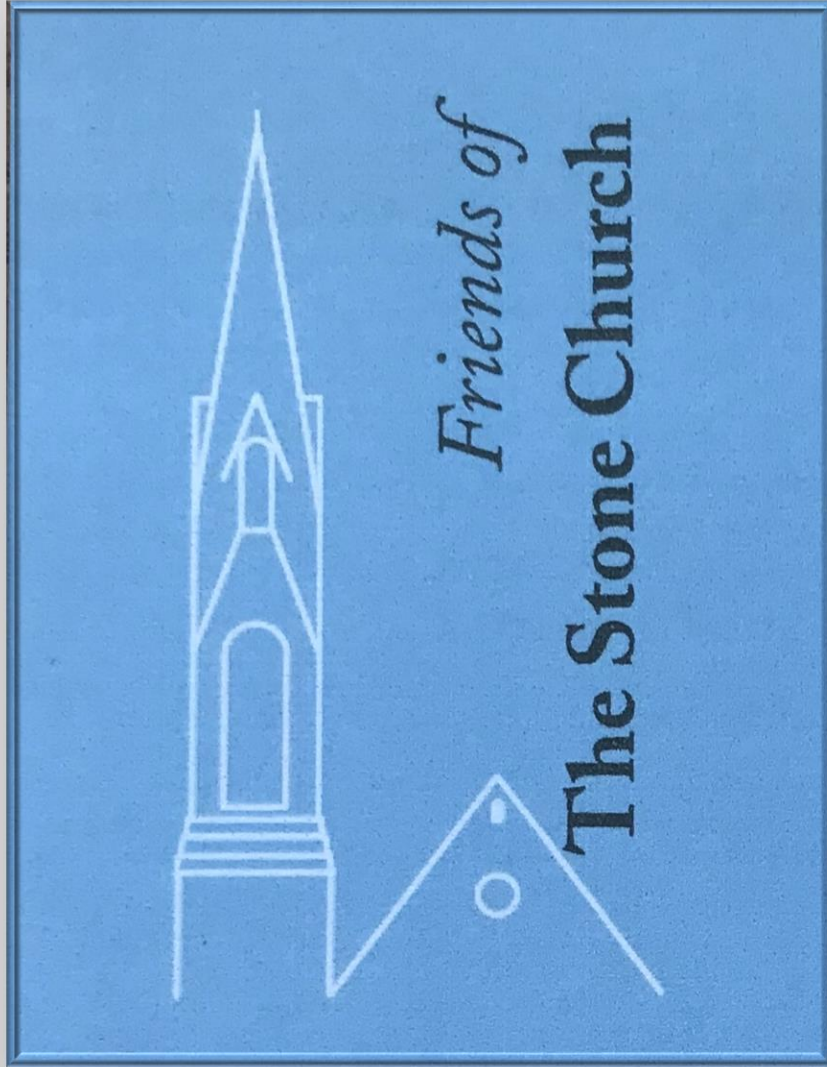




Building Community Preserving a Landmark

**The Friends of the Stone Church
at the
Stone Church Cultural Center**

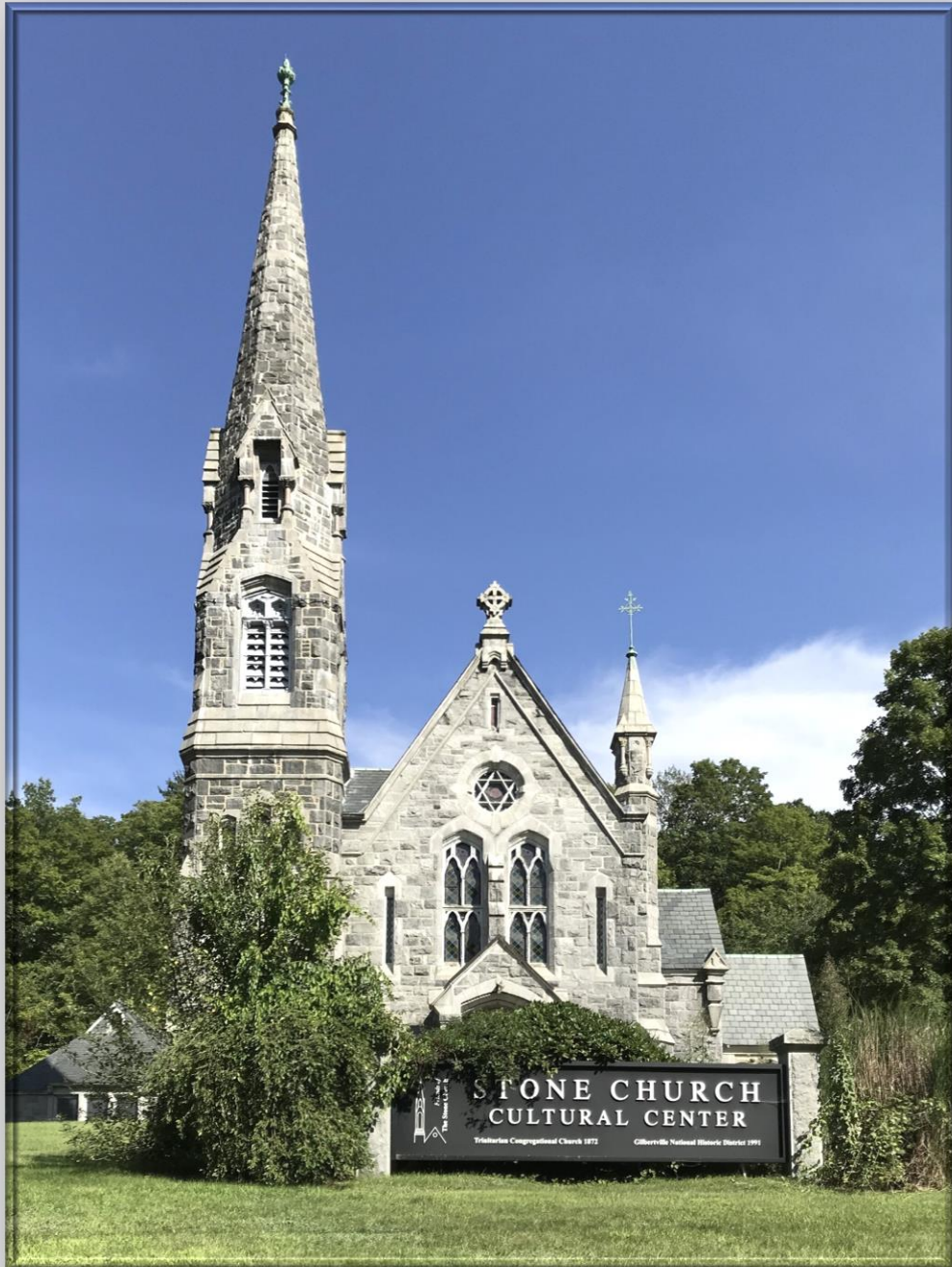
The Friends of the Stone Church, a 501c3 charitable organization, was established in 2015 by citizens concerned with the deterioration of the closed Gilbertville Trinitarian Church. With the Hardwick Historical Society, the Friends applied for and received a MA Historical Commission Emergency Stabilization Grant.

The Friends re-opened the building in 2016 while successful grants and community funding supported ongoing work.

With the Friends acquisition in 2023, the building became the Stone Church Cultural Center.

Phillip Warbasse, an historic preservation architect and volunteer, continues to lead preservation planning and restoration.





Sitting high on a hill overlooking the former Gilbert mills and set between two architecturally significant public buildings, this Victorian Gothic building is an outstanding feature of the Gilbertville mill village, a National Register Historic District.

A covered bridge is a short distance away.

Completed in 1874 and built of local granite, it was designed by architect Elbridge Boyden, architect of Worcester's Mechanics Hall, Cathedral of St Paul, and the Washburn Shops at WPI. Its steeple is the only one by Boyden of similar design still surviving unaltered.

Taking precedence so far, stabilization of the steeple has consumed the major portion of funds raised. To date, the total invested in steeple repair is \$501,000.

Currently, the restoration concern is the serious cracking, stone displacement, and eroded mortar joints on the topmost section of the steeple. The cost to repair this remaining top section is \$400,000.

As we approach this last stage of repair, a planning advantage is that the needs of the building have been fully professionally analyzed, thoroughly documented, and frequently illustrated.



ICE AND &
SHIELD TO
OF FRAMES
ROUT GAP
MASONRY

ANCHOR "A1": VS PORT
ANCHOR OR CINTEC ANCHOR
FROM INTERIOR IN 3" x 14"
CORE INTO BACK OF FACING
STONE w/ THREADED INSERT
FOR CONNECTOR ROD (1 OF 8)

ANCHOR "A2": VS PORT ANCHOR
OR CINTEC ANCHOR FROM
INTERIOR IN 3" x 24" CORE INTO
BACK OF HOOD BASE STONE w/
THREADED INSERT FOR
CONNECTOR ROD (1 OF 8)

ANCHOR "A3": VS PORT
ANCHOR OR CINTEC ANCHOR
FROM INTERIOR IN 3" x 14"
CORE INTO BACK OF FACING
STONE w/ THREADED INSERT
FOR CONNECTOR ROD (1 OF 8)

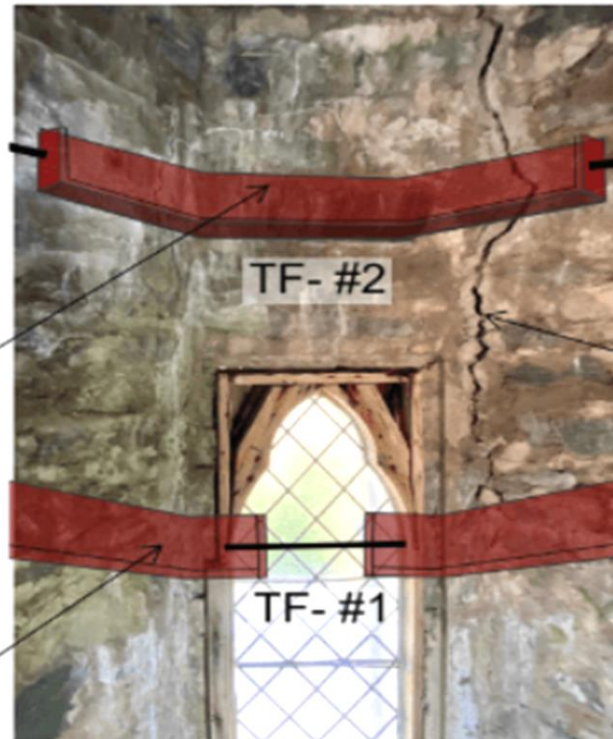
ANCHOR "A4": VS PORT
ANCHOR OR CINTEC ANCHOR
FROM INTERIOR IN 3" x 18"
CORE INTO BACK OF HOOD
STONE w/ THREADED INSERT
FOR CONNECTOR ROD (1 OF 8)

APPLY IC
WATER S
BACKS O
AND GRO
AGAINST

These architectural drawings show the remarkable steel cable system recently installed inside the steeple. This work was funded in part by a matching Massachusetts Cultural Facilities Fund Grant awarded in 2023.

LOCATE TO ALIGN
CENTERS 8" ABOVE
BOTTOMS OF TOP
DORMLET HOOD
STONES

LOCATE TO ALIGN
WITH CENTERS PF
DORMLET HOOD
PLINTH STONES



TENSION FRAME #2

INJECT ALL CRACKS WITH
RESTORATION GROUT BEFORE
TENSIONING FRAMES

NOTE: ALL STEEL PAINTED WITH ZINC PRIMER
EPOXY MID-COAT / URETHANE TOP COAT IN
BASE PRICE, HOT DIP GALVANIZED UNDER
ALTERNATE #T-1

TENSION FRAME POSITIONS

**STONE CHURCH
GILBERTVILLE, MA**

STRUCTURES NORTH
JMW / 6-21-22

SKS

T



Apart from steeple repairs, significant repairs to the building from the beginning include:

- 2015: Asbestos remediation (\$37K)
- 2016: Repaired roof and flashing (\$46K)
- 2016: Restored heating and plumbing, installed basement dehumidifiers (\$107K)
- 2022-2023: Installed handicapped ramp with custom-made handrails (\$20K; \$36K with in-kind labor)
- 2023: Replaced 500 roof slates and sealed unused chimneys (\$22K)
- 2025: Removed 90 yr-old pine trees above and behind the church (\$22K)

This work incorporates countless hours of volunteer labor and in-kind contributions.

The center's sanctuary and adjoining hall are used for musical performances, workshops, community dinners, family gatherings, weddings, and funerals. Organ-accompanied silent films on the big screen are a popular event.

Through membership in the Massachusetts Cultural Council Card to Culture program, 2 free adult concert admissions are offered for those receiving EBT, WIC, ConnectorCare, or SUNBUCKS benefits. Children under 18 are always admitted free. Some area libraries and a senior center receive 2 free passes each.

STONE CHURCH CULTURAL CENTER

2026-2027 CONCERT SERIES



Sat. September 26, 2026

2:00 PM

Wild & Tended

Mary Mackenzie, Soprano

Matt Jaskot, Piano

Tickets: \$30

Sun. November 1, 2026

2:00 PM

On an Overgrown Path

Diana Fanning, Piano

Tickets: \$30



Sat. April 10, 2027

7:00 PM

Silents are Golden!

Buster Keaton's *The General*

Peter Krasinski, Organ

Tickets: \$25

Subscribe and Save!

Purchase a 2026-2027 Subscription for \$92 and save 20%.

Visit our box office at <https://bit.ly/FOSCBBoxOffice> or scan the QR Code.

Youth under 18 are admitted free to all concerts!

Holders of the **Massachusetts Card to Culture**, a program of the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency, are entitled to request one or two free tickets at the box office. Reservations are not required to to use **Card to Culture**.



Tickets

Sat. May 8, 2027

2:00 PM

Voyages

David Krakauer, Clarinet

Kathleen Tagg, Piano

Tickets: \$30



For more information, email us at events@friendsofthestonechurch.org



The cultural center is home base for the 40 person Weir River Concert Band and the smaller Weir River Jazz. Band members of all ages and abilities come from Gilbertville and the towns of Hardwick, the Brookfields, Monson, Palmer, Rutland, Spencer, and Ware.

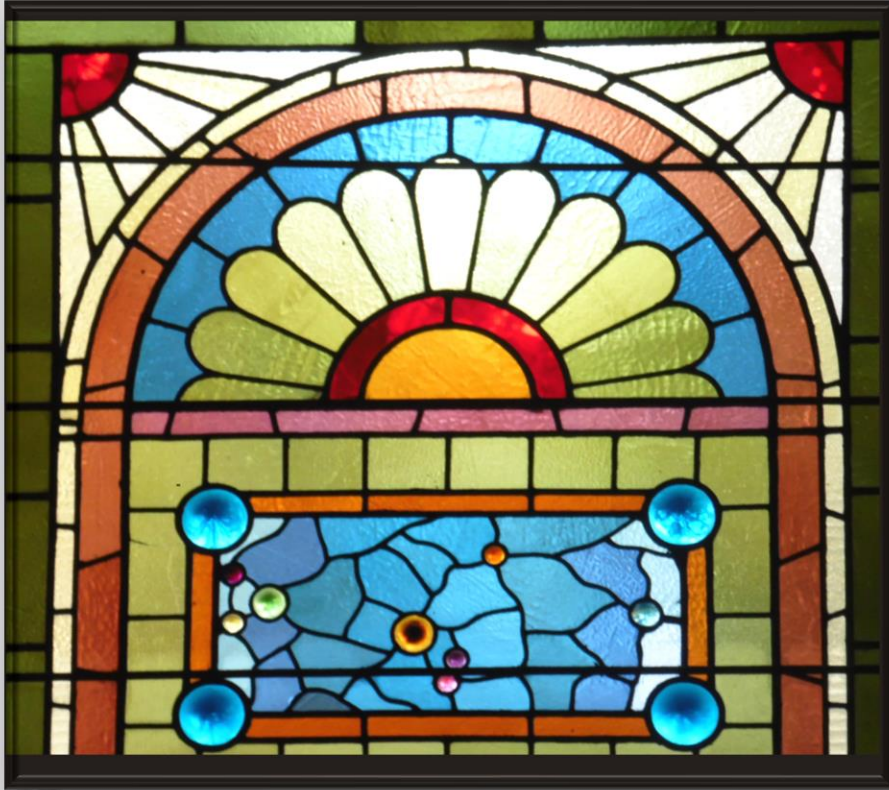
The groups practice every week from September to June. They give 2 free summer concerts on the lawn, and 2 free holiday concerts where the Friends accept Toys for Tots contributions.



Mary Mackenzie is the New Artistic Director

Noted soprano, educator, and arts administrator, Mary Mackenzie, has been made the Artistic Director at the Stone Church Cultural Center. She will manage and help grow its already successful concert program.

Excited to bring her skills and contacts to the organization, Ms. Mackenzie says: "The Stone Church's strength as a venue is its ability to be both a formal and informal space. The combination of wonderful acoustics, excellent instruments, and a warm, inviting, and creative local community make it a true gem of a place for musical artists to share their work and to have fun doing it!"



For further information and a schedule of upcoming events, please visit:

<https://friendsofthestonechurch.org/>

<https://www.facebook.com/FriendsoftheStoneChurch>

<https://www.instagram.com/friendsofthestonechurch>

**Friends of the Stone Church
(FOSC)
The Stone Church Cultural Center
283 Main St
PO Box 347
Gilbertville, MA 01031**

J. R. Knight, S. Ceccacci 8/2026