



# THE UNITED CHURCH OF NORTHFIELD

P. O. Box 188  
Northfield, Vermont 05663

December 1, 2010

Dear Community Member,

We are writing to solicit your support for the “Save Our Steeple” fund (*SOS Fund*). The United Church of Northfield is the white clapboard church on the hill above the Depot Square Historic District. Our majestic steeple houses the Village clock and the 1839 Holbrook bell. However, a recent engineering study has revealed that: 1) the steeple is no longer vertical, but is leaning into the church; 2) the wooden structure that holds the clock has deteriorated; 3) the slate shingles are badly in need of replacement; 4) the steeple needs to be painted for protective and aesthetic reasons, and 5) the rafters that support the sanctuary roof and steeple need reinforcement to ensure the integrity of the building. The estimated cost is \$99,292. On December 17, 2009, we were awarded a grant by the Vermont Division for Historic Preservation for \$10,750 to help defray expenses for this project, but that is only a tenth of the total expense.

We have already received bids and have a contractor who is willing and able to do the work, but in order to begin restoration by our target date of May 1, 2011, we need to have the full amount in hand. That is why your financial support is so essential. The money you donate is fully tax deductible and will be restricted to this important project. The kick-off for our SOS Fund will be a piano concert by our exceptional pianist/organist, Alison Cerutti, on December 18, 2010. We have included a flier about this so you can mark your calendar.

Our church is used for more than worship; providing space for men’s and women’s AA, Girl Scouts, a young children’s play group, community dinners, Paine Mountain Arts performances, and as an emergency shelter for the town. In addition, we support the town through our mission work with the Summer Lunch Program, assisting the CERV food shelf, CROP Walk, and the Angel Tree Project providing Christmas presents for local children.

We hope you will find it in your heart to help us to restore the steeple of this historic landmark in the center of Northfield. Included in this packet are a donation form and a return envelope. Thank you in advance for your willing support.

Sincerely,

Debra Maloney-Evans, Chair  
Save Our Steeple Committee

P.S. If you would like to see pictures and more details about the project, they are posted on our website at [www.unitedchurchofnorthfield.org](http://www.unitedchurchofnorthfield.org).