

REACH and RENEW RECAP

Next project: Painting the balustrade and steeple



Left: A view of the facade of the church shows flaking paint clearly visible above the columns

The Reach and Renew Campaign at First Congregational United Church of Christ of Madison is a five-year initiative (from 2011 through 2016) to renew our health, renew our hospitality, and renew our home. The first project, now completed, authorized by the congregation was an upgrade of the heating and cooling systems. On June 30, 2013, the congregation voted to spend up to \$350,000 from Reach and Renew funds to remove lead paint from and repaint the steeple and balustrade, to borrow up to \$400,000 from the Church Foundation for this and other Reach and Renew projects, and to seek additional contributions for the painting project from a few church members to help conserve Reach and Renew funds. A crew from Inspired Heights of Rockford, Illinois, will begin work on the balustrade this fall, and then, next spring, will paint the steeple. (See page 2 for more information.)

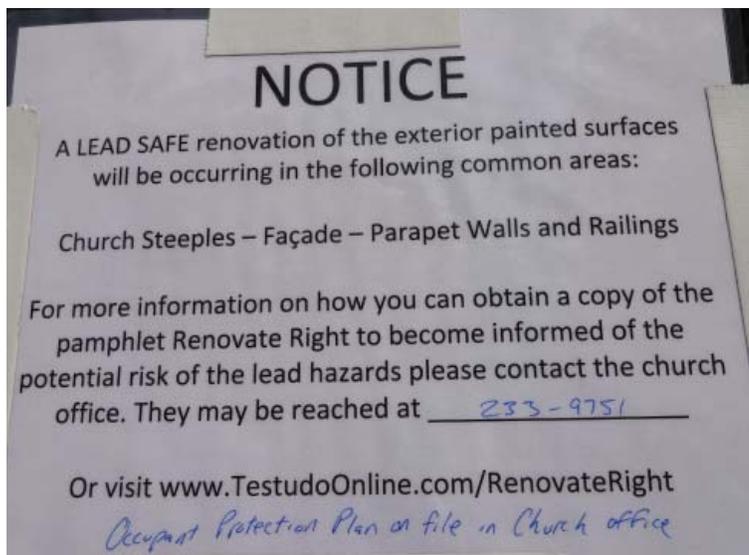
Pledge payments pass the halfway mark!

During the summer, payments in fulfillment of pledges to the Reach and Renew campaign passed the halfway mark! As of August 31, more than 52% of pledges had been paid. Prompt payments help the campaign minimize the need to borrow funds to cover ongoing expenses. Note: **It's not too late to be a part of this exciting initiative!** If you joined the church since 2011 or were unable to pledge during the original campaign but would like to do so now, please contact the church office.



Preserve our past. Inspire our future.

The Reach and Renew Campaign seeks to **renew our health** by focusing on the congregation's worship, missions, and programs; to **renew our hospitality** by encouraging the use of our space by outside groups; and to **renew our home** by upgrading our building.



Inspired Heights is a company based in Rockford, Illinois, that provides church and steeple maintenance, repair, and restoration. Instead of building expensive scaffolding, they employ skilled steeplejacks to reach otherwise inaccessible areas of churches. Steeple work on our church will not begin until next spring; for now, a preliminary crew is trying out paint strippers to find the one that will work best on our roof. Above: A notice on all church doors announces that lead paint is being removed safely.



Above: On September 18, Morris, a member of the Inspired Heights crew, pressed strips of lead-removing paper onto the metal balustrade. After a time, the paper can be peeled off to reveal a clean surface. The procedure is ineffective in freezing temperatures, so work on this will cease as soon as the temperature drops below 32 degrees.



Left, Crew-member Jimmy stands in front of a row of pedestals on the balustrade. Different procedures were used to remove paint on each one in order to find the one that works best for our particular situation; Jimmy is indicating the pedestal where the procedure worked the best.

The knowledge gained by this preliminary testing will mean fewer problems when a new coat of paint is applied. In the meantime, the crew will concentrate, weather permitting, on the parts of the roof that are easily accessible. The goal is to get as much of the sides and back of the church done this season as possible, while the primer will still adhere to the metal.