restore the bell tower, repair the building and do the exterior scraping and painting of the bell tower, the front face and the steeple.

2009 – 2010

Complete the church renovations

So the bell may toll...

Historical records indicate that the bell was cast by the Meneely Company of West Troy, New York.

The bell was purchased in 1883 by the Pierce Steam Heating Company of Buffalo, New York.

The company was owned by John Bartlett Pierce, originally from Emben.

The bell is 39 inches in diameter and is composed of 80% copper and 20% tin.

It weighs more than 1200 pounds and has been tuned to the musical note “G.”

During last summer’s renovation, the bell wheel was replaced by a replica created by Greg West.



Community Letter

Six years ago the North New Portland Community Church embarked on an ambitious undertaking—the total renovation of our magnificent church.

Our purpose in renovating the church was to preserve an historic landmark, a symbol of nineteenth century craftsmanship and civic pride. But as important as it is to preserve this historic church, we've had two goals from the beginning of the project: first, to revitalize the worshiping congregation, and second, to create a space where people can gather to celebrate our heritage in music.

Last fall, North New Portland celebrated a milestone in the renovation of the church. When the bell was hoisted into the belfry and rung, and the beautiful sound resounded throughout the hills, we marked the completion of the renovation of the church tower. The work on the tower represented the

most challenging part of the renovation plan.

We are very thankful to the skilled craftsman who restored the tower and bell, and to all the people who financially supported the work. Now, we are moving on the final phases of the church renovation. This summer we will complete church exterior renovations and do the planning for the inside work. Experts tell us, though the interior wall paper is faded and water stained in places, the underlying plaster is in excellent shape. Our goal is to restore the original plaster walls.

In addition, we will update the electrical service, install a new heating system and insulate the ceiling. The last stage will be painting and shining up the beautiful woodwork, but this work can largely be done by community volunteers.

Our goal is complete the renovation of the North New Portland

Community Church by fall 2010. We will have a great celebration including a music festival highlighting the musical traditions of the Upper Kennebec River Valley. We will enjoy for years and generations one of the most beautiful church meetinghouses in all of New England.

Thank you for your support of this project. If you have questions about the renovations, would like to help with the work or contribute to the project, please contact me.

Sincerely,
Reverend Scott Planting

The Renovation Committee

In 2003, the North New Portland Community Church formed a Renovation Committee to plan for the future of the church building.

The Renovation Committee received guidance from the Maine Community Foundation and the Western Mountains Alliance as they began planning for the renovation and growth of the church.

Their tireless work on behalf of the church and the community has

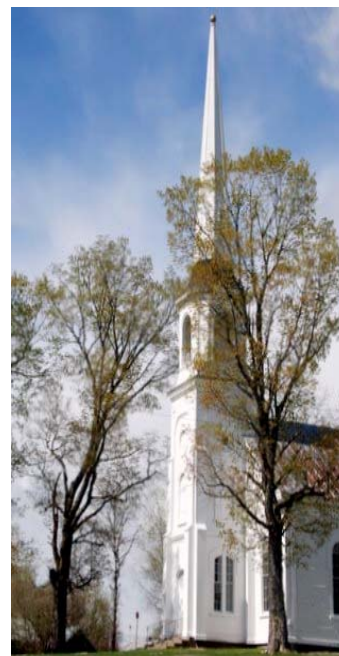
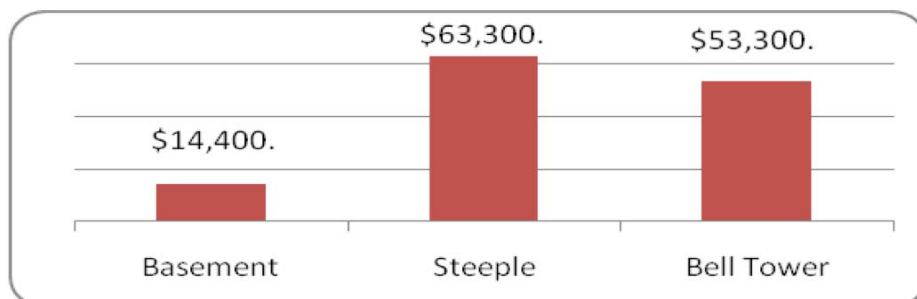
Thank you!

Nan Berry, Betty Cobb,
Mary Jane Reed and Reverend Planting

been an inspiration to the all of us.

The Renovation Committee continues to meet monthly to plan for completion of the exterior renovations and to plan for the completion of the interior renovation projects in 2010.

Renovation Costs



North New Portland
Church

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Ring, happy bells across the hills

John and Susanne B. Abbott
Abbott Bros., Inc.
Ace Electric
Donald and Alice Albertine
Janet Allen
Helen Anders
Jean Antonucci
Richard and Bonnie Atwood
Doris Atwood
Bath Iron Works
Bay View Lodge AF & AM
Roger and Sharlene Belanger
Nan Berry
Marla Berry
Irene and Bill Berry
Cathy Berry-Dobens
Charles and Shirley Blood
Steven and Heidi Boucher
Edward Boyer
John and Margaret Bridges
Ronald and Betty Brown
Sheldon and Freda Burnham
Thomas and Wanda Calder
Jim and Patricia Cameron
Edward and Phyllis Campbell
Clayton and Sandra Carter
Charles and Elinor Clark
Gary and Elizabeth Cobb
Ronald and Violet Coffin
Timothy and Esma Cole
Teri Dalrymple
Susan Davidson
Richard and Karen Delano
Linda Dellarma
Art Dingley
Thomas and Agnes Dodd

Gregory and Patrice Drummond

Thank You

Bertrand and Alyce Dyer
Gene and Janet Dyer
Shirley Eaton
Winston Edwards
Muriel Ellingwood
Ken and Lola Ellquist
Helen Flynn
Ernest Forgione, Jr.
Giberson Funeral Home
Marilyn Gorman
R.L. and Joan Grondin
Keith and Robin Hardin
Elmira Harrington
Dick & Donna Hart
James and Jane Heichel
Ralph Hendrix
Douglas and Maxine Hoskins
Elizabeth and Elwyn Hutchins
Pearl Jenkins
Jordan Lumber Co.
Michael & Caroline King
Michael and Doris Lailer
Kenneth Lake
Pete and Judy Louiselle
John and Jill Low
Thomasine and Morton Lutzky
Ira and Constance Machon
Judith Mallett
H. Gordon and Dixie McAdams
Ruby McMullen
Basil Messer and Family
Bernard and Virginia Morton
Bob Mott
D. Cecile Newell
Celia Pease

Ezra Pease
John Pease
Stanley C. Pease, Jr.
Henrick and Susan Petersen
Jonathan Pinkham
Charles Scott Planting
Lois Pye
Elinor Quint
Mary Jane Reed
Peter and Lorraine Ristano
Paul Ryan
Richard Salmon
Tiffany Smith
Richard and Carol Soule
Frances Spaulding
Carol Stevens
Leanora Strickland
Gerald Strickland
James and Linda Taylor
Evelyn Towne
Beverly Tripp
Steven and Arlene Trudel
Arthur and Rosemary
Underwood-Nadeau
Valley Gas
Justine Wakelee
Michael and Deborah Wales
Dale and Gloria Walker
Larry Warren
Greg and Nora West
Wendell and Hilda Wing
Nowetah Wirick
Donald and Jean Wirth