



The Chapel Bell

Presented by the Maple Street Chapel Preservation Society, Inc.
Volume 27, Issue No. 1 Winter, 2026

Oh Boy, It's That Time Again!

Painting of the Chapel is a huge undertaking which unfortunately is needed every eight years on the average. The actual painting is only part of the job. First we must address these issues:

We almost always find areas where wood has decayed and carpentry repairs are needed. And, these have a nasty habit of being at very high points, so the work has to be done working from a hydraulic lift. We have already identified one spot on the north side, by the right/west spire, where there is actually a hole in the wall, and there are bound to be others.



Lots of flat surfaces - window sills, decorative figures like the triangles on the north wall, and the crowns at the tops of windows tend to collect water and snow, which leads to peeling paint and wood rot. A few years ago, we capped the surfaces on the north wall - window sills and the band board at the bottom of the wall with pre-painted aluminum. It is barely visible, and when done right it prevents water from attacking the wood. We did as much as could reasonably be done from a ladder. This time, we hope to wrap some of the higher surfaces, but this again requires the hydraulic lift.



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We *have* done things in past projects to reduce the recurring painting cost.

- The steeple is actually shaped as an 8-point star, with a white line at each point of the star. These white lines were wood pieces that originally were 5" in diameter and were nailed on. The additional cost of painting was due to the increased height of the hydraulic lift (see picture at right). We were also concerned that a wood piece was going to fall off some day. The wooden boards were replaced with round aluminum shapes.
- Capping the window sills and the band board as previously mentioned, avoids the cost of rebuilding rotted wood.



We asked several sources to recommend painting contractors, but we were referred to the contractor we have used in years past, and one other. We will be working with both of them to not only compare pricing, but to get commitments for scheduling, get customer referrals, and compare sub-contractors (carpentry and aluminum work) to make an informed choice.

We do not have a quote yet, but based on past experience we believe the cost will be in the range of \$80,000 to \$90,000!

Every effort is being made to avoid asking for contributions, and to keep costs down, but this is one time we have to ask for your help.

If you can find yourself able to contribute to this project, you can either mail in this form on page 7 with a check payable to Maple Street Chapel, to 220 South Main St Lombard IL 60148.

Alternatively, you can go to MapleStreetChapel.Org and select DONATIONS and donate thru PayPal.

Throughout the Chapel's 156-year history, the Chapel has stood as a landmark through the generosity of our donors.

The Chapel Bell is a newsletter presented by the Maple Street Chapel Preservation Society, Inc., published quarterly in Lombard, Illinois 60148. Contact personnel @ 630-627-0171

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Two Improvements and the Craftsman Who Did Them

by Ken Bohl, President & Facilities Director

One of the craftsmen who has worked on the Chapel over the years is Ted Loster. His journey has been one of continuous improvement. He started while still in high school as a construction laborer. From there he evolved into doing remodeling of 19th century buildings in Old Town.

He developed an appreciation and interest in historic buildings, an interest that in part emerged from shows such as *This Old House*. This led him to doing restorations, mostly in Lincoln Park and the west side.

Ted registered and was licensed as a union carpenter, which became his source of work for several years until there was a recession and a downturn in work. At that point he became an independent contractor.

His specialties have always been trim work, cabinetry, and historic buildings. He has done a number of maintenance and improvement projects on the Maple Street Chapel and five other historic churches in Glen Ellyn and Wheaton.

Two Chapel improvements, in order to be done with sensitivity, required both the custom milling of wood to match the original 1870 trim, and the skill of a talented craftsman.

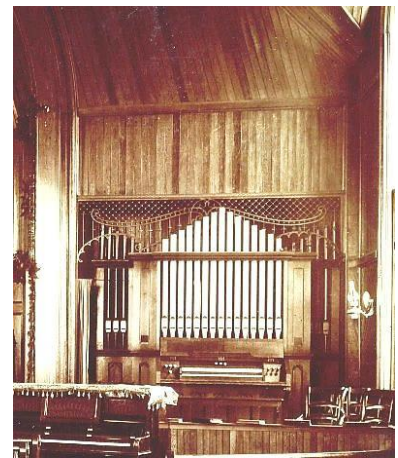
The wood to be specially made included:

- the beaded wainscot board found in the sanctuary (similar beaded board is generally available, but not in the width we required.)
- the horizontal board separating the vertical and diagonal wainscots found on the front wall of the sanctuary
- a 4-panel door matching the other door at the front wall of the sanctuary
- the boards separating the Reade Room ceiling into squares

Creating these special boards was quite expensive, as each required making a moulding knife in the shape of samples we provided.

The first improvement was at the back of the choir loft. The original organ was a self-contained pipe organ, the type which the organist would have to pump using the foot pedals. That organ was removed and was replaced with a larger pipe organ. The pipes to the new organ were placed in the attic which left that corner as an unattractive empty hole in the wall.

It occurred to us that by building out the wall and installing doors we could turn that useless and unattractive corner into a closet, and end up with a more blended wall.



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Ted Loster framed the wall, faced it with the beaded wainscot board, and built doors for the closet.



The end result blends in perfectly with the original wall paneling and doors of the Chapel.



The second improvement was to the southwest corner of the Reade Room. Originally, a building, Cushing Hall, stood to the south of the Chapel, and the two buildings were connected at that corner.

When Cushing Hall was torn down, the corner of the Reade Room was enclosed in an unattractive way which was intended to be temporary.

This project required new trim work to match the walls and ceiling of the Reade Room. It also included a fireproof door, with an ADA compliance automatic operator.

The picture to the right shows the end result, except that we later painted the door with a glazing wood grain effect so it blends in with the wall. But this shows how indistinguishable the walls and the square of the ceiling are from the rest of the room.



Preservation of the Chapel requires a lot of volunteer effort, but for complex projects like these we are grateful to have the work of skilled craftsmen. Ted Loster feels as attached to our Chapel as we do.

Chapel Variety Series

ZAZZ Performs *Movie Magic* **Sunday, March 8 3:00 - \$20**

Movie Magic creates magical memories and enhances emotional impact. ZAZZ puts its own spin on the iconic masters of movie music, from Henry Mancini to Michel Legrand to John Williams, and many in-between. ZAZZ takes you to a unique creative and imaginative world of movies.



Jenny Riddle as Sally Field **Sunday, March 29 3:00 - \$20**

Jenny Riddle is a professional storyteller, keynote speaker, and consultant.

She brings Sally Field to life, her career from *Gidget* to *Norma Rae* to *Mary Todd Lincoln*, going beyond the characters to show the shy and anxious girl Sally was in her offstage life.

American Heritage Concert **Sunday, April 19 3:00 - \$25**

The program will be highlighted by the **music from *Wicked***, and will pay tribute to the nation's 250th birthday.

The program also includes:

- *Festival Overture on the National Air*
- *Music from Pirates of the Caribbean*
- *Pavane for a Dead Princess*
- *Tribute to Henry Mancini*
- *World Showcase* - favorites from worldwide countries
- *The Armed Forces Salute*, honoring audience members



You can enjoy the variety of all three programs for \$55.

Tickets may be purchased through PayPal on MapleStreetChapel.com, or by mail, using the order form on page 7.

Helen Plum Library – The Reade Room

Submitted by Vicki Webb, written by the late Maple Street Chapel Historian, Betty Meyer

Come to the lecture room behind the Maple Street Chapel sanctuary and learn about a man known as Josiah Torrey Reade. The room was renamed the Reade Room as a memorial to him after his death. Josiah was a member of First Church and served as clerk for 42 years and also served as a deacon. He was the second President of the Lombard Town Board.

As you enter the Reade Room, you will notice a fireplace and chairs that were donated from the home of Colonel William Plum, a friend of Josiah Reade. To the left are bookshelves and a chicken wire case holding Bibles from the 1850's and 1860's.



While you look around the Reade Room, notice the table with his initials JTR carved on the side, pictures of him, and a wooden plaque.

Josiah Torrey Reade was born on August 7, 1829, in Worcester, Massachusetts. He graduated from Amherst College with both BA and MA degrees and was a teacher. He came to the Midwest where he met his wife, Christa. They were married in Chicago in 1860 and moved to Lombard in 1864, where he ran an 80 acre farm on the east side of town for four years, while working as a railway clerk. Later he bought the lot next to the Chapel and built the large house. The couple (Josiah and Christa) had three children: Henry, who worked for the Allen B. Wisley Soap Company; Alice, who was a nurse; and Christia Maria, whose mother died during childbirth. Christia became a designer working with silver and copper. She designed and made the crown for the first Lilac Queen in 1936.

Josiah had a love of books. It was his hobby. This was his incentive to start and maintain the first library in Northern Illinois (outside of educational institutions). He brought books from his home next door in a peach basket to share with others, since books were scarce after the 1870 Chicago Fire. The room was accessed by a single door on Main Street. The library was open to the public on Thursdays and Sundays. Josiah bought books and supplies, did the cataloging, and made repairs as needed. He had a collection of rare Bibles, some dating from 1634. The collection of books was quite substantial. After Josiah's death, 3,000 books were taken to Colonel Plum's home across the street, which became the Helen Plum Library, named after the Colonel's wife.

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Maple Street Chapel Preservation Society
220 S. Main Street
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Join the Friends of the Maple Street Chapel Society Today!

Please check the box below to direct your enclosed donation.

Please make your check payable to the Maple Street Chapel Preservation Society, Inc.

- Friends of the Maple Street Chapel. Annual memberships. Money is used for ongoing Chapel expenses.
- Endowment Fund. Money is invested and earnings provide for preservation of the Chapel
- Special Gifts. Specifically for _____

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