**Sanctuary Restoration Update. March 22, 2023**

On March 1, the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) board unanimously approved a matching grant to First Church of Christ, Woodbridge of $124,000.00 for the Phase II plaster repair and trompe l’oeil/grisaille decoration of the sanctuary apse and walls, repair and painting of the pews, plaster repair and painting of the narthex and three stairwells, and the removal of old tiles and refinishing of the original fir floors and thresholds in the narthex. The John Canning Company of Cheshire, Connecticut will undertake the decorative work and will provide subcontractor oversight for the non-decorative work. On the completion of the project and receipt of the SHPO grant money, a 20-year historic easement on the property must be filed at the Town Hall.

A second grant for the sanctuary restoration from the Community Foundation for Greater New Haven for $12,000.00 was received by the church on March 1. Thank you CFFGNH!

The estimated cost for this final phase of the work is $248,065.00. With $136K in grants, $21K already approved in the FCCW capital budget for routine upkeep in the meetinghouse, and currently $23,700 in the Sanctuary Fund, the Sanctuary Committee will need to raise a further $67,355 to complete the entire repair and repainting of the sanctuary and narthex.

A Woodbridge couple (non-church members) who generously supported the Phase I work have, again, offered a 1:1 match to the next $10,000.00 received in donations to the FCCW Sanctuary Fund which will double the value of those gifts. Although memorial gifts and donations to the Sanctuary Fund can be made at any time, if this match challenge appeals to you, please contribute promptly. As with Phase I, it is expected that no church operational or capital funds will be used for the sanctuary restoration.

Comments and questions welcomed.

Respectfully submitted,

B. Joyce Simpson and Al Jarvis

Quote of the month: “The trompe l’oeil is magnificent.”

