

SANCTUARY REPAINTING UPDATE:

An application to the State Historic Preservation Office/DECD for a \$100,000.00 Historic Restoration Fund Grant has been submitted for plaster repair and repainting of the Meetinghouse sanctuary. It is a matching grant that requires the First Church of Christ, Woodbridge congregation raise a similar amount of capital funds in the near future. This project will not be funded by church operational or invested funds. Gifts can be made to the FCCW designated "Sanctuary Fund".

Because of the high costs of such quality restoration, the work will be done in two stages. Phase One will include repairing the damaged plaster and repainting with a traditional grisaille/trompe l'oeil décor on the ceiling, the cornices, the apse, and the front facing wall. The other walls, balcony, wainscoting, doors and windows of the sanctuary will not be included in Phase One work.

Because the Pre-development work went out to bid in 2019 and because we chose John Canning and Company to provide us their recommendations and a projected budget in a written report (February 14, 2020), the SHPO has allowed us to use them to do the restoration work without needing to go out to bid once again.

David Riccio, VP and decorative arts expert at John Canning, came to the church on November 16 to discuss the Phase One scope of work and the costs. A contract between the church and John Canning cannot be made until the SHPO approve our application (possibly early January, 2021). The SHPO also have to approve the contract.

David plans to use the greys and whites of the 1880 grisaille décor found behind the organ as his inspiration for the color scheme. Color and touches of gold will be used sparingly throughout the room and the center ceiling ocular will remain some shade of blue. The geometric boxes and rectangles on the ceiling will remain, but the acanthus leaves and floral design will be of better quality. The remaining trompe l'oeil decoration on the walls will possibly reflect 17th and 18th century Woodbridge crops (tobacco flowers/vine, flax, grasses, apples (blossom), maize, corn and wheat). David would like to safely re-install the plaster medallion that was historically found in the center of the ceiling above the chandelier

