

2024 Tower Restoration

Our Tower Restoration Project started in 2018 and has continued through 2024. The original estimate for repair/restoration of the masonry was \$600,000+. We were told that we needed to complete 35% to 40% of the project to mitigate the continuing issues of moisture penetration and damage caused by freezing and thawing within 5 years or have more serious deterioration of the tower. We contracted with Lupini Construction, Inc., a specialist in historic masonry preservation, to complete the work. As happens in any major project, we also found some deterioration of a steel beam supporting the roof of the tower (the floor of the belfry) that added \$80,000 to the overall cost.

Funding is always an issue so we planned and initiated a Tower Restoration Campaign with a goal of raising \$300,000. By the end of 2024, we:

- Raised over \$260,000 from the campaign, 86% of the goal,
- used \$129,000 of church investment earnings,
- received 2 Sacred Sites grants totaling \$45,000,
- **TOTAL RAISED: \$434,000.**
- leveraged a \$100,000 Presbyterian Foundation construction loan to cover the difference.

Work completed:

- 2020: \$141,000
- 2021-22: \$178,000
- 2023: \$75,000
- 2024: \$75,000
- **TOTAL COMPLETED: \$469,000** (65% of the original \$600,000 plus additional \$80,000 steel work) surpassing the most critical needs per the original estimate.

We also spent:

- \$3,983 for campaign materials,
- \$7,500 for professional grant writing (\$5,000 in 2022 and \$2,500 in 2023)

During the campaign, we received major gifts from Watertown Savings Bank, Northern New York Community Foundation, BCA Architects and Engineers, and the Village of Sackets Harbor.

For the Tower Restoration Committee, Dick Stephens.

For more information, go to: <https://www.restoreshtower.org/> or use the QR code below.



Now, a recap of the past and items for the future...

Restoration accomplishments and items yet to come...

Over the last 40+ years, we have:

- 1983 - Restored our tracker organ - \$7,200,
- 1990 – installed the ramp with membership labor,
- 1991 – had the pews restored using men from the Cape Vincent Correctional Facility under a member’s direction,
- 1996- Held a Capital Campaign that raised over \$101,000 to:
 - Re-do the Fellowship Hall including a handicapped accessible bathroom, and install a new furnace,
 - Re-do the Sanctuary including restoration of the Tiffany windows and the stained glass in the pocket doors, install the sound system
 - Used fire-retardant paint in the Sunday school rooms and a new furnace in that area,
 - Install a fire/smoke alarm system throughout the building.
- 2006 – had a new slate roof installed over the entire building - \$219,000,
- 2011 – new twinned furnaces for the sanctuary - \$5,950, and had a window in the tower blow out. The emergency repair was \$6,000.
- 2012 – replaced the decaying sign in front of the church - \$3,740.
- 2015 – remodeled the kitchen with new counters, sink, appliances, and window restoration - \$10,836.

We can be proud that we have completed over \$800,000 worth of upkeep/restoration on our historic building, without an endowment to fall back on!

And we look forward to attacking and completing:

- The tower restoration: an additional \$250,000!
- Replacement of 12 windows in the tower (currently estimated at \$16,000 each) \$192,000,
- Restoration of the Chime of 10, currently estimated at \$100,000.

Dick Stephens